

# **Natural Resources Commission Minutes**

**January 16, 2020**

**7 P.M.**

## **Call to Order:**

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

## **Roll Call:**

Present: Chair Hawkins, Vice Chair Winsor, Commissioners Larson, White, NOHOA Liaison Rehder, and City Council Liaison Ross

Staff: City Administrator Kress, Recording Secretary Needham

Absent: Commissioner LePoutre

A quorum was declared present.

\*Administrator Kress informed the NRC that Commissioner McDermott has submitted his resignation from the Commission. A posting will be created soon to fill the vacancy.

## **Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion by White, seconded by Larson, to approve the agenda as submitted.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## **Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion by Winsor, seconded by White, to approve the December 19, 2019 minutes with changes as discussed.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

\*The minutes from the November 21, 2019 meeting were not available at the December 19, 2019 meeting. These minutes will be provided for Commission review at the next NRC meeting.

## **New Business:**

### **Draft of Coyote Management Plan for Consideration**

The Commission will review the Coyote Management Plan. City Staff has been directed to submit the draft coyote management plan to the professors at the University of Minnesota who will be holding the coyote presentation on Wednesday, January 29, 2020, as well as the Ramsey County Animal Control, Mario Lee.

**Motion by White, seconded by Larson, to table the Coyote Management Plan until the February 20, 2020 NRC meeting.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Environmental Commissions Gathering**

Anoka and Ramsey Counties are hosting an Environmental Commissions Gathering on February 13, 2020. Chair Hawkins has RSVP'd to attend and has invited any two other Commissioners to join him. This event is designed to share idea and network about environmental issues. A notice will be made publicly if three or more Commissioners will attend in order to avoid a violation of the Open Meeting Law.

### **Discussion of Earth Day Activities**

Ideas for Earth Day (April 22, 2020) were discussed, such as giving way seedlings or trees, and educational materials for oriental bittersweet, buckthorn, and Emerald Ash Borer.

**Motion by Winsor, seconded by White, to table the Earth Day plans until a future NRC meeting.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Review of Conservation Award Application/Process**

Administrator Kress was brought up to speed on the Conservation Award process by the NRC. Commissioner White asked if the process for organizing the applicants and those awarded could be streamlined and better organized by City Staff; Administrator Kress agreed that internal documents will be organized better going forward.

### **Tick Task Force Report**

The TTF will be meeting the week of January 18, 2020. The fifth annual TTF survey will be sent out through the City's Polco survey tool.

### **Kate Winsor's Report**

- VLAWMO has provided a grant of \$545 to the NRC for a movie night on Wednesday, March 4 at the North Oaks Golf Club. Half of the refreshments cost will be paid for from the NRC budget. The hosts for this event are the NRC, NOHOA, the North Oaks Garden Club, and the North Oaks Golf Club.
- Vice-Chair Winsor will submit an article regarding the movie for the March issue of the North Oaks News.

### **City Update**

- Administrator Kress has received some concerned calls about deer caught in traps. Commissioner White asked for a count of deer, and Administrator Kress will find the number.
- The City passed a Code of Conduct for all Councilmembers and Commissioners to adhere to at its last City Council meeting.
- City Forester more funding appropriated from the MN Department of Agriculture for treating and removing oriental bittersweet.
- Using biocontrol (an insect to attack another insect) for managing Emerald Ash Borer is a possibility, but the MN Department of Agriculture does not think there is a critical mass of EAB in North Oaks yet to warrant this application.

### **NOHOA/NEST Update**

Mark Rehder detailed a capstone project focused on water quality that could be undertaken at Pleasant Lake. VLAWMO is organizing studies managed by the University of Minnesota, including soil and water samples.

### **Adjournment:**

**Motion by White, seconded by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Next Meeting: February 20, 2020**