

Natural Resource Commission Minutes
October 18, 2018
7:00 PM

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Bob Larson and Commissioners Dan McDermott, Kate Winsor, David White, Damien Lepoutre and Council Liaison Mayor Gregg Nelson

Absent: NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder

Staff: City Administrator Mike Robertson and Administrative Assistant Deb Breen

Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Nelson moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Windsor seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Nelson moved to approve the July 19, 2018 minutes. Commissioner McDermott seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor Nelson moved to approve the September 20, 2018 minutes. Commissioner McDermott seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Conservation Award:

Administrator Robertson discussed the Conservation Award for the Galatowitsch family. He asked the commission to consider what category the conservation award should apply. Commissioners Larson and Winsor thought it was a good fit for the invasive species award and mentioned the homeowners even worked with neighboring homeowners to go above and beyond to complete this project.

Commission Winsor motioned to recommend approval of a Conservation Award for Invasive Species control to the Galatowitsch family. Seconded by Nelson. Unanimously approved.

Administrator Robertson will add this to the November City Council agenda.

Commissioner McDermott motioned to provide a \$100 certificate to the North Oaks Golf Club in addition to the certificate. Commissioner White seconded. Unanimously approved.

Tick Task Force:

No report this month as the Task force meeting was moved to October 30, 2018.

Kate Winsor's Report:

The next North Oaks News will feature an article about the Winters conservation award.

City Update:

- Administrator Robertson confirmed that the deer management letters have been sent out. The USDA contract was signed by Mayor Nelson at the meeting. Laughlin, the deer trapper, will wait until there is snow on the ground to set out traps so they can see the deer tracks. Overall there seems to be less deer this year. They took 133 deer a year 2 years ago and only 41 last year. Robertson wondered if repopulation isn't coming in from outside North Oaks as in past years.
- Recycling – Organic recycling kits from Ramsey County are available at the city office. They have given out about dozen so far. Commissioner Winsor indicated that she has not seen a lot of interest in a full North Oaks compost bin program.
- Robertson ordered seedling trees on Monday. He got sugar maples, red maples, Kentucky coffee trees and red and white pines.
- An Invasive Species grant application has been submitted for \$10,000. Oriental Bittersweet removal is what we are going for.
- Social Media – Robertson noted that the City is upgrading its social media presence and Councilmember Sara Shah has been helpful with this. The City is trying to put more information out on City Facebook and Email blast once per week or as appropriate. Council is also looking at purchasing a survey tool that could electronically gather survey results via text or email. This would cost \$1,500 per year. It could also be used for the tick survey. Commissioner Winsor said the Natural Resources Facebook page only has a small following and asked if it could be merged with the City's Facebook page. Commissioner Winsor will meet with the administrative staff next week to do this.

Mayor Nelson suggested looking at other government entities for guidance as it seems like many are using social media well. Commissioner White asked if the City is still using the NOHOA email blast. Robertson confirmed they did on occasion, but the City currently has 106 signed up for our own email blast at this time. He noted the most feedback we have received was on the missing tortoise.

- Commissioner Winsor happy to see tortoise was found. Commissioner White said he found it in his back yard sunning himself.
- There was no report yet from Steve McComas on Pleasant Lake. Mayor Nelson noted that Steve McComas's report will help the City plan for the next round of weed removal in 2019.
- Liaison Nelson asked if he could move the weed prevention budget item to the NRC budget. Commissioners McDermott and White asked what was necessary besides hiring the contractor to control the weeds around the lake. Robertson said typically the City only pulls

a permit and contacts the vendor but it's good to develop a three year plan. There are some other homeowners that want to use the same vendor while they are working for the City.

NOHOA / NEST Update

Commissioner Larson reported for Diane Gorder who has been working on picture post project for residents to take pictures of the shoreline to monitor the erosion effects.

Other Business:

Commissioner Larson asked if any there was any further discussion on security camera's for the entrances. Mayor Nelson mentioned that former Mayor Eggleston reported a year ago that cameras covering every entrance would be approximately \$300,000. NOHOA would have to own the video / picture data due to privacy.

Commissioner Lepoutre inquired about the use of fat tire bikes off trail in the preserve and wondered if additional signage needed to indicate that they must stay on the main trails. Mayor Nelson will speak to those few residents who use fat tire bikes, as the North Oaks Company is concerned about misuse of the conservation area. Robertson said Officer Burrell has on occasion patrolled the trails on his bike.

Administrator Robertson stated in next few weeks there will be a need to repair a culvert collapse on East Pleasant Lake Road. Communications will go out via NOHOA and City Facebook and email blasts once date is confirmed.

Adjournment:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn, Commission Winsor seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:56.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2018.