

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~Agenda~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

tree@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7098

<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/557/Tree-Commission>

Tuesday
November 7, 2023

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission September 5, 2023 Minutes (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

Presentation of minutes for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff further direction.

2. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 15 minutes)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

3. Consideration of a Proposal from Nils Peterson (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

Nils Peterson, former Tree Commission member and Chair, has reached out to the Tree Commission to propose a goal of planting 1,000 trees per year and has offered to financially participate in this effort through public outreach. Mr. Peterson will present his proposal to the Tree Commission.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Accept presentation; or take other such action deemed appropriate.

4. Consideration of the Upcoming Downtown Tree Management Plan (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

Staff has been tasked with developing a draft Downtown Tree Management Plan. Staff will present a draft outline of the plan and take comment from the Tree Commission.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the draft outline for the Downtown Tree Management Plan; or take other such action deemed appropriate.

REPORTS

1. Annual Report to City Council – Ellis Eifert

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next Tree Commission Meeting: December 5, 2023

ADJOURN

NOTICE: It is the policy of the City of Moscow that all City-sponsored public meetings and events are accessible to all people. If you need assistance in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability under the ADA, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator by phone at (208) 883-7600, TDD (208) 883-7019, or by email at adacoordinator@ci.moscow.id.us at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation. The City of Moscow is committed to ensuring that all reasonable accommodation requests are fulfilled.

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

tree@ci.moscow.id.us

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<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/557/Tree-Commission>

**Tuesday
September 5, 2023**

5:00 PM

**Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street**

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 PM.

PRESENT: Pamela Brunsfeld; Secretary, Jeanne Leffingwell, Mary Jo Hamilton, Zena Hartung
STAFF: David Schott, Melissa Fisher

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission August 1, 2023 Minutes (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

Presentation of minutes for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff further direction.

Hamilton moved to approve the minutes as presented. Leffingwell seconded. Roll call vote:
Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

None.

3. Consideration of the 2025 Arbor Day Seedling Selections (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

The Pitkin Nursery supplies Arbor Day seedlings each year to aid in celebrating Arbor Day. The nursery is beginning a sowing plan for 2025 and has requested the Tree Commission to select their 2025 seedlings for Arbor Day.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the Arbor Day seedlings for 2025; or take other such action deemed appropriate.

The commission agreed up the following: bristlecone pine, mock orange, gingko(male) and the catalpa.

Leffingwell motioned to approve the above listed seedlings for the 2024 Arbor Day Project. Hamilton seconded. Roll call vote. Ayes unanimous. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of the October 3, 2023 Moscow Tree Commission Meeting (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

The staff liaison to the Tree Commission will be attending the 2023 PNW-ISA conference from September 30th through October 4th. The Tree Commission will discuss cancelling the October meeting or reschedule to another date.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Cancel the October 3, 2023 Tree Commission meeting; or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Hamilton motioned to cancel to the meeting. Brunsfeld seconded. Ayes: unanimous. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of the Tree Commission's Annual Report to City Council (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

The Tree Commission's Annual Report to City Council is slated for November 6, 2023 in City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. The Tree Commission will review the draft 2023 Annual Report provided by staff for content prior to the City Council meeting.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the 2023 Annual Report to City Council; or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Hartung proposed to add carbon sequestration and to change the photograph of "Moscow's Community Forest" and incorporate a photograph of Moscow. The commission also discussed incorporating photographs showing the groups involvement with the community and youth, as well as the commissions 2023 accomplishments.

Hartung motioned to approve the annual report, with the discussed modifications. Leffingwell seconded. Roll call vote. Ayes: unanimous. Motion carried.

6. Report and Discussion: Moscow's Tree Canopy – David Schott

Staff will present a report of Moscow's tree canopy. Following the report, the Tree Commission will discuss the topic.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report.

Schott advised the GIS tree inventory has not been updated since 1996, for various reasons. Until it is able to be updated, it will not be made available to the public. An arborist would need to be hired to update the trees within the city, and that is not in the budget. The commission discussed the idea of creating a tree canopy and how the tree canopy could be achieved. The following ideas were discussed: adopt a tree program, tree donation program, having a goal of planting a certain number of trees per year, increasing the variety of trees in Moscow and posting in the city utility billing newsletter.

REPORTS

1. August 26, 2023 Farmers Market – All

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next Moscow Tree Commission meeting: TBD
Annual Report to City Council: November 6, 2023

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

David Schott

From: Nils Peterson <nilspete@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 11:20 AM
To: ellis@eifertlaw.com
Cc: David Schott; Gina Taruscio
Subject: Possible agenda Item for Tree Commission

CAUTION: This message originated from outside the City of Moscow's network. Exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If in doubt, please contact Information Systems at extension 7004.

Ellis

I'm a former Tree Commission member and an avid tree planter. I'd like to come to the Commission and make a proposal. I could do it during public comment, but I thought it might be useful to give you a heads-up and perhaps get a slot on a future agenda.

Avista used to offer small grants for homeowners to plant trees in locations where the shade will benefit the cooling of a house. There is research that indicates streets that are shaded by trees have a longer life span. And more generally, we know about trees reducing heat islands. In an era of increasing hot weather, having more trees could be part of a community resilience strategy.

I appreciate the Tree Commission's annual Arbor Day efforts to provide seedlings to the public. I've planted some and they are now respectable trees, many others failed, as seedlings do. As I look around subdivisions built in the last 20 years, there are many empty planting locations and I think they would be better suited to a tree with a 1-inch caliper that will look like something, than to a seedling.

I would like to see the City establish a goal of getting 1000 trees planted per year, in either public or private locations and I am willing to make a donation of \$1000 to the Tree Commission to advance that effort. I'm not expecting that such a small amount of money will buy and plant many trees, rather, I anticipate that the Commission would use it as part of a PR campaign to encourage tree planting and thus leverage other funds, public and private, towards the goal.

Obviously, the planting of that many trees around the City will be difficult to document precisely, but there would be some quantitative and some qualitative evidence that could be celebrated. For example, permits to plant in the ROW. Increase sales volume at local nurseries. Events, including Arbor Day, that promoted the goal of 1000 trees. Other marketing collateral.

If this idea interests you, I'd be pleased to come and pitch it to the Commission.

Thanks

Nils Peterson
(509) 336-1664 (cell)
Pronouns: he, him, his

November 7, 2023

CITY OF MOCOW: DOWNTOWN TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTLINE - DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY?

Introduction / Background / History

- i. Benefits of trees in Downtown area
- ii. Overall philosophy and goals
 - a) Develop a Downtown Tree Management Plan for a proactive approach to manage the aging Downtown trees and future trees.
 - b) Provide public safety and sidewalk/road clearances
 - c) Retain the unique Downtown atmosphere created by the Downtown trees.
 - d) Increase the health and vitality of the Downtown tree canopy.
 - e) Determine appropriate species for Downtown tree replacements in tree wells, new construction areas, and areas with major improvements.
 - f) Establish criteria and recommendations for future tree plantings for new construction and major improvement projects to enhance tree canopy and root health with room to grow.
 - g) Establish a Downtown Tree Management with a high level of support from stakeholders.
- iii. Downtown Revitalization Project
- iv. Downtown Tree LID Boundary
- v. City Code, City of Moscow, Parks responsibility

Existing Conditions

- i. Species counts and percentages
- ii. Tree inventory
 - a) Tree appraisals / Condition ratings
 - 1) Determine value and depreciated value
 - (1) Perform in spring/early summer after leaf out

Downtown Tree Management Plan

- i. Tree Removal and Replacement
 - a) Prior Tree Commission consensus 2020/2021
 - 1) Replace tree when dead or dying
 - b) Define removal criteria and parameters

- 1) Replace trees determined to be in decline, criteria such as Live Crown Ratio (LCR)
- 2) Replace tree if a risk to public safety, TRAQ Tree Risk Assessment
- 3) Public outreach
- c) Replacement pattern
 - 1) General pattern
 - 2) Site specific
 - (1) 2022 Downtown Tree Replacement Recommendations (MTC)
 - (a) Drought resistance.
 - (b) Aphid resistance.
 - (c) Large vs small leaves. Large have lots of volume, small move into businesses and storm system
 - (d) Timing of color
 - (e) Species diversity
 - (f) Soil
 - (g) Stump removal policy
 - (h) Addition of tree grates or pour in place to existing tree wells when tree is replaced?
 - (i) Roots, room to grow
- 3) New Construction and Major Improvements Considerations
 - (1) Species list
 - (2) Drought resistance
 - (3) Water (irrigation, drip primary / tree bags, secondary?)
 - (4) Aphid resistance
 - (5) Large vs small leaves. Large have lots of volume, small move into businesses and storm system
 - (6) Timing of color
 - (7) Species diversity
 - (8) Soil
 - (9) Larger planter's vs tree wells design criteria where feasible
 - (10) Tree wells grates vs pour in place vs large planters (Elevated?)

ii. Watering Plan

- a) Existing trees and replacements
- b) New construction and major improvement areas
 - 1) Irrigation, drip
 - 2) Design criteria to retain water

iii. Maintenance and pruning

- a) Street and sidewalk clearances
- b) Pruning cycle and rotations
- c) Pruning limbs off buildings, training when young using structural pruning.
- d) Tree health

iv. Stakeholders

- 1) City of Moscow
 - (1) Parks staff
 - (2) Community Planning and Design
 - (3) Tree Commission
 - (4) Parks and Recreation Commission
 - (5) City Council
- 2) Downtown business owners
- 3) General public
- 4) Idaho Transportation Department

RECOMMENDATIONS / CONCLUSION