

Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes September 1, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

Attendance:

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

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

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:07 p.m.

Old Business

Strategic Public Lands Re-alignment Project

City staff to provide an update on this project at the next meeting on October 6th.

New Business

New Commissioner – Allison Ray

The Commission welcomed its newest Commissioner Allison Ray and she introduced herself, spoke of her background and interests.

Officer Elections – Discussion and nominations were held for the Annual officer elections:

- Chair – Mike Schrage
 - Vote 7 yes; 0 no
- Vice Chair – Brandon Krumwiede
 - Vote 7 yes; 0 no
- Secretary – Judy Gibbs
 - Vote 7 yes; 0 no

Climate Action Work Plan & Sustainability Updates

Mindy Granley updated the Commission on her position within the City and her recent efforts and accomplishments. She explained the City's recent climate emergency declaration and how it will function to add urgency to climate change issues, encourage the City to exceed its existing goals, and broaden carbon reduction mandates to the entire *community* rather than just municipal emissions. She described the formation of a City Sustainability Advisory Team (C-SAT) and that its charge was to develop high-level goals and strategies for climate action and sustainability. She explained that this team will aim to contribute to the climate action work plan, prioritize actions, and share technical knowledge and skills between departmental silos. Lastly she explained how the climate action work plan will function to address climate change issues based on local greenhouse gas emission inventories and climate vulnerability assessments and described the strategies the City will use in accomplishing this work.

Duluth Citizens' Climate Action Plan

Lora Wedge (Ecolibium 3) presented to the Commission on the need and motivations behind the creation of a Citizens' climate action plan. She described key findings from a recent study on

things we can do to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in four main areas: (1) Food and Agriculture (2) Transportation (3) Buildings (4) Energy Production. She encouraged the Commission to provide input and feedback on the proposed plan and actions.

Natural Resources Coordinator Report

Diane shared the beginnings of the story map to be created for the Duluth's Natural Resources Management Program Plan rather than a printed document. She also provided updates on recent efforts of this work including the development of an online project survey to input projects related to natural resource work across the City. This will be used to support the EPA's decision support tool as we test the tool to help with project prioritization. She explained that her focus by the October meeting was to work with City staff to develop a memo that more clearly explains and describes the protections to the properties and parcels identified in the strategic public lands alignment.

Forester's Report

Clark reported on his crew's efforts and struggles to keep up with the EAB removals. In addition he provided an update on the Forest Stand Improvement Plan. The Commission requested specific information and an update on the status of an agreement with the Izaak Walton League for work on the timber stands in the Knowlton Creek project area at the October meeting.

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

Director Filby Williams indicated that he and his staff would have a more substantial update on the Strategic Public Lands Realignment project next month. He shared that an upcoming focus for his division would be to conduct a long term study and public engagement process on Minnesota Point.

Announcements

The October 6th meeting will be held virtually via WebEx.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50, M/S/C.