

## **Natural Resource Commission Minutes**

**May 17, 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 Kate Winsor, Dan McDermott, David White (via conference call), City Council Liaison Gregg Nelson and NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder.

Absent: Commissioners Jamie Pfuhl and Damien Lepoutre.

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

### **Approval of Agenda:**

**Commissioner Winsor moved to approve the agenda. Liaison Nelson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Liaison Nelson moved to approve the April 19, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Winsor seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**

### **Tick Task Force Report:**

Commissioner White stated the 2018 Survey Results and Report of the Tick Task Force have been finalized. He noted no additional meetings have been scheduled. He noted resident participation in the survey increased from 2017, but was still lower than 2016.

Administrator Robertson commended the Task Force for the impressive amount of work that has been done in a short amount of time. He noted the community has expressed its support of the Task Force and their message of health and public safety.

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

Commissioner Winsor reviewed three features that she has submitted for inclusion in the next issue of *North Oaks News*: an article on this month's Conservation Award topic, "Wildlife Management"; how to apply for the Conservation Award and deadlines for application; and a reminder to residents to watch out for critters on the roadways.

Chair Larson asked whether there have been any more applications for the Conservation Award. Administrator Robertson stated there has not.

### **City Update:**

Administrator Robertson asked whether the Commissioners wished to set a date and time to visit the property that's applied for the Conservation Award. He suggested June 21, 2018, prior to the Commission meeting. Chair Larson stated that is a possibility. He requested that this be added to the Commission's Google schedule. Commissioner Winsor agreed.

Robertson stated the tree seedling giveaway was very successful with most of the seedlings gone by noon and the Garden Club taking the remainder. Commissioner Winsor stated Conservation Award flyers were handed out with the seedlings to encourage residents to apply.

Commissioner McDermott asked whether there have been any more resident comments regarding turkeys. Robertson stated there have not. He added he recently attended a monthly meeting of cities that contract with the Sheriff and noted that many communities are receiving complaints about turkeys.

Robertson reviewed a recent complaint received from a resident after a coyote attacked her dog. He added the dog was on a leash and under the control of the complainant's husband at the time of the attack. He said this issue is being taken care of by Ramsey County Deputy Mike Burrell. Commissioner McDermott asked where the attack occurred. Administrator Robertson stated he didn't know but stressed the importance of removing coyotes when they do not show fear of humans.

**NOHOA/NEST Update:**

NOHOA Liaison Gorder stated a successful burn was conducted at Mary Hill Park on May 11, 2018. She encouraged the Commissioners to visit the burn area.

Gorder stated that the Chinese beetles to help control the spread of purple loosestrife will be delivered next week. The beetles will be released by herself, Chair Larson, and Commissioner Winsor. The beetles eat only purple loosestrife, and there will be a slow and steady decline in the plant's proliferation over a 3-4 year period.

Gorder reviewed an environmental monitoring project at Charley Lake canal to be conducted with assistance from the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO). She said a "360 degrees picture post" will be installed in the ground with a camera that will take photos of the area over time, to record water levels, erosion and other lake effects. She noted an article in the July, 2018 *North Oaks News* will provide more information about the picture post and a related workshop.

**Other Business:**

Administrator Robertson stated the City Council has reviewed a proposed Ordinance to govern residential water use including irrigation. He noted a variance for a large detached garage was denied and the City Council also requested that City staff review the rental property ordinance as it relates to properties on public roads.

Council Liaison Nelson stated denial of the variance was due to the large size of the garage, the square footage of which would violate the City's Floor Area Ratio (FAR) requirements. He added the variance would have been unnecessary if the applicant had reduced the size of the proposed garage by 236 square feet.

Robertson provided an update on a recent staff meeting to review Emergency Management procedures. He noted the meeting was prompted by an April 2018 Emergency Planning Meeting held by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

Administrator Robertson said that a company's application for a permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) to oxygenate areas of Pleasant Lake has been denied. The oxygenation would have been an effort to kill zebra mussels.

Commissioner Winsor asked whether City Staff have received complaints regarding the recent fish kill. NOHOA Liaison Gorder asked about fish kill and who is collecting the dead fish. Robertson will contact the DNR to find out any information about winter kill.

**Adjournment:**

**Nelson made a motion to adjourn, McDermott seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:37 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: June 21, 2018**