

Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes September 4, 2019

Attendance:

Commissioners: Beth Kleinke, Brandon Krumwiede, Brandon Van Tassel, Susan Stanich, Judy Gibbs, John Lindgren, Nancy Schuldt, Mike Schrage, Mike Pennington.

Absent: None

City Staff: Diane Desotelle, Natural Resources Coordinator; Clark Christenson, Forester; Jennifer Ondrik, Clerical Specialist.

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:01 pm.

Minute Approval:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 7th, 2019, Meeting. M/S/C.

New Business:

Officer Election - A motion was made to continue with existing appointments. Mike Pennington will serve as Chair, Mike Schrage will serve as Vice Chair, and Brandon Van Tassel will serve as Secretary of the Commission. **VOTE: Yes- 9; Opposed - 0**

Mud Lake Letter - The group discussed several versions of the parred down letter from the August 20th special meeting. Brandon Van Tassel will make the edits to the letter indicating that a *majority* of the Commission are in support of Alternative 2 version 2. A motion was made to approve the draft letter with edits. **VOTE: Yes – 6; No – 2; Abstained – John Lindgren.**

Overview of the Hartley DNAP Management Plan – Gini Breidenbach (MN Land Trust) updated the Commission on the progress of the written DNAP Management plan for Hartley. This included an overview, the schedule and process, Natural Areas vs Park Boundaries, Features for which Hartley was nominated to the DNAP, and plan details.

Gini and Diane will finalize the plan over the next two weeks and send it out for the Commissions review prior to the October 2nd meeting. Our hope is to hold a vote for adoption and support of this plan at the October 2nd meeting. On October 9th the Parks Commission will have an informational presentation on the plan and it will go before the Planning Commission for vote on December 10th. If supported, this plan will then go before the City Council in mid-December.

Forester's Report (Clark Christenson – City Forester)

Clark introduced his summer intern, Pete Buntz, who has been conducting the Boulevard Tree inventory work this summer. Pete gave an overview of his findings and the noticeable trends. Unfortunately, with limited time he was not able to complete a full analysis of the entire Lakeside community. Clark indicated he would finish up either this fall or early spring. The inventory noted tree species, height, dbh, and noticeable damage. Mike Schrage wondered if there would be a write up or a report of some sort. Clark indicated there should be and at a minimum, he would be producing an infographic. The group discussed potential outlets for completion of the study.

Clark shared that the Mayor did sign a Proclamation declaring the 3rd Tuesday of September Arbor Day in Duluth. Several volunteer planting opportunities are being planned in support of this declaration.

Natural Resources Report (Diane Desotelle– Natural Resources Coordinator)

Diane updated the Commission on work completed utilizing grant funding for invasive species work.

Adjournment:

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09, M/S/C.