

# Natural Resources Commission

## Meeting Minutes December 1, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

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

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

### Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:05 p.m.

### Old Business

#### Strategic Public Lands Re-alignment Project

The Commission group selected to continue this discussion at the January Commission meeting.

#### Natural Resources Management Program Plan

Sarah Everson (HKGI) gave an overview of her work on the Natural Resources Management Program Plan thus far. The group discussed the online platform, viewed some demonstrations of the embedded interactive maps, and discussed the different “lens” (special consideration categories) and program areas of the plan. Diane asked the Commissioners to review a few sections of the draft plan and provide feedback to her directly via email.

The draft NRMPP story map can be found here: <https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-planning/progress-in-the-park/natural-resources-program-plan/> and is accepting public comments through December 30, 2021.

### Forester’s Report

Clark updated the Commission on his efforts to reach out to and meet on-site with the property owners around Skyline Parkway on the brush-clearing / viewshed request discussed last month. The Commission passed a motion to allow *selective* tree clearing within the shown polygon map outlined in the 1300 E. Skyline for purpose of a viewshed. Clark assured the Commissioners that he would stay involved in the process and ensure that the requirements within the Ordinance are followed including erosion control and a post-cutting plan.

### Natural Resources Coordinators Report

Diane shared with the Commission that St. Louis County board did approve the parcel listing for the first round of the strategic public lands project but indicated that there is still much work to be done internally to complete these land transactions. Over the next month, City staff will continue to revise and finalize a memo documenting the goals of this project and the deed restriction options for these parcels. Lastly, Diane shared with the Commission that she will be leaving her position with the City on April 1<sup>st</sup> and briefly outlined a transition plan. She will plan to meet with the executive committee to discuss a proposed 2022 meeting schedule.

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

Director Filby Williams was unable to attend the December 2021 meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Betty thanked the Commission for its work and updates.

Julie O'Leary commented that other than the meeting minutes there is not much information for the general public on the Natural Resources work. She stressed the importance of keeping this information updated and readily available on the City's website.

### **Adjournment**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23, M/S/C