

# Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes October 2, 2019

## **Attendance:**

Commissioners: Beth Kleinke, Judy Gibbs, Brandon Van Tassel, John Lindgren, Mike Pennington, Nancy Schuldt, Mike Schrage.

Absent: Brandon Krumwiede, Susan Stanich.

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

## **Call to Order:**

The meeting started at 6:01 pm.

## **Minute Approval:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 4<sup>th</sup> 2019, Meeting. M/S/C.

## **Hartley DNAP Discussion**

Gini Breidenbach (MN Land Trust) updated the Commission on the additional progress made on the written DNAP Management plan for Hartley. The group discussed changes it would like to see in the final version. Diane Desotelle will continue to work with Gini in the next few weeks and email a final version for the Commission's review prior to the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will ask the Commission to vote to adopt this plan next month. If supported, then the plan would go before the Planning Commission and finally onto City Council for adoption.

## **St. Louis River Corridor DNAP**

Gini Breidenbach (MN Land Trust) outlined the nomination features of the nine project area lands included within the St. Louis River Natural Area boundary. This plan will be similar in structure and format as the Hartley plan but will be based on the findings of several surveys already conducted. Diane Desotelle will email an updated draft version of the plan for review prior to the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Forester's Report**

The City's Forestry Aide, Pete Butz, is finishing the boulevard tree inventory through the Lakeside neighborhood. This will give us about 95% of the tree locations that are relevant to managing the boulevard trees. Fall tree planting continues in Lakeside with Community Action Duluth who will be planting 100 trees for us using GLRI grant funds. Tree removals continue in Central/East Hillside and downtown. We will be soliciting bids this winter for replanting 34 tree vaults in the Lincoln Park craft district next spring. Six to eight new tree species will be planted between 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Aves West.

## **Natural Resources Report (Diane Desotelle– Natural Resources Coordinator)**

Diane updated the Commission on progress made on the lands re-alignment project with St. Louis County. Currently, the City is seeking funds to obtain a large parcel of private land north of Skyline parkway that is connected to the open space in the Brewer/Piedmont area and has future plans to work with the Forest Hill Cemetery to discuss purchasing some of the land to better connect the open space between Downer Park and Hartley. Jim Filby Williams informed the Commission

they will likely be asked to assist in the development of criteria guidelines used in future parcel selections for open space protection.

Diane shared the success of treating the invasive species, Knotweed and Wild Parsnip on public lands scattered throughout the City. She also reported that data is currently coming in from summer use of the CD3 cleaning stations at Munger related to aquatic invasive species prevention. In addition, she is awaiting data from the E-Coli source assessments at Tisher Creek and Keene Creek. The DNA testing in addition to the e-coli testing will help in the detective work needed to identify potential point sources.

**NRC Bylaws Amendment – Section 9 (1<sup>st</sup> reading)**

Proposed changes to Section 9 (Order of Business) of the NRC Bylaws were read for the first time. The Commission voted to hold the second reading and adoption of this amendment in November.

**VOTE: Yes – 7; Opposed – 0 – Motion carried.**

**Adjournment:**

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