

MOSCOW FARMERS MARKET COMMISSION



Jamie Hill
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Amanda Argona
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<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/362/Farmers-MarketCommission>

Tuesday
August 6, 2024

4:00 PM

Council Chambers
206 E. 3rd St.

Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm.

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Josh Larson (Vice Chair), Jamie Hill (Chair), Samantha Martinet, Gerardo Alvarez, JT Manning, Kassie Smith, Julia Parker (Councilmember), Phillip Blankenship (arrive 4:03 pm), Colette DePhelps (arrived 4:31 pm).

ABSENT: Jodi McClory

STAFF: Laura Perrigo (Administrative Specialist), Amanda Argona (Community Events Manager)

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Mission of the Moscow Farmers Market

The Moscow Farmers Market celebrates life on the Palouse by providing the community with the opportunity to buy and sell local and regional agricultural products (e.g., crops, meat, cheese, wine, etc.), distinctive handmade goods, artisan pieces, and original recipe cuisine. This venue is meant to encourage and support sustainable economic, social and environmental practices.

Manning read the mission statement out loud.

2. Approval of Farmers Market Commission June 4, 2024 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes, amend minutes, or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Larson moved to approve the minutes. Alvarez seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous Nays: None Abstain: None
Motion carried.

3. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 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.

William Janzer of Moscow, Idaho addressed the Commission regarding the Craft & Food Jury process for his business, Shagetz Bagels. Janzer felt that scoring was skewed more towards presentation, rather than taste of product. Janzer requested that the Commission re-evaluate the structure of the point system to have more focus on quality of product. Hill thanked him for presenting, explained the process and reasoning behind the point system of the Craft & Food Jury, and why each section holds importance. Argona then reviewed the score card for Shagetz Bagels and explained the scores do prioritize product quality as well as local sourcing, citing that the judges scored him higher on product taste and integrity and lower on local sourcing and presentation. Argona stated that his overall score was on the cusp of eligibility and suggested he re-jury for the 2025 Market season. Hill and Blankenship encouraged Janzer to seek out connections through the Artisan Grains festival and reach out to Palouse Heritage to see if they can accommodate Janzer's needs for a more local source for hard red wheat flour. Martinet responded to Janzer's concerns, and offered her perspective as a judge, encouraging him to always include as much detail as possible in his Vendor statement and booth set-up if he chooses to re-jury. The Commission thanked Janzer for coming in. Smith requested that the Policies subcommittee look at language and policies that support minority-owned businesses entering the Market.

REPORTS

1. Community Events Manager report

Argona noted that she forgot to include an update and staff request regarding Pokey Creek Farm, who has needed to take emergency medical leave. Argona asked for the Commission's support in allowing Pokey Creek Farm the option to return without the presence of owners and operators Leah and Greg Sempel should they have the staff to do so. She cited Pokey Creek Farms long-standing, 30+ years relationship with the Moscow community, local food movement, and Market, explaining such a choice would only extend for this season. The Commission supported staff's decision to present the option to Pokey Creek Farm.

Argona continued with her report providing an update on SNAP/EBT, requesting for clarification on the Performance Vendor/Busker category and animal sales at the Market, addressing food trucks outside the Market, and sharing a potential collaboration with the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Commission indicated that services do not fit the Performance Vendor/Busker definition as defined by Market policies, and that this should be addressed by the Policies subcommittee. The Commission was in agreeance that temporary sharpie tattoos do qualify under the Performance Vendor/Busker, and encouraged staff to have that individual register under that category, but also felt it did not compete with Vendor products available for sale and could remain as currently offered at the Speaker's Wall.

The Commission generally agreed that the Market was not an avenue for the sale of live animals, such as puppies.

Commission members were excited and supportive of the idea of working with the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Commission is interested in adding the Market as a limitation to city code Title 9, Chapter 11. Alvarez cited concerns about Vendors setting up outside the Market, noting that they are capitalizing on the Market's success and paying very little for a Vendor license compared with Market Vendors. Argona referenced that changes to city code will need to go through the Legal Department and approved by City Council. DePhelps suggested that any restrictions on time and location use the Entertainment District as the boundary rather than the Market's boundary. The Commission as a whole is interested in supporting changes that protect the Market's brand and Vendors and will put forward a formal letter when such changes are ready for Council presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Proposed Items for Future Agendas

Commission members may email Amanda Argona (aargona@ci.moscow.id.us) to propose future agenda items for discussion.

2. Upcoming Deadlines and Subcommittee meetings

- Sat., Aug. 10 – National Farmers Market Week Celebration
- Mon., Sep. 16 – Annual Citizen Commission report to Council
- Sat., Oct. 26 – Halloween Costume Contest

3. Farmers Market Commission regular meeting **Wednesday, September 4, 2024,** at Moscow City Hall in Council Chambers

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm.



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