

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 Ration (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