

Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes May 5, 2021 (WebEx)

Attendance:

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

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

Others: Phil Lockett – Arrowhead Bowhunting Association.

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:04 p.m.

Old Business

Amendments to the Bow Hunting Ordinance

Diane Desotelle gave an update on proposed amendments to the Bow Hunting Ordinance (6-77). Minor language changes would allow hunting in and around approved hotspots (high deer densities). Other changes proposed would be to modify setback distances from 400 feet to 250 feet. Currently there are no setbacks required by the state of Minnesota. This would give hunters more flexibility and align Duluth with adjacent towns of Two Harbors and Hermantown. Phil Lockett, board president of the Arrowhead Bowhunting Association was present to answer technical questions. The Commission voted to adopt the proposed amendments (**VOTE: 8 – Yes; 0 – No**).

Natural Resources Coordinator Report

Diane Desotelle, Natural Resources Coordinator, updated the Commission on her efforts this past month. She has been working closely with Jim Shoberg (Senior Parks Planner with Property, Parks, & Libraries) to put together a bid for several invasive control sites. This bid will include buckthorn removal, pollinator garden establishment, and Japanese Knotweed control in several locations throughout town. The Technical Team met to finalize the decision support tool developed by the EPA. Diane explained that this tool will help the City to prioritize and strategize efforts and gain buy-in from our partners. Additionally, this tool will provide accountability and transparency on how the City is making natural resource decisions, spending funding, and allocating staff time.

Forester's Report

Clark Christenson, City Forester, updated the Commission on the progress made on Emerald Ash Borer removals. Currently his crew is working in Lakeside to Mesabe Avenue and will then move west to Goathill and Lincoln Park and onto the Denfeld and Morgan Park neighborhood where the densities are very thick. Clark indicated that this year's plantings will predominantly be in the East Hillside area. Clark and Tiffany Sprague have been making progress on the information flyers and will be mailing them to those neighborhoods that are most affected. There will also be a separate and more condensed informational flyer sent out through Comfort Systems and lastly

some door hangers developed. This three tiered approach will hopefully educate citizens on options for addressing Emerald Ash Borer.

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

Director Filby Williams updated the Commission on the recent efforts and continued progress on the tax forfeit parcel project. He expects that we will be ready in mid to late summer to bring a final set of parcels to the Natural Resources Commission for review and approval.

Announcements

Brian Fredrickson spoke regarding the City's formal declaration of a [Climate Emergency in Duluth](#). Mindy Granley, Sustainability Officer, will be invited to participate in an upcoming meeting to discuss this with the Commission and the City's associated Climate Action Work Plan.

Public Comment

No public comments were made though there were several attendees throughout the meeting.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47, M/S/C.