

Natural Resources Commission Minutes

June 20, 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 David White, Damien LePoutre (via conference call), Dan McDermott (via conference call), Andrew Hawkins, NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder, and Mayor Gregg Nelson

Staff: Recording Secretary Gretchen Needham and City Administrator Mike Robertson

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Nelson moved to approve the May 16, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Hawkins seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Revised Pollinator Ordinance

Vice Chair Winsor, Commissioner Hawkins, NOHOA Liaison Gorder and Mayor Nelson suggested some changes to the wording of the ordinance, and the rest of the commissioners agreed to those changes. Erin Rupp of Pollinate Minnesota would be available to give a short presentation at the next City Council meeting explaining the importance of pollinator ordinances.

Vice Chair Winsor moved to recommend the Pollinator Resolution 1347, with the changes adopted, for approval at the City Council July meeting. Commissioner Hawkins seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

North Oaks against Oriental Bittersweet

Administrator Robertson noted that Justin Townsend of Ramsey County will recommend sites for removal of Oriental Bittersweet. Volunteers will be gathered to help chop and remove the noxious weed. Liaison Gorder asked that Justin provide a step-by-step process for how the bittersweet is removed.

Review of the NRC's Mission Statement

Chair Larson suggested that education be added to the Mission Statement, and well as some slight wording changes. A revised Mission Statement will be ready at the next NRC meeting.

Tick Task Force Report

- The 2019 City of Excellence Award by the League of Minnesota Cities will be given to the City of North Oaks for the efforts of the TTF at a June 27 awards dinner in Duluth.
- The TTF survey has concluded and the data will be analyzed soon. The survey results will be publicized on the City's website, Facebook page, email blast, and in the North Oaks News.

- The next Tick Task Force meeting will be Tuesday, July 16.

Kate Winsor's Report

The week of June 16 is Pollinator Week. Vice Chair Winsor submitted articles for the North Oaks News about taking pride in outdoor spaces and a "weed of the month." Next month, there will be an article in the paper that the deadline for the Conservation Award is approaching. She suggested that NOHOA is nominated for an award.

City Update

- Pleasant Lake weed removal will start the week after July 4. Next year, NOHOA will be heading up weed removal.
- Administrator Robertson had a meeting with the Sheriff about the crime activity of late with thieves entering unlocked cars and then gaining access to the home and vehicles. The advice from law enforcement is to lock vehicles, park them in a locked garage, and lock doors to the home at night.
- City Council has two workshops coming up in July for the Decennial Review and to do the second round of City Attorney interviews.
- Planning for Resilient Cities Workshop is in Roseville this week. Vice Chair Winsor and Commissioner Hawkins expressed interest in attending workshops such as these in the future.

NOHOA/NEST Update

- Liaison Gorder talked about the Frog and Toad event on May 31. About 30 people attended to learn about types of frogs and toads found in the area, and the importance of these amphibians to our ecosystem.
- Dawn Tanner of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) has been mapping the locations of yellow iris, an invasive species, through canoe trips around North Oaks lakes.
- A resident of Island Road wrote a letter to Diane Gorder about his home's cesspool septic system, which failed soon after he bought his house. He would like to see the City approve a Point of Sale Ordinance at some point in the near future. This topic is already being discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Adjournment:

Vice Chair Winsor made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner White seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:23 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 18, 2019