

## **Natural Resource Commission Agenda**

**July 18, 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 June 20, 2019 Minutes**
- 5. Oriental Bittersweet Update**
- 6. Review of NRC's Mission Statement**
- 7. Update on Septic Ordinance Discussion**
- 8. Update on Pollinator Resolution**
- 9. Tick Task Force Report**
- 10. Kate Winsor's Report**
- 11. City Update**
- 12. NOHOA/NEST Update-Carp Study**
- 13. Other Business**
- 14. Next Meeting August 15, 2019**
- 15.**

## **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**

# **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Natural Resources Commission is an advisory body to the 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. The primary focus of the Commission is education for residents on protecting the community's natural resources. In concert with all established homeowner's associations, commercial associations, property owners, 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, wildlife, forests, wetlands, shorelands, invasive species, surface water and groundwater.

## MEMO

Date July 15, 2019  
To: Natural Resources Commission  
From: City Administrator Mike Robertson  
Re: City Update

NRC Minutes Approval – I have always wondered why the NRC and PC minutes were listed for approval on the Council agenda before the respective commissions saw them. I saw it as a way to inform the Council what was discussed without the Council liaison having to go through the whole meeting. If the NRC or PC made changes to their minutes I just made the changes without sending them back to the Council for formal approval.

Weed Management – The weed removal at Pleasant Lake has been completed. They were able to take out a significant amount of weeds. They found the areas they weeded last year have not come back. This is the last year that the City is doing it as NOHOA has decided to take it over next year.

Oriental Bittersweet Removal – I met with Justin Townsend of Ramsey County, City Forester Mark Rehder and Diane Gorder to review the sites in town with a significant amount of Oriental Bittersweet. We're going to begin the educational process on how to deal with this weed with articles in the North Oaks News and via social media of the City and NOHOA. The City's grant money is small enough that we are only going to be able to deal with one or two sites this year. Hopefully the state will expand funding for the program and we can qualify and do more next year.

Septic Ordinance – A public hearing on the septic ordinance has been set for the Council meeting on August 8 at 7:00 p.m.