

## **Natural Resources Commission Minutes**

**February 21, 2018**

**7:00 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 David White, Damien LePoutre, City Council Liaison Kara Ries, and NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder.

Staff: Recording Secretary Gretchen Needham

Commissioner Dan McDermott and City Administrator Mike Robertson were absent.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

**Commissioner LePoutre had previously asked that two items be added to the agenda and only one, the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the East Oaks Development, made it onto the agenda. Commissioner White moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Winsor seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Commissioner White moved to approve the January 17, 2019 minutes. Commissioner LePoutre seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**

### **Coyote Report**

On Mar. 14 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a presentation and workshop for the community about the coyote population in the Community Room, Suite 150 at 100 Village Center Drive.

### **Tick Task Force Report**

Commissioner White had no new news because the TTF did not meet recently.

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

An article about the NRC Conservation Award will appear in the March issue of the North Oaks News. Photos of birds have been recently posted to the City's Facebook page. A resident, Susan Bornstein, would like to have the City pass a pollinator resolution. A local student is willing to draft the resolution and work with the NRC and NOHOA on the language. The resolution would focus on education and best practices for protecting and nurturing pollinators in North Oaks. A draft of the resolution will hopefully be ready for the NRC's March's meeting.

### **East Oaks Development Environmental Impact**

Commissioner LePoutre is concerned the proposed road and some of the medium density housing in the East Oaks Development plan will negatively affect the nearby watershed of Black Lake, which is a sensitive body of water. The EAW of the East Oaks Development from 1999 is out of date for the current plan in his opinion, and he asked that the NRC get a new environmental impact study.

**Motion was made by Commissioner White to procure an environmental impact study. Commissioner Winsor seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Winsor asked Councilmember Ries to speak about how the Planning Commission is progressing with the proposed East Oaks Development. She said the North Oaks Company has been transparent and is working with Commissioners to give tours of the area flagged for development. Commissioner White asked Councilmember Ries about the timing of the development. She responded that the North Oaks Company has said they would like to begin work on the Nord parcel and South Wilkinson parcels this year.

### **NOHOA/NEST Update**

- NOHOA Liaison Gorder reported that on Mar. 12, the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) will host a community engagement meeting to discuss their recent survey regarding Pleasant Lake. There was a 40% response rate from the community around Pleasant Lake, which is wonderful for data collection.
- A woodland management program will be the focus for NEST in 2019. Mark Rehder, the City Forester, will consult with NEST on this endeavor.
- Removal of buckthorn around Pleasant Lake will continue to be a priority project for NEST. Natural Shore Technologies is a partner in this effort.
- The entrance to Mary Hill Park will be improved.
- Oriental bittersweet is becoming a more prevalent invasive species in the area.

Chair Larson and NOHOA Liaison Gorder attended a workshop given by the University of Minnesota concerning lake management. They have satellites taking photos of lakes to help determine which lakes need the most help.

### **Other Business**

Commissioner LePoutre asked that the 1999 Comp Plan be made public. He also raised the issue that the NRC should focus on wildlife, and not just controlling it. He brought up the example of beavers—they are an animal that pushes the boundary between humans and wildlife sharing living space. He also asked why the City is continuing to trap and kill deer when it is his understanding that the deer population is currently low in North Oaks.

### **North East Metro Climate Group**

On Feb. 25, the Shoreview Library will be showing the movie “Paris to Pittsburgh,” which talks about what can be done on the local level about climate change.

### **Adjournment:**

**Commissioner Winsor made a motion to adjourn. Liaison Ries seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: March 21, 2019**