

Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes October 7, 2020 (WebEx)

Attendance:

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

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

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:02 p.m.

Natural Resources Management Program Plan (NRMPP)

Diane introduced Jason Naber, Biologist with [Emmons & Olivier Resources Inc.](#) Jason explained that he would be working with Diane to create a technical team and will be conducting a three-day field tour next week.

Bluff to Beach: Sand sources, sinks, and pathways in far western Lake Superior – implications for the genesis and evolution of Minnesota Point.

John Swenson, Associate Professor, Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, UMD, gave a detailed presentation regarding the historical and present day sand creation, deposition, and transport in and around Park Point.

Natural Resource Coordinator Report (Diane Desotelle)

Diane updated the Commission on her role in the Natural Resources Management Program Plan. She has been working with Gini Breidenbach from Minnesota Land Trust to coordinate and plan the 3-day field tour. Diane reported that there are several invasive projects going on throughout the City. Restoration and replanting work near seven bridges road and along Tisher Creek. The next public meeting for the Hartley Invasive Management Plan will be October 21st at 5:00 PM (Virtual). Deer season has started within the City and reports are coming in for a good hunt. The bird migration was intense up at Hawk Ridge and there were many visitors despite COVID.

Forester's Report (Clark Christenson)

Clark reported that the City would soon be hiring two Park Maintenance workers and once onboarded it will be the largest fulltime staff since his tenure with the City. Crews have been wrapping up tree plantings and moving on to Ash removals. It's likely he will be overwintering approximately twenty trees out of five hundred.

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

Director Filby Williams updated the Commission on the status of rehires since the layoff earlier this spring. He indicated that by January 1st, all of the positions will have been restored. He reported that City staff have been busy on the coastal hazard mitigation front. Different approaches will be used restore damage at Brighton Beach, the Ledges, and the Martin Trail.

Announcements

The Commissioner's were invited to attend the on-site tour group on Wednesday, October 14th at Chambers Grove at 12:00.

Adjournment:

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53, M/S/C.