Natural Resource Commission Agenda

June 20, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Community Meeting Room - 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150

North Oaks

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of May 16, 2019 Minutes
5. Revised Pollinator Resolution
6. North Oaks Against Oriental Bittersweet
7. Review of NRC's Mission Statement
8. Tick Task Force Report
9. Kate Winsor's Report
10. City Update
11. NOHOA/NEST Update
12. Other Business
13. Next Meeting July 18, 2019
14.

Natural Resources Commission Minutes
May 16, 2019
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, Commissioner Dan McDermott, City Council Liaison Mayor Gregg Nelson and NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder
Staff: City Administrator Mike Robertson and Recording Secretary Debbie Breen
Absent: Commissioners Damien Lepoutre and David White

Approval of Agenda:
Commissioner McDermott moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Winsor seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:
Commissioner McDermott moved to approve the April 18, 2019 minutes as amended. Commissioner Winsor seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Pollination resolution
NOHOA Liaison Gorder has some suggested changes to the draft of the proposed Pollinator Resolution 1347, along with some input from the Hill Farm Society and Golf Club which could be incorporated. Gorder asked if there was funding to give grants to establish pollinator friendly areas. Administrator Robertson stated there is $7,000 that is budgeted for the NRC. That has been the source of funding for tree seedlings and other similar expenditures. Commissioner McDermott was concerned about how much behind the scenes work would be needed to set up guidelines for a grant process. Gorder said the Resolution doesn't need to refer specifically to a North Oaks Grant, it could just be encouraging residents to be part of any grant program. Council Liaison Nelson suggested that on page 3 we just leave it a bit more general stating "The City shall encourage establishing and protecting pollinator habitat."- removing "through awards and grant programs". He also recommended taking out the sentence regarding playing fields on page 2 which begins "In order to preserve the quality of the playing surface on high value sports field" as that is NOHOA's responsibility.

Robertson asked everyone to send him any further changes. NOHOA Liaison Gorder asked for him to be sure to include the date within the name of the next version, so the draft version process is clear. The NRC will review this again in July.

Review of NRC mission statement:
Administrator Robertson has reviewed the NRC files looking for any record of an NRC Mission Statement already in existence to help clarify their role within our community. He found a

Natural Resources Task Force document that outlines an extensive executive summary. Both Winsor and Gorder recall working on a recent concise mission statement for the NRC. They will look in their files. Commissioner McDermott thought it should be short and sweet. Chair Larson mentioned that it was probably something along the lines of "Preserving our Natural Resources along with Education".

Discussion of NRC role in Development:
Administrator Robertson asked Commissioners how they felt about wanting to weigh in as a collective Commission on developments. Council Liaison Nelson recommend the Commission could review proposed developments and then issue a short letter to Council with items of concern or support. Chair Larson mentioned that he believes the NRC should focus on natural preservations, not get into the weeds of detail. Commissioner McDermott believes residents are more sensitive now to environmental concerns than 20 years. Robertson said that currently VLMAO, the Planning Commission, City Council and others get into the details of proposed development and conditions. If NRC wants to be involved, City could share information at the same time as Planning commission, and they could issue a letter indicated any concerns they would hope be addressed. An official vote would be taken to establish the official opinion of the NRC. Commissioners agreed that was a good idea.

Tick Task Force Report
Chair Larson communicated that North Oaks Tick Task force is the winner of the League of Minnesota Cities 2019 City of Excellence Award for the category of cities with populations of 5,000 – 19,999. This is an important and valued recognition that will establish a precedence, and good guidelines to use as a reference by other cities. The Award winners will be recognized at the Minnesota Cities Awards Show & Dinner on Thursday, June 27 in Duluth.

Kate Winsor's Report
The June issue of North Oaks News will feature an article on Garlic Mustard. It is a reprint of a prior article from a few years ago, but it's very active in our community right now. The North Oaks Garden Sale went well with giving out tree seedlings. The bulletin board wasn't too visible behind the tree seedlings so we may wish to try to feature this in a different location or manner in future. About 50 Red Maples are left and the NRC will inquire about having a booth at Summerfest to give away the remaining trees.

City Update—Administrator Robertson
Last month it was shared that we won a grant for removal of oriental bittersweet. The City is in the process of replacing City Attorney Dave Magnuson, and there are 10 applicants being interviewed next Friday May 24th. Another topic to be addressed with NOHOA includes clarity on what role they play in reviewing developments, as they are a signatory on the East Oaks Master Plan.

NOHOA/NEST Update

- NOHOA Liaison Gorder stated that Emerald Ash Borer has been found by the Pump house. NOHOA is removing as many ash trees as they can within their given budget, and 40 trees

are also being injected for treatment. She encourages all to come to the Frog and Toad event taking place on Friday May 31st. Dawn Tanner will be sharing how to recognize the various frog sounds within our unique North Oaks habitat. They are also planning a buckthorn education removal program in the fall on a Saturday morning to educate residents on how to eradicate this invasive species. There may be a request to the City to do a fall brush pick up after they talk about how to remove. Administrator Robertson mentioned only 6 signed up so far for Spring brush pick up. Fall is the best time to do pruning work, so this may give better results.

Other Business

- Coyotes were discussed in the monthly meeting with Sheriff meeting. Mario Lee mentioned that he'd be glad to go out and meet with concerned residents. He will also be promoting the video from experts on living with coyotes and encouraging residents to harass and make noise to make them unwelcome on resident property.
- Robertson mentioned that there was a report of possible repeat trespasser from a year ago back wandering North Oaks. City has put out on Facebook page warnings to call 911 or City Hall for trespassers, solicitors or any unusual activity, and Officer Burrell and Ramsey county will come issue tickets. McDermott inquired about the higher number of bicycles coming through our roads this time of year. Administrator Robertson stated Deputy Burrell can't stop a bicycle without cause, just like a car. If there is even 1 biker in the group that is a resident, then they are considered valid guests. Deputy Burrell will also start looking for people out fishing around our lakes.
- Andrew Hawkins, new resident in Rapp as of November, introduced himself as being interested in the NRC Commissioner opening. He is a Scientist and a Biologist by day. He moved here from Colorado after working with a company in environment fuels. Currently he works in the Animal Health industry. Environmental stewardship is his biggest focus, and he would want to encourage other residents to become involved.

  Winsor indicated to Mr. Hawkins that NRC Commissioners would be expected to volunteer at several community events including Garden Club sale, Hill Farm fest, and Summerfest to help staff a booth and share environmental awareness. Council Liaison Nelson also mentioned that attendance at monthly NRC meetings is important. Mr. Hawkins inquired about the application process, and indicated he will formally reach out to Administrator Robertson to apply for the open position.

Adjournment:
Commissioner Winsor made a motion to adjourn. McDermott seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 20, 2019

CITY OF
NorthOaks
Building on a tradition of innovation

State of Minnesota)
County of Ramsey) ss
City of North Oaks)

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1347
Endorsing Pollinator Protection and Promoting Pollinator Habitat
VERSION 3 – 6/17/19

WHEREAS, pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other insects, are an indispensable component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing flowering plants with the pollination needed to grow fruits, vegetables, nuts, and herbs; and,

WHEREAS, scientific research has shown that pollinator populations are in rapid decline in the State of Minnesota, and across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, research has shown that the decline is a result of multiple, interacting factors, including loss of food and habitat, pathogens and parasites, climate change, and the increased use of pesticides, including neonicotinoids; and,

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids are a class of systemic chemical insecticides that have been shown to impair pollinators at low doses and kill them at higher doses; and,

WHEREAS, alternative land management practices are available that would significantly increase pollinator habitat and reduce maintenance costs; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota state law preempts municipalities' ability to regulate pesticides, but does not restrict a municipality's support of public and private efforts to protect and promote healthy pollinator habits including, without limitation, the North Oaks Homeowners' Association (NOHOA) and its sub associations, the North Oaks Golf Club, the North Oaks Hill Farm Historical Society, the North Oaks Garden Club and collectively North Oaks property owners; and,

WHEREAS, many North Oaks residents, businesses, and private organizations are concerned about the well-being of pollinators; and,

WHEREAS, the North Oaks Home Owners' Association values the natural environment; its mission includes preserving and enhancing North Oaks through stewardship of its natural resources, and its vision includes being a place where people, history, and nature grow together;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of North Oaks:

The City of North Oaks is hereby declared a Pollinator Friendly Community. The City of North Oaks celebrates current policies and practices that protect and promote pollinator health.

The City of North Oaks seeks to incorporate pollinator habitat with storm water management.

The Natural Resource Commission has implemented a Conservation Award Program that recognizes residents and organizations for excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation on their property. One category of the award program is for best practices in pollinator conservation.

The North Oaks Home Owners' Association (NOHOA), with the help of NOHOA volunteers, successfully converted approximately 2,000 square feet of association owned Lake Gilfillan shoreline into pollinator habitat.

NOHOA is developing a pollinator habitat on passive recreation property near the main entrance of north Oaks (approximately 70,000 square feet).

NOHOA's shoreline restoration projects emphasize the use of a wide variety of native pollinator-friendly plants.

NOHOA's pollinator habitats have the potential to serve as a seed source for other pollinator projects within the City of North Oaks.

NOHOA's buckthorn removal at the 3.4-acre Mary Hill Park has allowed flowering plants to once again flourish in the sunny areas of the site and more pollinator friendly plants will be added to the site over time.

With the exception of tick habitats, NOHOA generally does not use or permit the use of insecticides or herbicides on its properties and instead emphasizes landscape modification strategies for tick management such as more frequent mowing of its recreation land and trail systems.

The North Oaks Garden Club only uses vendors who do not use neonicotinoids on their annuals, vegetables and herbs sold at the annual Plant Sale.

The North Oaks Garden Club distributes Mammoth sunflower seeds at their annual plant sale, encouraging residents to grow them, thereby providing food for pollinators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of North Oaks shall undertake its best efforts to reverse pollinator decline by adopting new policies and practices that protect pollinators, including:

> The City of North Oaks shall seek to clarify guidelines against the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and pesticide treated plants.
>
> The City of North Oaks will prioritize nurseries that refrain from using neonicotinoids

when purchasing plants.

When feasible, the City of North Oaks shall allow coarse woody debris to accumulate in open or natural, forested areas as a means of nesting and overwintering habitat for pollinators.

The City of North Oaks will encourage developers seeking permits to plant more pollinator forage where appropriate.

The City of North Oaks shall also encourage developers to incorporate pollinator friendly plantings into required landscaping.

The City of North Oaks shall manage for pollinators by selecting native plantings for any future stormwater management projects

The City of North Oaks shall post a copy of this resolution to the City website and periodically post a Pollinator Friendly Activities Report in the City newsletter.

The City of North Oaks shall review and revise the current Integrated Pest Management Plan to better accomplish the goal of controlling pests with the least possible disruption to ecosystems.

~~The City of North Oaks, in conjunction with the Tick Task Force, will work to minimize the impact of pesticides used within forested areas and along forested trails due to the importance of forests for nesting habitat and flowering trees and shrubs as a food source.~~

The City of North Oaks Natural Resources Commission and NOHOA shall support efforts to educate the broader community about the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator friendly habitat.

The City shall encourage the North Oaks Garden Club to continue to host an annual plant sale that offers a variety of pollinator friendly plantings, including native plants.

The North Oaks Golf Club maintains native plants, including wildflowers, on their property, implements integrated pest management techniques when pests are encountered, and uses licensed pesticide applicators who are trained to reduce exposure to non-target species, specifically foraging bees. The North Oaks Golf Club is participating in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

The Hill Farm Society maintains a one-acre prairie on their six-acre site. The prairie is filled With native plants that serve as pollen and nectar sources for pollinators. In addition, they Manage approximately 300 feet of shoreline on Pleasant Lake.

North Oaks will encourage the identification, protection and promotion of pollinator habitat projects.

The Natural Resource Commission shall provide periodic reports regarding the success of the agenda presented in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of North Oaks urges all property owners, residents, businesses, institutions, and neighborhoods to assist pollinators by adopting practices including:

Committing to avoid using pesticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property;
Avoid planting flowering plants that have been treated with systemic insecticides;
Discontinuing the sale of pesticides and plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;
Incorporating more pollinator forage into their property;
Refrain from treating lawns with herbicide;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of North Oaks transmit copies of this resolution to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Governor Tim Walz, State Representatives and Senators, U.S. Representatives and Senators, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, and will continue to advocate at the State and Federal level for pollinator friendly policies.

The City of North Oaks shall post a copy of this resolution on the City of North Oaks web site and periodically post a Pollinator Friendly Activities Report on the web site and in the North Oaks News.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL of the City of North Oaks this 11th day of July, 2019.

APPROVED:

Gregg Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Robertson
City Administrator

Natural Resources Commission Mission Statement

The Natural Resources Commission is an advisory body to the North Oaks city council. The role of this commission is to make recommendations to the City Council to assist the city of North Oaks as it strives to preserve and maintain the city's status as a unique place to live. In concert with all established Home Owners' Associations, Commercial Associations, property owner's, developers and citizens, the city shall continue to emphasize community and individual privacy with the protection and management of all natural resources. This includes, but is not limited to, urban wildlife, forests, wetlands, surface water and ground water.

MEMO

Date June 17, 2019
To: Natural Resources Commission
From: City Administrator Mike Robertson
Re: City Update

Weed Management – We are set for the week after July 4th for weed removal on Pleasant Lake.

Oriental Bittersweet Removal – I met with Justin Townsend of Ramsey County to discuss our grant to remove Oriental Bittersweet. He has been checking out sites where there are bittersweet infestations and will give me a list. We discussed having Justin hold a training session for volunteers that want to remove Oriental Bittersweet. We could have CTV tape it for people who can't attend. I would like to know if Diane knows of any sites on NOHOA property that we can go after. Also, if anyone is aware of any volunteers who would be interested in helping us out with removal efforts.

Free workshop!

Planning for Resilient Cities: Our Decade of Action

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Roseville Skating Oval, Olympic Room

Afternoon Workshop: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Evening Workshop: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Accelerate the implementation of your city's energy and resilience goals! Hear the inspiring story of Chicago's Greenest Region Compact and how Chicago area cities are meeting their sustainability goals. Explore ways Minnesota cities can support each other through a Resilient Cities Coalition, and walk away with new ideas, strategies and resources.

More info: allianceforsustainability.com/resilientcities

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Mike Robertson, Administrator
Staff, + Natural Resources Commission
City of North Oaks
100 Village Center Dr #230
North Oaks, MN 55127

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Planning for Resilient Cities

Launching Our Decade of Action for Thriving, Low-Carbon, Resilient Cities

JOIN US FOR A FREE WORKSHOP!

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Roseville Skating Oval, Olympic Room

2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, MN 55113 (Route 227)

We are offering two identical sessions:

Afternoon Workshop: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Evening Workshop: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Networking Reception (both groups) **4 p.m. – 6 p.m.**
Food provided courtesy of the French Meadow Café

Who should attend? City Staff, Elected Leaders, Commission and Community Volunteers and Leaders. Plan to bring 2 to 4 people from your city to take advantage of the many discussions at topic tables!

Workshop Goals:

- **Keynote Speaker: Edith Makra, Director of Environmental Initiatives, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Chicago).** Learn how more than 100 Chicago area cities and communities are meeting their sustainability goals together through the Greenest Region Compact.
- Cities will share and learn about the priority energy/resilience goals of other MN cities from their 2040 Comp Plans
- Find resources and implementation support at various topic tables
- Explore ways Minnesota cities can accelerate action together through multi-city teams, state policy support, and development of new resources and strategies. Provide ideas to shape a Resilient Cities Coalition.

Please RSVP for this free event at
https://resilientcitiescoalition.eventbrite.com

Questions? Contact Sean Gosiewski, 612-250-0389, Sean@afors.org

Alliance for Sustainability
Ecologically sound, economically viable, socially just and humane