

Natural Resource Commission Minutes
February 16, 2017
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 David White, Kate Winsor, City NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder.

Absent: Commissioners John Murphy and Dan McDermott. Council Liaison Marty Long.

Staff: City Administrator Mike Robertson and Administrative Assistant Mary Belden.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Liaison Gorder moved to approve the January 19, 2017 minutes. Commissioner White seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Administrator Robertson welcomed two visitors to the meeting, high school students Gillian Lerdahl and Ben Jepko. Gillian and Ben live in North Oaks and are interested in getting more involved in the community.

Stewardship Award

Administrator Robertson reported that Council had approved the idea of a Stewardship Award and directed the NRC to develop criteria. He put together a first draft template for the award and said he was looking for feedback from the Commission. Chair Larson suggested we tweak the objective to concentrate on natural resources. Commissioner Winsor wondered if this was something we would do annually and Robertson stated that it would be up to the NRC. Commissioner White suggested that the NRC form a sub-committee to work on this issue.

Tick Task Force

Commissioner White stated that they are not getting as much response to the survey as they would like.

Deer Management Report

Administrator Robertson stated that we have taken 115 deer which is ahead of last year. He said he has received his first formal turkey complaint. The turkeys are also getting into the deer traps and causing problems.

Kate Winsor Report

Commissioner Winsor reported that she will have a weed of the month article for March on Japanese Barberry.

City Update

Administrator Robertson stated that the Fire Chief will look at the conservation area and the rest of the city for fire risk this spring. Robertson also reported about the road project on Centerville Road and how that affects North Oaks as well as the Hy-Vee development on Centerville Road across from Cub.

NOHOA Update

Liaison Gorder reported that NOHOA would like to hold an April educational session on shore land stewardship. The City Forester would contribute as well. This is in follow up to the packet sent out earlier to residents about shore land stewardship. She also reported on purple loosestrife. Administrator Robertson asked when the garden sale is in the spring and was told May 13. He mentioned to the two high school visitors that this would be a good opportunity to help. Gillian offered to set up a project for the garden sale and she will email Robertson the details. Robertson also stated that the NRC will be giving out tree seedlings at this event.

Other Business

Commissioner White asked about the beaver issue and Administrator Robertson responded that it's basically a NOHOA issue now. Liaison Gorder concurred that it is a NOHOA issue and that there is a group that is addressing it. Commissioner White talked about the new DNR licensing and training requirement for individuals who are using boats on the lake that has to do with invasive species and wanted to know what is NOHOA's position on this. Liaison Gorder asked Commissioner White to send her the information.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Winsor made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner White seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:59 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2017