

Natural Resources Commission Minutes

August 17, 2017

7:00 P.M.

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 and John Murphy. Commissioner David White arrived at 7:05. NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder arrived at 7:06. City Council Liaison Marty Long arrived at 7:15.

Staff: City Administrator Mike Robertson and Recording Secretary Gretchen Needham

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner McDermott seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Winsor moved to approve the July 2017 minutes. Commissioner McDermott seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Conservation Award Committee Report

Commissioners reviewed the procedures for the Conservation Award. Administrator Robertson said the Council needed to approve the criteria and suggested that once the criteria were finalized that it be sent to them. Commissioner Murphy suggested presenting the award at the end of the year.

Tick Task Force

Commissioner White said the TTF is waiting for data from the Department of Health.

Kate Winsor's Report

Weed of the month for September is non-native Phragmites; an article has been submitted to the North Oaks News.

Chair Larson wanted to remind all that the Minnesota Extension is a terrific resource for identifying invasive species. Discussion was held about inviting the Extension to do a forum at some point.

City Update

Administrator Robertson talked about a recent incident on the NOHOA Facebook site complaining of trespassing, fishing and possible marijuana use. Once the incident was investigated, it was determined there was no trespassing and no sign of drugs; the men had

been fishing but stopped when asked. Councilmember Long said that whenever the City has investigated complaints about the Sheriff's deputies they've found that they've been unfounded.

According to VLAWMO, these are the current lakes' water quality ratings as of 2016 compared to 2015 (Pleasant Lake isn't rated due to the volume of water moving through it).

- Black Lake—improved from B+ to A-
- Gilfillan—Stayed at C+
- Deep—Improved from C- to C
- Charley—Stayed at C
- Wilkinson—Improved from D to D+

Emerald ash borer remains at bay: Forester Mark Rehder has examined over 100 ash trees and no traces of the pest have been found.

The City Engineer has done a rough feasibility study as to the potential for City sewer and water at the North Oaks Golf Club when they expand. It would cost approximately \$2 million.

NOHOA/NEST Update

Commissioner Gorder talked about a possible University of Minnesota capstone project with VLAWMO, St. Paul Regional Water, and the City of North Oaks. The main purpose will be to examine issues regarding the water system in terms of maintaining water quality, shoreline protections, erosion, etc.

Other Business:

Chair Larson talked about a Ramsey County workshop he recently attended concerning topsoil quality. Diverse root depth and native plantings can help protect topsoil.

Commissioner Winsor mentioned preparations for Farm Fest, such as a banner being created to bring attention to the table. Administrator Robertson said he would order a banner.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Murphy moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner White. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 21, 2017