

Natural Resources Commission Minutes
September 21, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Bob Larson and Commissioners David White, Dan McDermott, Kate Winsor, John Murphy, and City Council Liaison Marty Long

Absent: NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder

Staff: City Administrative Clerk Kathy Laur and Recording Secretary Gretchen Needham

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Winsor moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Murphy seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the August 2017 minutes. Commissioner White seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Conservation Award Committee Report

Clerk Laur presented drafts of the Best Practices awards; Woodland and Shoreline Conservation are two subject areas that are currently missing. For the youth award, Clerk Laur asked for more detailed information. Chair Larson asked for an alteration of the wording to the Water Conservation award. Commissioner Winsor said the City should be the contact for nominations. The City office will then email them to the NRC.

Council Liaison Long suggested the NRC conservation awards be added to the agenda of the October 12 City Council meeting. Chair Larson said he'd like a committee meeting to review and finalize the language.

Tick Task Force

Commissioner White reported no news. Going forward, the TTF plans to meet every other month.

Kate Winsor's Report

Weed of the month for October is common buckthorn; an article has been submitted to the North Oaks News.

Commissioner Winsor reported that the NRC's presence at Farm Fest needed more of a "hook" to bring people over to the table. She got temporary tattoos to use for the next event.

Commissioner Winsor also suggested spreading the responsibility for manning the table at public events out among more of the commissioners.

Commissioner Winsor attended a Minnesota Hobby Bee Keeping event where there was information about becoming a pollinator-friendly city. If a city meets the guidelines and passes a resolution, the city is deemed "pollinator friendly."

Commissioner Long's Report

Operation Clearview will progress with some tree work during done in the winter by S & S Tree; pruning services will be provided to residents at a reduced cost at this time.

Turkeys are an increasing nuisance in North Oaks. The NRC could make a recommendation to the City about culling turkeys.

VLAWMO fees are increasing to support an increase in staff.

People residing near Gilfillan and Teal ponds are complaining about water levels being both too low and too high. A meeting will be arranged in November or December to discuss possible remedies with this community.

City Update

Clerk Laur said the tree seedlings have been ordered for next spring. They are 200 red pines, 100 white pines, 100 Kentucky coffee trees, and 100 Bur Oaks.

Other Business:

Commissioner Murphy suggested another commissioner fill the vacancy that currently exists on the NRC; Commissioner Winsor suggested the City put out a notice looking for another commissioner and perhaps advertise in the North Oaks News.

Adjournment:

Chair Larson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Murphy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:21 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 19, 2017