

# Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes August 4, 2021 (Evergreen Senior Center)

## Attendance:

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

**City Staff:** Diane Desotelle, Natural Resources Coordinator; Clark Christenson, City Forester; Jim Filby Williams, Director of Property, Parks & Libraries; Steven Robertson, Senior Planner; Jennifer Ondrik, Administrative Specialist.

## Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:06 p.m.

## Old Business

None

## New Business

### Strategic Public Lands Re-alignment Project

Jim Filby Williams along with Diane Desotelle and Steven Robertson provided a brief overview of the public process related to the Strategic Public Lands Re-alignment Project. A lengthy discussion of the project in general, along with associated commissioner comments, and public comments from the two public information meetings were discussed. In addition, written comments from three Natural Resource Commissioners were discussed.

The following resolution was drafted with the assistance of Jim Filby Williams and passed by the NRC that evening along with minor revisions / clarifications provided by the City that were incorporated and approved by a majority of the Commissioners via email response in the following days.

The NRC recommends:

1. That the Parks Commission, the Planning Commission, and the City Council approve the list of tax forfeit parcels in the St Louis River, Mission, Piedmont, Hartley/Downer, and Lester/Amity Public Land Project Areas, as well as other specifically indicated parcels, that the City administration has proposed for City acquisition and permanent protection.
2. That the City Council, simultaneous with acquisition, formally designate as City parks those parcels that the City administration has indicated for conveyance for park use under state statute.
3. That the City Council, simultaneous with acquisition, designate as portions of the St. Louis River Natural Area all parcels previously recommended for inclusion so that all such parcels will be immediately subject to the protections of the Duluth Natural Areas Program ordinance and the St. Louis River Natural Area Management Plan.

4. That the City Council consider establishment of development restrictions on some or all newly acquired properties in excess of those required by state and federal law.
5. That the City Council consider Natural Resource Commission guidance on whether and how to establish specific additional development restrictions.
6. That the City administration, prior to any subsequent parcel selection decision-making process, work with the Natural Resource Commission to revisit and enhance the Tax Forfeit Land Parcel Selection Guidelines.
7. That the City administration, in any subsequent parcel selection decision-making process, provide greater opportunity for Natural Resource Commission members to closely review and provide input on individual parcel selections.

Natural Resource Commissioner Votes 8/4/21

Approved Revisions via email 8/5 & 8/6/ 2021

- |                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| • Mike Pennington – Yes   | - Yes       |
| • Mike Schrage – Yes      | - Yes       |
| • Nancy Schuldt – Yes     | - Yes       |
| • Tiffany Sprague – Yes   | - Yes       |
| • Brandon Krumwiede – Yes | - Abstained |
| • John Lindgren – Yes     | - Yes       |
| • Brian Fredrickson – Yes | - Yes       |
| • Judy Gibbs – Yes        | - Yes       |

Absent: Allison Ray

**Resolution passes: 7 Yes, 1 Abstain**

**Natural Resources Coordinator Report**

Due to time constraints at the meeting Diane Desotelle provided a very brief update to the Commissioners. The deer hunting ordinance amendments were approved by the City Council. The Kingsbury Bay project to plant trees and shrubs where buckthorn has been treated is now underway.

**Forester's Report**

Due to time constraints at the meeting Clark Christenson did not have a report for the Commissioners.

**Director's Report (Jim Filby Williams – Director of Property, Parks, & Libraries)**

Director Filby Williams did not have any additional updates for the Commissioners.

**Announcements**

Our newest Commissioner Allison Ray will be joining us next month.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47, M/S/C.