

Natural Resources Commission Minutes
October 17, 2019
7 P.M.

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Bob Larson, Vice Chair Kate Winsor, Commissioners Andrew Hawkins, Damien LePoutre, Dan McDermott, David White, NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder, and City Council Liaison Mayor Gregg Nelson

Staff: Recording Secretary Gretchen Needham

Absent: City Administrator Mike Robertson

Approval of Agenda:

Vice Chair Winsor moved to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner White. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Liaison Gorder and Commissioner White pointed out clerical errors from the August minutes.

Vice Chair Winsor moved to approve the amended August 15, 2019 minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

Discussion of Coyote Management Plan

City Staff proposed adopting a coyote management plan, and asked the NRC for their feedback. NRC asked that City Staff work on a draft to show the NRC for next month. The coyote experts that gave the April 2019 workshop will also be asked to review and give their feedback for the proposed policy. Chair Larson recommended that the policy mention reducing food sources for coyotes.

Commissioner McDermott made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner LePoutre, to have City Staff draft a Coyote Management Plan and run it by the coyote experts who ran the workshop in April 2019 for review by the NRC at their next meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Update on Oriental Bittersweet Removal

Woodland Restorations submitted a bid to the City to remove oriental bittersweet. Removal costs vary from \$12,400 to \$500 per property. The grant given to the City is for \$2,700. Liaison Gorder mentioned that it is convenient to treat and both oriental bittersweet and buckthorn at the same time. Now is the best time of year to treat and remove both invasive species.

Discussion of Open Meeting Law

The NRC is subject to the open meeting law. They cannot discuss business of the commission as a quorum outside of the open meetings.

Update on the Septic Ordinance discussion

Mayor Nelson summarized the discussion at the last City Council meeting, which included creation of a subcommittee to investigate and research how to amend the septic ordinance to possibly include a point of sale contingency. Commissioner Hawkins offered to be a liaison on the Council's subcommittee; he will reach out to Councilmember Ries, who is chairing the subcommittee.

A motion was made by Mayor Nelson, which was seconded by Vice Chair Winsor, for Commissioner Hawkins to contact Chair Ries about his offer to join the septic subcommittee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tick Task Force Report

Commissioner White stated that the TTF meeting on Tuesday, October 15 focused on the TTF Survey results being down in numbers. TTF would like to get the word out through advertising and education to encourage residents to fill out the survey. Vice Chair Winsor suggested that community events would be a good place to get surveys done; there could be a laptop at the event and people can fill out a survey then and there for a small incentive.

There was also a discussion at the TTF meeting about how to capture real results if there are multiple cases within a home because the survey is one per household.

Kate Winsor's Report

Vice Chair Winsor submitted an article about landscape best practices for the November issue of the North Oaks News.

City Update

Mayor Nelson reported that 35 applicants applied for the open City Administrator position, which was narrowed down to four candidates to interview, and of those four candidates, all in the Council subcommittee agreed on one candidate, Kevin Kress. The contract was negotiated by Mayor Nelson and was finalized and approved by the City Council at a special meeting on Tuesday, October 15. Mr. Kress is slated to start on December 2 as the City's Administrator.

NOHOA/NEST Update

- Liaison Gorder mentioned the NOHOA conditional use permit (CUP) for treatment and removal of ash trees and invasive species and noxious weeds was approved at the latest City Council meeting.
- There will be a hands-on buckthorn removal event on Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19 at the North Oaks Golf Club.
- On November 6, Carp Solutions will give a presentation about their carp study.
- There is a NOHOA community Survey that is open through the end of the month.
- Vice Chair Winsor complimented NEST on their recent educational events, and Liaison Gorder suggested spring and fall events that could be jointly hosted by NRC and NEST.

Other Business

- The Conservation Award was applied for; City Staff will follow up with the homeowner and report back to the NRC.
- Vice Chair Winsor attended the VLAWMO technical committee meeting. City Staff will forward the VLAWMO plan to the NRC when they get it.
- Deer management was brought up by Commissioner LePoutre. He suggested that the NRC be involved in the process to help look into varying approach to deer management. This might include in some years there are deer removed, other years may be an aerial studies or counts.

Adjournment:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner McDermott seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:13 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 21, 2019