

Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes June 2, 2021 (WebEx)

Attendance:

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

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

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:04 p.m.

New Business

Natural Resource Management Program Plan

Diane Desotelle, Natural Resources Coordinator provided an update on the Natural Resources Management Program Plan (NRMPP). The plan goal is to create tools and a process for Duluth and its' partners to prioritize and complete natural resource related management work across the city. There are four projects elements being proposed: preserving lands high quality lands for protection through policies and land preservation, repairing areas that are greatly impacted, nurturing areas in the long-term, and assessing the lands to understand the resources and to measure progress. The NRMPP will include tools to review projects based on funding, staff, and natural resource components to help create a structure for project prioritization and implementation in conjunction with the city's partners. The Commissioners expressed a desire to have the public brought into the process early and to maintain the plan as a "living document" that will help citizens understand the expansiveness of projects and aim to provide credibility for future funding needs.

July Meetings

The Commission selected to keep the regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 7th at 6:00 PM. Diane indicated this will be a lengthy meeting that will center on the Natural Resources Management Program Plan and the EPA's decision support tool and will include the members of the Technical Team. Monthly reports will be sent out ahead of time to save time next month.

Natural Resources Coordinator Report

Diane Desotelle had no further reports for the Commission.

Forester's Report

Clark Christenson, City Forester, updated the Commission on recent staffing changes in Park Maintenance. Cheryl Skafte was promoted to Parks & Grounds Maintenance Supervisor previously filled by Dale Sellner. Clark stated that this change could influence the scope of work for his position and the Natural Resources Coordinator. Clark indicated that the Revitalization project field work was nearly completed and this project will soon being going out for bid. In addition, he noted that he would be reaching out to the Ikes group to begin assisting with their

approved project. Clark indicated his team have a reduced number of tree plantings this year due to COVID and once plantings are complete his crew will continue with EAB removals.

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

Director Filby Williams did not have an update for the Commissioners.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

The group briefly discussed a rezoning request in the Woodland neighborhood. City staff recommended that comments and concerns related to rezoning be directed to the City's Planning staff and the Planning Commission.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55, M/S/C.