

Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes March 4, 2020

Attendance:

Commissioners: Judy Gibbs, Brandon Krumwiede, John Lindgren, Mike Pennington, Nancy Schuldt, Mike Schrage, Tiffany Sprague, Brian Fredrickson, Brandon Van Tassel,

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

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 4:05 pm.

Minute Approval:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 5th 2020, Meeting. M/S/C.

Pine Thinning

Clark updated the Commission on potential tree thinning projects planned throughout thought the City. This was a preliminary discussion that will continue in future meetings. The Commission emphasized that messaging around this work should be deliberate and emphasize forest health and rejuvenation rather than timber harvesting.

Forester's Report (Clark Christenson – City Forester)

The City's Forestry crews have been busy working on labeling Ash Trees. Ash removals will begin in the next few weeks. Pruning work and remaining clean up from the Thanksgiving storm continues. Park Maintenance was awarded additional hours for the Forestry Aide to complete the Boulevard Tree Inventory and initiate a separate inventory of park trees.

Natural Resources Report (Diane Desotelle – Natural Resources Coordinator)

Diane reported that both the Hartley & St. Louis River Duluth Natural Area Designations will be going to City Council for vote on March 23rd. Diane shared that the City was asked to submit an application for some noncompetitive grant funding available through the EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. These funds, if secured, would be used to help support the Duluth Natural Resources Management Program, acquire tax-forfeited land, and remove invasive species along the St. Louis River. Diane updated the Commission on the content and timeline for the Natural Resources Management Program Plan. Diane presented information on the Harvest for the 2019 Duluth City Bowhunt and will send the full report via email. Lastly, the group discussed the findings of the Duluth Urban Stream study in both Keene and Tisher Creek's. The E-coli source assessment report is still being finalized and will be shared at our next meeting.

Directors Report

Jim Filby Williams was unable to make the meeting this evening; we anticipate a lengthy update next month.

Adjournment:

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:11, M/S/C.