

North Oaks Natural Resources Commission
NRC Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Teleconference or Electronic Means Only
May 9, 2022 at 6 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dunn called the meeting of May 9, 2022 to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

NRC members participated **both in person in Council Chambers and by telephone or other electronic means** pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

Present: Chair Shannon Dunn, Commissioners Paul Ellis, Andrew Hawkins, Penny Kianian, Bob Larson, Damien Lepoutre, Addison Motta, David White, City Administrator Kevin Kress, City Council Liaison Tom Watson
Others: City Staff Debbie Breen

A quorum was declared present.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by Lepoutre, to approve the agenda as amended.
MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by Motta, to approve the April 11, 2022 meeting minutes.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

6a. Discussion of Dark Sky communities and tactics

- Lepoutre wanted to bring awareness to our dark sky community, encouraging lights are turned off in the overnight. According to the official dark sky compliance recommendations, it states lights should not be of a color more than 3,000 degrees Kelvin (also named CCT for Color Correlated Temperature). Lights should also be turned off between midnight between 4 a.m. There was a prior article in the NOHOA website on this topic that was very good. It was suggested that it be republished in the paper for awareness.

- Motta suggested that this could also be a good opportunity to conduct a dark sky event for families to get out for a special event.
- Hawkins mentioned the boundary waters was just certified as a Dark sky site. Would be good to compile an easy list of color temp, turn off lights, etc. as a recommended list for residents. NOHOA regulations state less than 1,200 lumens per fixture and must be downward facing. An educational / informational session would be good to share the biological implications as well as balancing residents desire for safety and security. Many are used to having street lights that move into the community.
- In addition to the less than 1,200 lumens per fixture required by NOHOA, one should only purchase light bulbs that are less than 3,000 Kelvin. There is a Dark Sky Label for commercial bulbs that guarantees this, it is sometimes labelled IDA/Dark Sky Approved (International Dark-Sky Association).
- Lepoutre foresees next items as: Step 1: Write why it is important and raise awareness 2) Have an event coinciding with a perseids meteor shower look up event. August 11-13th perhaps a good target date.
- Action plan – Lepoutre will try to write up why important and find list of other certified cities to reference. Will ask NOHOA if can use their article. Motta to look at putting together an event in August.
- Kianian stated that insects are impacted as well and they are drawn to the lights.
- Dunn mentioned the wildlife you would see without lights on.
- A guidance and best practices document will be shared by Motta.

6b. Discussion and Possible action on Climate Action Resolution

- Dunn stated Winsor has revised the plan based on feedback from the Natural Resource Commission and it's been distributed to the group.
- Removed irrelevant information and made specific to North Oaks and concerns on the current climate status.

Hawkins motioned, seconded by Motta, to send draft resolution for Climate Action for North Oaks to the City Council.

- Lepoutre noted that Exhibit A reference needs to be removed.
- Hawkins noted it has been made more North Oaks centric, and the “whereas” Statements have been removed.
- Lepoutre noted this resolution commits the City to developing a follow-up action plan.
- Dunn noted Kate Winsor is on board for helping out with developing the follow up action steps needed.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote, Commissioner Ellis voted Nay.

7. COMMISSIONER / STAFF REPORTS

7a. Tick Task Force Reports

- Commissioner Hawkins stated they resumed the TTF monthly meetings in April to let community and commissioners know this is active tick season. There was discussion and some frustration at the TTF meeting that the City did not do deer culling this past winter. The tick task force would have liked to have seen culling, they don't believe a count is necessary.

- Hawkins submitted an article in the May issue of North Oaks News on how to reduce tick encounters, take landscaping prevention measures, and take tick survey. The survey is designed in phases. It will ask you where you encountered it, and if disease or diagnosis was made it will continue onto additional medical related questions.
- The Minnesota Department of Health is still inundated with Covid and not able to record tick borne illness data. The next TTF meeting will happen in May. The date will be posted on the website and eblast and is open to all to join. Let Hawkins know if any issues taking the survey.

7b. Community Outreach/Education

- Commissioner Kianian noted they have submitted 2 articles to the North Oaks News on Spring ethereals, and one on the bird flu with recommendations to help reduce the spread in the back yard.
- Motta stated will next be looking into the dark sky initiative. Will touch base with Kianian to draft ideas for next edition.

7c. NOHOA / NEST

- Commissioner Hawkins shared NOHOA has hired a new full time Director Roberta Colletti.
- NOHOA nest has been working on the Arbor Day event in Mary Hill Park. Takes place Saturday, May 14th from 10 am – Noon. Great information on the table, and information on Emerald Ash Borer will be available.

7d. City Forester Report

- City Forester not in attendance, but plans to discuss Emerald Ash Borer at the June meeting. Hawkins mentioned the tree seedlings are delayed due to the cold weather this season. May need to look at alternate ways to disperse seedlings to residents. The June NOHOA Summerfest Fair is an option.

7e. VLAWMO Tech Report

- Commissioner Larson did not have anything new to share.

7f. City Report

- Councilor Watson stated VLAWMO is taking bids from engineers on the 319 project in the Wilkinson Lake area. Three engineering firms are being solicited as candidates and he suggested they also consult with the City Engineer HR Green to get a bid.
- VLAWMO is involved in the ongoing Carp work at Pleasant Lake.
- City Council meeting will take place on Thursday at 7 p.m. There will be a City Council/Planning Commission joint session will take place at 6 p.m. as a training session.
- Watson shared a link from a graduate student presentation that WAPOA put on. Two of them presented on non-native hybrid cattail that is taking over our wetlands. This along with EENA on zebra mussels impacted walleye population if others are interested.
- Lepoutre mentioned that metal gates are in place by the boardwalk that appear to be for the carp. At the end of deep lake channel by the solar panels.

- Hawkins noted they were unable to catch the carp on Pleasant Lake through the ice.
- Breen noted that this is the time of year we start to get calls on wildlife young birth in the area such as deer, coyote, opossum. This is normal activity for this time of year, so spread the word if you hear residents raise concern.
- Lepoutre mentioned the no mow May initiative and suggested the City put it on Facebook.
- Dunn mentioned that the Earth Day initiative seems encouraging, especially in Rapp Farm.

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6 p.m. in person in Council Chambers.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

MOTION by White, seconded by Larson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call.

Kevin Kress, City Administrator

Chair, Shannon Dunn

Date approved: _____