

MOSCOW FARMERS MARKET COMMISSION



JT Manning
Commission Chair
fmc@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Amanda Argona
Staff Liaison
208-883-7132

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

Tuesday
May 6, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chambers
206 E. 3rd St.

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Jodi McClory, Kristin Strong, Phil Blankenship, JT Manning, Colette DePhelps, Samantha Martinet

ABSENT: Josh Larson, Gerado Alvarez, Kassie Smith,

STAFF: Amanda Argona, Laura Perrigo, Drew Davis (Councilmember)

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.

Blankenship read the mission statement out loud.

2. Approval of Farmers Market Commission April 1, 2025 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

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

DePhelps moved to approve the minutes. Blankenship 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.

No public comment was made.

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4. 2025 Vendor Orientation policy (ACTION ITEM) – Argona

Staff experienced an unusually high number of unexcused Vendor absences at this year's Orientation. Specifically, staff are seeking guidance on the interpretation of item 19. Annual Vendor Orientation on page 20 of the 2025 Handbook as there is no clear threshold regarding absence communication. This is in direct response to three (3) Vendors who contacted staff post-Orientation regarding their absence and not in response to the additional six (6) Vendors who staff had to reach out to confirm their absence.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Uphold Vendor Orientation policy, or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Argona reviewed the current Vendor Orientation policy with Commission members and opened discussion on the potential need for adjustments. This year, over 20 Vendors were absent, either as excused or no-shows. Argona also referred members to accompanying documents provided by Vendors who were absent but reached out post-Orientation.

The Commission reviewed Flannigan Creek Flower Farms' letter explaining her absence. Discussion ensued. Martinet stated that the policy does not specify a Vendor is required to reach out before the Orientation. Argona indicated that the policy was written that way to allow for emergencies. Martinet went on to say that if a Vendor gives notice of absence at any time, then her interpretation is the Vendor has met the requirements per the Handbook. McClory suggested the policy be updated to state that communication prior to the Orientation is required. Members agreed that any Vendor who did not reach out with a reason for absence should not be exempt from the policy as is currently written, while Vendors who reached out and took accountability for their absence have met the spirit of the policy, and therefore met Market requirements.

Blankenship motioned to allow the three Vendors who contacted Market staff regarding their Orientation absence to be permitted to attend the 2025 Market season provided all other requirements are met, and for the Policy subcommittee to review and update item 19 for the 2026 Vendor Handbook. McClory seconded.

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

REPORTS

1. Site Visit report

Staff and Commission members toured five facilities for this year's site visits. Vendors

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included J3L Meats LLC, Canyon View Farmstead, High Mountain Farm & Forage, Geist Farm, and Link'd Heart Ranch. The report verified each Vendor aligned with the Market's values, and nothing was reported to question their ability to attend the Farmers Market.

2. Community Events Manager report

Alyssa Link with Link'd Hearts Ranch submitted a request and supporting documents to be a Tier 3 Vendor in her first season with the Market. Argona strongly supported the request, noting that this is a new product that will be regularly available for customers, and upholds the Market's core values of supporting small businesses as well as agricultural products. The Commission agreed and supported Argona's decision. Bill Lindsey with Blackbird Treats requested to sell hand pies at the Market. This change would expand their bread products to pastries. Unless the Commission disagrees with the addition, Argona will approve Blackbird Treats' request.

Argona shared a policy update regarding foraging on public land. Foraged items, such as morel mushrooms on public land, cannot be sold and can only be used for private consumption. Argona will continue to monitor the current use of the policy and see if any changes need to be made to Market policies. Members discussed requiring foragers to acquire a permit to forage public lands or provide a letter permitting them to forage private lands. The Policy subcommittee will review items discussed at their next meeting.

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., May 10 – Commission hosting 2025 Poster Artist

3. Farmers Market Commission regular meeting June 3, 2025 at Moscow City Hall in Council Chambers

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Minutes Approved On

AUG -5 2025

Clerk/Deputy Signature