

North Oaks Natural Resources Commission
NRC Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Teleconference or Electronic Means Only
August 20, 2020 at 7 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hawkins called the meeting of August 20, 2020, to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

NRC members participated **by telephone or other electronic means** pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

Present: Present: Chair Andrew Hawkins, Vice Chair Kate Winsor, Commissioners Bob Larson, Damien Lepoutre, and David White; NOHOA Liaison Patricia Orud. Absent – Liaison Ries

Staff Present: City Administrator Kevin Kress, City Forester Mark Rehder

Guest: Chad Eslinger and family

A quorum was declared present.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by White, seconded by Windsor, to approve the agenda as submitted.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

MOTION by Larson, seconded by White, to approve the minutes as submitted.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6a. Conservation Award Review

Chair Hawkins introduced Mr. Eslinger with Vice-Chair Winsor. Commissioners reviewed the application as presented in the packet and listened to Winsor describe the various pollinator plantings. Mr. Eslinger thanked the commission for the opportunity to show his pollinator site. Eslinger explained it was mainly his daughter Emily and wife Michelle who were responsible for the site. Commissioners thanked the Eslinger family for their hard work and improvements to natural habitat.

MOTION by Winsor, seconded by White, to recommend to the City Council delivery of a pollinator conservation award to the Eslinger family.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6b. Woodland Subcommittee Update

Commissioner Lepoutre gave an update on the Woodland Subcommittee and referenced the last minutes as included in the packet. Lepoutre informed the commission that Mr. Kroll from Kroll Consulting Forestry is expected to provide a proposal during the first week of September. Kroll's role is to provide for a framework to establish a woodland plan and map the existing woodland. The plan will be reviewed by the DNR along with NRC, NOHOA/NEST, etc. Commissioners discussed placing an article in North Oaks News and the City's E-blast to update residents on the collaborative effort between the City and NOHOA.

6c. Pollinator Resolution report review, discussion, and possible recommendation to City Council

Vice-Chair Winsor walked the commission through the Pollinator resolution report as included in the packet and asked if there were any questions, comments, or corrections.

MOTION made by Winsor, seconded by Lepoutre, to recommend approval of the annual pollinator report to the City Council pending any NOHOA changes.

MOTION unanimously approved by roll call vote.

*NOHOA representative Orud confirmed no changes were necessary and recommended submittal of the report to the City Council.

7. COMMISSIONER / STAFF REPORTS

7a. Tick Task Force Report: David White

- Commissioner White mentioned there is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

7b. Community Outreach: Winsor Report

- Informed the commission that the Osprey article received positive reviews.
- An article about common burdock was submitted to the North Oaks news as suggested by resident Joan Brainard.
- Hawkins gave an update on the Annual Water Symposium and reflected good participation and feedback. He commented that the speakers were well received and looks forward to doing it again next year.

7c. NOHOA/ NEST Report: Patricia Orud

- Working on eradicating purple loosestrife.
- VLAWMO leaf box project to improve water quality.
- Weed removal from lakes is going well.

7d. City Forester Report:

- Forester Rehder mentioned 185 letters sent and 40 call backs from Residents on Emerald Ash borer. Busy educating and helping put a plan in place to address them before it spreads.
- They have an intern working with them looking for oriental bittersweet ½ day a week.

7d. VLAWMO Tech Committee Report:

- North Oaks Company Lake Wilkinson clean-up
- Wetland replacement Anderson Woods
- Carp removal Lake Wilkinson

7d. City Report:

- Appointing of Councilmember Sara Shah
- Discussion on CARES funding
- Openings on Natural Resource Commission and Planning and Zoning
- Civic Ready emergency alerts
- Fire Station land purchase discussions

8. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7 p.m. through Virtual Means.

ADJOURN:

MOTION by White, seconded by Larson, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call.

Kevin Kress

Kevin Kress, City Administrator

Andrew Hawkins

Chair, Andrew Hawkins

Date approved: __9/17/2020__