



# City of Duluth

411 West First Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

## Minutes

### Natural Resources Commission.

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Wednesday, January 8, 2020

6:30 PM

Room 155

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Call to Order

The meeting started at 6:33 pm.

Roll Call

**Commissioners: Brandon VanTassel, Judy Gibbs, John Lindgren, Nancy Schuldt, Brandon Krumwiede, Mike Pennington**

**Absent: Beth Kleinke, Mike Schrage**

**City Staff: Jim Filby Williams, Director of Administration; Diane Desotelle, Natural Resources Coordinator; Clark Christenson, City Forester ; Jennifer Ondrik, Administrative Clerical Specialist.**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

**A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 4th 2019, Meeting. M/S/C.**

Announcements

**Judy Gibbs handed out an Early Detection Rapid Response Watch List recently released by Duluth Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). The Commissioners asked that the City consider incorporating these types of documents into the Citywide Natural Resources Management Plan.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**St. Louis River Natural Area Management Plan - (Action Requested)**

**The Commission discussed the St. Louis River Corridor DNAP draft plan. The**

Commission made a few editorial suggestions for incorporation. The Commission voted to adopt the St. Louis River Natural Area plan. VOTE: Yes – 5; Opposed – 0

The Commission thanked Pat Collins from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for submitting a letter of support of the nomination of the St. Louis River Natural Area (SLRNA) under the City's Natural Areas Program.

#### DNAP - Proposed Ordinance Amendments

Diane Desotelle described proposed language changes to the current DNAP Ordinance. She explained that the Ordinance, as written, needs minor editorial language updates but also wording that increases flexibility in parcel acquisition. The Commission agreed that they were comfortable with the minor editorial changes but would like to discuss the proposed amendments again in April.

#### Natural Resources Update

Diane updated the Commission that the City recently approved a resolution authorizing the acceptance of a State of Minnesota Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for \$400,000 for acquisition of a 43-acre forested property located next to and above West Skyline Parkway at the headwaters of Merritt Creek. This acquisition will protect important Merritt Creek trout habitat, prevent fragmentation of forest habitat utilized by a variety of species, and preserve views to and from Skyline Parkway. Additionally, she indicated that the City received a grant to repair and restore riparian uplands near Amity and Kingsbury Creeks.

#### Foresters Report

Clark reported that his crew have been pruning in the Denfeld neighborhood. He also shared with the Commission that he recently found a Management plan for Magney-Snively from 1980. This document will prove very helpful as we initiate work in the area in the future.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### Commissioner Vacancy Update

Tiffany Sprague was selected as the newest Natural Resources Commissioner. The resolution will go before City Council on January 13, 2020.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### ADJOURN

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40, M/S/C.