

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

tree@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7098

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

Tuesday
November 4, 2025

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

PRESENT: Ellis Eifert (Chair); David Rauk (Vice Chair); Mary Jo Hamilton; Jeanne Leffingwell; Pam Brunsfield; Mark Heinlien, Ben Coons

STAFF: Gina Taruscio (Council Liaison); David Schott (Staff Liaison)

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission September 2, 2025 Minutes (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

Presentation of minutes for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff with further direction.

Mary Jo moved to approve the minutes as presented. Pam seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Abstain: Motion carried.

2. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes).

Cynthia King, from the Moscow Report, will be attending meetings for their online news site.

3. Consideration of the Tree Service Certification General Knowledge Test Questions (ACTION ITEM) – David Rauk / David Schott

It is unlawful for any person to engage in the business of planting, pruning, or removing a public tree or shrub for a fee without being licensed as required by City Code.

Any Tree Service Contractor engaged in the business of tree service for a fee shall obtain a license from the Administrator. Such a license requires the contractor or at least one employee of the business or owner to possess a Tree Service Certification as required by City Code.

As one part of the Tree Service Certification, the applicant must complete a written examination to be administered by the Administrator.

The Tree Commission will review the revised draft test questions for the General Knowledge exam.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the general knowledge test questions; or take other action as deemed appropriate.

Mark would like to add more pruning questions to the test. The group reviewed the test questions and made changes. They would like to emphasize pruners on the “why” to prune rather than “how”. A short PowerPoint review is sent out to current tree contractors every year as a refresher.

Mark moves to approve the changes to the test, David R. seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Abstain: Motion carried.

4. Consideration of Moscow Garden Club of Latah County Presentation (ACTION ITEM) – David Rauk

Tree Commission member, David Rauk, has been invited by the Moscow Garden Club to present on behalf of the Moscow Tree Commission to the club on November 12, 2025. David Rauk will describe the event to the commission.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve David Rauk presenting at the Moscow Garden Club of Latah County November 12, 2025, meeting; or take other action as deemed appropriate.

David R. will give a short presentation to the group on the Tree Commission’s mission and work they are active in.

Mary Jo approves David R. giving the presentation; Pam seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Abstain: Motion carried.

5. Consideration of the Fall 2026 Farmers Market Seedling Giveaway (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert – David Schott

The Tree Commission will discuss options for the 2026 fall seedling giveaway at the Farmers Market. The Pitkin Nursery has requested the Tree Commission’s seedling list to allow time to propagate any seedling requests. The budget approved in FY2026 is \$500.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the seedling list for the 2026 fall Farmers Market; or take other action as deemed appropriate.

Group reviewed the list and selected for fall 2026: Elderberry, Blue; Lilac; White, Common; Hackberry, Western; and Scouler's Willow.

Mark moves to accept the four chosen seedlings; David R. seconded

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Abstain: Motion carried.

6. Consideration of the Spring 2027 Arbor Day Seedlings (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert – David Schott

The Tree Commission will discuss options for the 2027 Arbor Day celebration. The commission gives away tree seedlings at the first Farmers Market each year as part of Arbor Day. The Pitkin Nursery has requested the Tree Commission’s species list to allow time to propagate any seedling requests. Moscow City Council has not considered and approved the FY2027 budget but historically the budget supports \$750 towards Arbor Day seedlings.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the seedling list for the 2027 Arbor Day celebration; or take other action as deemed appropriate.

Group reviewed the list and narrowed it down to: Current, Red Flowering; Cedar, Incense; Native Mountain Ash; and European Beech.

David R. moves to accept the four chosen seedlings; Ben seconded

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Abstain: Motion carried.

7. Consideration of the 2026 Arbor Day Theme (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert – David Rauk

Ellis Eifert, David Rauk and David Schott met with the UI to discuss the 2026 partnership between the City and UI for the 2026 Arbor Day celebration. Ellis and David R. will provide an update to the commission. The commission will then discuss ideas on an overall theme for the celebration to present to the UI.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve 2026 Arbor Day overall theme to present to the University of Idaho; or take other action as deemed appropriate.

Group reviewed previous year's celebration activities. David said a site has not been finalized. The theme chosen was, Planting trees for future generations.

David R. moves to accept the theme; Mark seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Abstain: Motion carried.

UPDATES/REPORTS

- 1. 9/25 Farmers Market Seedling Giveaway Report – All**
Went well, ponderosa pine went slower than the others.
- 2. Tree Cookie Workshop Update – Jeanne / Pam**
Group is preparing for the workshop first weekend in December.
- 3. Annual Report to City Council - Ellis**
All members were there for the report.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

ADJOURN The meeting was adjourned at 6 PM



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