

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~Agenda~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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208.883.7098

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

Tuesday
December 5, 2023

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission November 7, 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 the 2024 Tree Commission Goals (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert / David Schott

The Tree Commission will review past goals and create Tree Commission goals for 2024.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the 2024 Tree Commission goals; or take other such action deemed appropriate.

REPORTS

- 1. Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th Edition Report – David Schott**
- 2. Tree Cookie Workshop Report – All**

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- 1. Next Tree Commission Meeting: January 2, 2024**

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



Tuesday November 7, 2023

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:02

PRESENT: Ellis Eifert; Chair, David Rauk; Vice Chair, Pamela Brunsfeld; Secretary, Mary Jo Hamilton, Zena Hartung, Nick Koenig, Jeanne Leffingwell, Gina Taruscio; City Council Liaison

STAFF: David Schott

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.

Mary Jo moved to approve the September 2023 minutes, and Zena second to approve minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: David . **Motion carried.**

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.

Leo Garrison, Professor of Music at University of Idaho, is interested in working with this commission in the near future after his retirement.

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.

Zena believes we need an up to date tree inventory, and agrees there needs to be more trees and preparation to replace aging trees as well.

Nils does not believe a non-profit organization would be the way to go, but instead the City would house the funds and this Commission would manage the funds.

There is concern over who would take care of these trees. David would like to “grow” trees, not just “plant” trees. There are currently tree seedling giveaways and the City plants trees for Arbor Day as well.

There is support for a City Arborists position, but at this point the City is not able to fund that position.

It was suggested to revisit the i-tree program. Also, to collaborate with residents to hopefully find a few ambassadors that would be willing to help get a tree planting mission underway in their local neighborhoods.

Zena made the motion to move forward with David’s proposal or pursuing a larger opportunity to plant trees on public property; Mary Joe second

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None

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.

David has taken multiple workshops on how to perform tree appraisals. The plan will also have a section for criteria on replacing a dying or dead tree, drought tolerant, aphid resistant, leaf size and color etc.

Pamela moved to approve the draft Downtown Tree Management Plan; David second.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None

REPORTS

1. Annual Report to City Council - Ellis Eifert

Annual report went very well.

2. UPCOMING EVENTS/

MEETINGS

1. Next Tree Commission Meeting: December 5, 2023

ADJOURN

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

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION GOALS & OBJECTIVES 2019 - 2024

Approved: January, 8, 2019

Reviewed and Approved: February 2, 2021

Reviewed and Approved: February 7, 2023

Category A: Promote Education and Public Relations

- A1. Develop a map and data set of large, unique, and/or historic trees in Moscow (For example: Heritage Tree Program).
- A2. Write and submit one or two articles each year about community forestry or arboriculture to the Moscow Pullman Daily News and/or the Lewiston Tribune.
- A3. Offer workshops to the public on urban tree care.
- A4. Sponsor annual and special community events to promote the community forestry program.
 - 1. Organize and sponsor the Annual Arbor Day celebration.
 - 2. Continue to participate in at least two Farmer's Markets (booth) and other venues
 - 3. Continue to organize an annual spring tree give away and/or a community planting project.
- A5. Commissioners participate in team building activities and continuing education.
- A6. Provide outreach and collaborate with local tree contractors to provide continuing education to ensure proper tree care practices within the City of Moscow.

Category B: Create Partnerships

- B1. Develop a tree message or newsletter for inclusion in City's utility bill.

Category C: Enhance Planning and Management

- C1. Develop a long-range plan to increase and diversify Moscow's urban forest eco system.
- C2. Continue to provide annual report to City Council detailing completed and anticipated MTC activities.
- C3. Continue to implement programs to qualify and achieve status of Tree City USA and Growth Award each year.
- C4. Act as lead commission on development of Harvest Park.

Category D: Increase Tree Planting and Maintenance Efforts

- D1. Study and recommend solutions for upgrading the health and condition of downtown trees.

Category E: Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change on the Environment

- E1. Evaluate the carbon sequestering capability of Moscow's community forest and develop an education program to increase its capacity.
- E2. Aid in reducing the City's carbon footprint through tree activities.
- a. Education outreach activities.
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Moscow Tree Commission 2024 Draft Goals/Ideas

- 1.) Attend two Farmers Markets
- 2.) Present Annual Report to City Council
- 3.) Host an Arbor Day Celebration
- 4.) Tree City USA and Growth Award
- 5.) Draft a Downtown Tree Management Plan
- 6.) Create a Tree Ambassador Program
- 7.) Formalize a Tree Donation Program
- 8.) Cultivate relationship building with other entities to promote Moscow's Tree Canopy
- 9.) Tree Planting Goal, 2023 Results
 - a. Consideration of Nil's Peterson's offer
 - i. Increase Arbor Day seedlings
 - 1. Contact Pitkin
 - ii. Fall seedlings to give away at fall Farmers Market
 - 1. Contact Pitkin
 - iii. Utility billing newsletter drafted toward tree planting