

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
August 6, 2024

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission July 2, 2024 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 September City Utility Billing Newsletter (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert / David Schott

The Tree Commission will review the draft content for the upcoming September utility billing newsletter centered around the fall seedling give away at the September 28, 2024 Farmers Market. Funding for the seedlings was provided through a donation by Nils Peterson to plant more trees. Moreover, the intent of the newsletter content is to educate the public on the benefits of planting trees in the fall.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the content of the September utility billing newsletter; or take other action as deemed appropriate.

UPDATES/REPORTS

1. Downtown Tree Inventory

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next Tree Commission Meeting: September 3, 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



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

tree@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7098

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Tuesday
July 2, 2024

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

PRESENT: Mary Jo Hamilton; David Rauk; Pamela Brunnsfield; Zena Hartung, Gina Taruscio

STAFF: David Schott

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission May 7, 2024 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 minutes as presented. Zena 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 September 28, 2024 Farmers Market (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert / David Schott

The Tree Commission will discuss the fall tree seedling give away with funds donated to the City of Moscow by Nils Peterson to plant more trees. The commission will determine seedling selections from the Pitkin Nursery. The Tree Commission will also assign commission members to draft language to be included in the utility billing newsletter highlighting the seedling giveaway on September 28th at the Farmers Market. This will also include educating the public on the advantages of planting in the fall. The draft language will be considered by the full commission during the August Tree Commission meeting.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: One, approve the seedling selection for the fall seedling giveaway. Two, approve commission members to draft language for inclusion of the utility billing newsletter; or take other action as deemed appropriate.

The funding for this is a \$1,000 donation from the Nils Peterson to plant more trees. David Schott showed the seedling options from Pitkin Nursery. It was suggested to provide information on each chosen species. Heat tolerance is one ideal trait they are looking for. The main trees and shrubs they've decided on are: canaan fir, western larches, rocky mountain juniper, chokecherry, bur-gambel oak and sugar maples.

Mary Jo moved to approve the six species as presented. Pam seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

David Schott also asked the group to do a short write up for the Cities' utility billing newsletter on fall plantings and the benefits of it. Pam will do a write up for upcoming newsletter.

Zena moved to approve write up in newsletter. Mary Jo seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of the 2026 Arbor Day Seedling Selections (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert / David Schott

The Tree Commission will discuss seedlings from the Pitkin Nursery for the 2026 Arbor Day celebration.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the seedling selections for the 2026 Arbor Day celebration; or take other action as deemed appropriate.

Seeds they have narrowed down are European beech, purple lilac, golden raintree, Kentucky coffee tree, red bud, blue elderberry, shagbark hickory, and limber pine. David Rauk will reach out to Pitkin Nursery to see if these seeds are available.

Mary Jo moved to approve David Rauk to reach out to Pitkin Nursey. Zena seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

5. Discussion: Siberian Elms – David Schott

The Tree Commission will discuss Siberia elm trees throughout town. Staff has received a comment requesting ideas to encourage property owners and to remove and treat Siberian elms. Siberian elms can be invasive but the State of Idaho Invasive Species of Idaho does not classify them as an invasive terrestrial plant. The 2018 Street Tree Planting Guide does note elms as a species not suitable for street trees.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, discussion.

The group doesn't believe there's too many growing in the community and no action is required. The Siberian Elm is not sold in nurseries. Existing Siberian elms are present in town from the settlers, who were looking for a robust, tough tree to survive in this environment long ago. However, the commission expressed interest in providing

information to the public regarding undesirable species for a future commission public outreach project.

David Rauk moved to recommend these trees be placed on the list of trees not be planted in Moscow in the future. Mary Jo seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

UPDATES/REPORTS

1. Downtown Tree Inventory

David Schott is 60% done with the downtown tree inventory. He is appraising them as well. So far, the trees are roughly worth \$1 million.

Also, the London planetrees downtown have sycamore anthracnose, a fungus that is preventing them to leaf out. David Schott is advising to wait and give them tree some time to put on a second set of leaves.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next Tree Commission Meeting: August 6, 2024

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM

Ellis Eifert, Chair *(or stamped by Deputy City Clerk)*





City of Moscow Public Works & Services

Memo

To: Moscow Tree Commission

From: Pam Brunsfeld, Moscow Tree Commission
David Schott, Parks and Facilities Manager

Date: August 6, 2024

Re: 2024 September City of Moscow Utility Billing Newsletter Content - DRAFT

Pam drafted the draft language for the upcoming September utility billing newsletter centered around the fall seedling give away at the September 28, 2024 Farmers Market. Funding for the seedlings was provided through a donation by Nils Peterson to plant more trees. Moreover, the intent of the newsletter content is to educate the public on the benefits of planting trees in the fall.

Fall is a Great Time to Plant Trees!

The Moscow Tree Commission will be offering free tree seedlings at the Farmers Market on September 28, while supplies last. Please stop by the Tree Commission table to talk trees. Seedlings offered are:

Fall is an ideal time to plant trees for the following reasons:

- *Cooler air temperatures mean heat stress is not an issue for seedlings. The combination of warm soils retained from summer heat, and the cooler air temperatures result in plants putting their energy into root growth rather than above-ground growth.*
- *Minimal watering is required for seedling establishment due to cooler temperatures.*
- *Weed competition is greatly reduced. Most weeds require warm temperatures and slow-down or even disappear in fall.*
- *Insect issues are also greatly reduced.*

When summer arrives the following year, the fall-planted seedlings will already have a well-developed root system and will be far better equipped to deal with the heat and drought that typify our summer weather.