

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
April 7, 2026

4:00 PM

Council Chambers
206 E. 3rd St.

Manning called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: JT Manning, Chair; Kassie Smith, Jodi McClory, Gerardo Alvarez, Josh Larson, Phil Blankenship (4:18)
MEMBERS ABSENT: Colette DePhelps
OTHERS: None
STAFF: Amanda Argona, Amanda Reyes

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.

Smith read the mission statement aloud.

2. Approval of Farmers Market Commission March 3, 2026 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

McClory moved for approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Alvarez. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (6). Nays: None. Abstentions: 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.*

None.

4. 50th Anniversary graphic suite (ACTION ITEM)

The Branding Subcommittee has reviewed proposed graphics commemorating the Market's 50th anniversary milestone. A final draft is being presented for approval.

Graphics for the 50th Anniversary year were presented. A request was made to add a candle back into the cupcake asset.

Smith moved for the approval of the proposed graphics on page 1 with the inclusion of adding in a candle imagery in with the cupcake asset, seconded by McClory. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (6). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

5. Craft & Food Jury evaluation (ACTION ITEM)

Staff have fielded various feedback on the Craft & Food Jury process this year from both

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prospective and returning Vendors and is recommending an evaluation and refinement of the process in the following scope:

- *Updating and aligning scorecard with criteria selection like Poster Artwork*
- *Piloting at-Market jury process in 2026 for returning Vendors, with particular attention to Agricultural Vendors*
- *Assessment on adopting a single judging scorecard evaluation and scribe model*

Previously significant evaluation to the Craft & Food Jury process was in 2019, with 2020 being the first year the current model was in practice.

Lindsay Myron, a current vendor with Smoots Flavor Farm, highlighted the need for a re-jury opportunity, particularly for vendors with perishable products. The group discussed allowing returning vendors the ability to revise and resubmit items during the season at Market, rather than limiting their opportunity to once annually pre-season. It was clarified that this opportunity would apply only to returning agricultural and craft vendors; new vendors would still be required to attend the pre-season Craft and Food Jury, and a process for prepared food vendors has not yet been determined. Members noted that an at Market jury option could encourage product innovation and allow vendors to expand or improve their offerings. The group reached a consensus to pilot a mid-season re-jury at Market option this season with select Vendors. If successful and not over burdensome, future seasons would allow returning vendors an opportunity to jury in new products at Market, managed on a first-come, first-served basis with advance registration in the pre-season. Scheduling options discussed included multiple Saturdays in June or a designated month, with judging proposed to take place prior to market opening to address judging integrity concerns or concerns about juried products being sold without approval.

The group discussed ways to improve scoring consistency among judges, including the option of adopting a single shared scorecard or continuing with individual scorecards paired with a post-judging conference to reach a consensus score. It was noted that either approach could help promote greater consistency in evaluations. It was clarified that the scorecard will remain unchanged for the 2026 season. However, any future revisions or refinements to the scorecard would be the responsibility of the Craft and Food Jury subcommittee.

Blankenship moved for a pilot run for a mid-season re-jury process for Ag and Craft vendors, seconded by McClory. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (6). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Smith moved that the Craft and Food Jury subcommittee review and refine the Craft and Food Jury process, including consideration of a single shared scorecard to better align judges, along with any other actions deemed appropriate, seconded by McClory. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (6). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

6. Site Visits 2026

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Each year, staff closes the recruitment period for new Agricultural Vendors prior to the opening of the Marketspread application (typically before and/or around St. Patrick's Day and/or Spring Equinox). This year, the recruitment period closed on Fri., Mar. 13, with the Marketspread application opening on Mon., Mar. 16. This allows staff time to screen Vendors for eligibility, qualifications, and approval. The tentative Site Visit schedule is as follows:

- *Thu., Apr. 16 – Chesed Farms, Walla Walla, WA (6+ hours)*
- *Thu., Apr. 23*
 - *M+M Funny Farms, Moscow, ID*
 - *Long Table Farm, Pullman, WA*
 - *Runner Bean Ranch, Palouse, WA*
 - *Kerr Microgreens, Hayden, ID*
- *Thu., May 7*
 - *Wheeler Gardens, Pullman, WA (2 locations)*
 - *Palouse Blooms, Palouse, WA*
 - *Green Valley Produce, Fernwood, ID*
- *Tue., Jun. 9*
 - *Koenig Family Farm, Troy, ID*
 - *R. Ensley, Colfax, WA*
- *Thu., Jun. 11 OR Tue., Jun. 16*
 - *Alvarez Family Farm, Sunnyside, WA (7+ hours)*
- *TBD Fall '26 – Mike & Michelle Carpenter, Princeton, ID*

Argona clarified that for foragers, site visits will include review of harvesting practices as well as locations where products are cleaned, prepared, packaged, and stored. A roll call was conducted to confirm commission member availability for the proposed dates.

Alvarez moved to accept the site visit schedule, seconded by McClory. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (6). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REPORTS

1. Community Events Manager report – Argona

Argona reviewed the report noting that Green Valley Produce will not be granted Tier 3 status this season due to the late request and to ensure enough open space is available for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Vendors. She indicated he is a strong candidate with several years of growing experience in Kansas, and that as a Produce Vendors most if not all of his date requests will be accommodated but his space will shift around the Market. She reviewed the 2026 roster as well as the poster artwork recap.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Proposed Items for Future Agendas

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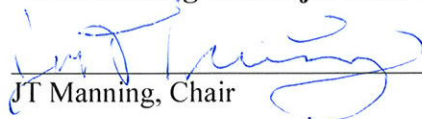
Commission members may email Amanda Argona (aargona@ci.moscow.id.us) to propose future agenda items for discussion.

2. Upcoming events and deadlines

- *Thu., Apr. 9 – Vendor Orientation*
 - *2 pm – New Vendor Q&A*
 - *3 pm – All Vendor Check-in begins*
 - *3:30 pm – Orientation*
 - *5 pm – End*
- *Sat., May 9, 9 am to 12 pm – Commission hosting 2026 Poster Artist*
- *Sat., Jul. 25 – RMA 1*
- *Sat., Aug. 8*
 - *9 am to 12 pm – National Farmers Market Week Celebration*
 - *RMA 2*
- *Thu., Aug. 13, 5 to 8 pm – Market Through the Years event hosted at and by MCOC+VC*
- *Sat., Sep. 12 – RMA 3*
- *Mon., Sep. 21, 7 pm – Annual Citizen Commission report to Council*
- *Sat., Oct. 31 – Costume Contest*
- *TBD Nov., 7 pm – Costume Contest awards presentation at Council*

3. Farmers Market Commission regular meeting May 5, 2026 at Moscow City Hall in Council Chambers

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 PM


JT Manning, Chair


Date

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.