

**North Oaks Natural Resources Commission
Special NRC Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Teleconference or Electronic Means Only
March 3, 2022 at 7 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dunn called the meeting of Thursday, March 3, 2022 to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

NRC members participated **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, David White (joined late) City Council Liaison Tom Watson, City Forester Mark Rehder, City Administrator Kevin Kress

Others: Bob Mackie, Lori Olinger, Kate Winsor, Larry Kraft from St. Louis Park

Absent: Commissioners Damien LePoutre, Addison Motta

A quorum was declared present.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Dunn noted that because this is a special meeting, they will not be approving the previous month's minutes or doing commissioner and staff reports.

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by Kianian, to approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

5. BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

6a. Discussion and possible action on Climate Action Plan Resolution

- Kate Winsor led the discussion on this item. She took a look at different climate emergency resolutions from various cities throughout the state. She took what she thought were the best aspects of each and put them into a draft resolution. She said she believes the focus of the evening would be to finalize the resolution so it can be presented to the City Council for consideration. She read through the document.

- Commissioner Kianian asked why some of the initial “whereas” paragraphs were included. Winsor explained that they were to provide reasoning for why this would be considered an emergency. City Administrator Kress added that these “whereas” sections are usually included in resolutions to provide background and reasoning for the decision. A resolution is basically a very long, very detailed motion.
- Commissioner Dunn asked if the references to 1.5 and 1.1 degrees Celsius are average annual temperatures, or what the basis for these are. Larry Kraft noted that these are based on comparisons to pre-industrial times. Commissioner Dunn asked what the “average” part is – it is average temperature across the year, or across a broader period of time. Kraft clarified that it is the average global temperature. Winsor said she will double check on it and change it to average annual global temperature.
- Commissioner Kianian asked if Winsor is going to provide the sources in the resolution. Winsor said she did not plan to because she has not seen that done in other resolutions. City Administrator Kress said this could be an additional attachment, but in resolutions you don’t usually have citation. Commissioner Hawkins suggested that it wouldn’t hurt to create a climate page on the North Oaks NRC webpage and post these sources as pdfs. He also thought they could be footnotes at the end of the resolution.
- Councilor Watson said the third “whereas” from the bottom should be quantified and should include the timeframe by which the Paris Agreement aims to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Winsor said she believed this is an overall goal, and that there is not a timeline. Rather, the goal is to limit it from ever exceeding this temperature. Watson suggested perhaps adding it what it is now to provide a baseline would be helpful. Commissioner Hawkins suggested switching this paragraph with the paragraph below could further help clarify.
- Councilor Watson also questioned the reference to marginalized communities in the fourth “whereas” on the page. He said it could be misinterpreted because we don’t have many marginalized folks in the North Oaks community. He suggested maybe separating children from other communities that have experienced more marginalization. Winsor said she understands his point, however she believes this resolution needs to encompass what is going on globally as well as locally. Watson clarified that he does not disagree, he just thinks the way the phrase is written implies that the children and grandchildren in North Oaks might be seen in conjunction with other marginalized communities, and he would re-phrase it to clarify the difference and break it down further.
- Councilor Watson suggested moving the first “whereas” paragraph on the second page up to better flow with the previous paragraphs.
- Lori Olinger asked if it would be helpful to clarify that the goal of cutting emissions in half is in reference to what they were at a particular date. Larry Kraft this is probably in reference to the emission level around 2018. He added that emissions have not really gone down since when that report came out. Commissioner Ellis asked when it is halved and what is the level it should be at. Kraft said he did not remember exactly, but they are currently around 30-40 gigatons and the goal would be to cut that in half.
- Commissioner Kianian suggested changing the statement “research indicates” to “research suggests”.
- Commissioner Hawkins suggested adding the exact number of jurisdictions that have declared climate emergencies. This will provide good local context and reflects our desire to be local leaders.

- Winsor noted in the “Be it further resolved” section, she added a variety of ideas that could be points for discussion. Commissioner Hawkins suggested adding sustainability to the various awareness campaigns for residents, with the idea of identifying what the concept is and what it means for residents.
- Winsor asked if NOHOA need to be named as a partner. Councilor Watson said that the document referring to North Oaks as a community rather than individual entities, so it is inclusive of NOHOA. Watson also suggested adding sustaining what the community has already been doing, for example recycling programs, preserving heritage trees, etc. Commissioner Kianian added shoreline restoration. Winsor said after the resolution is passed, they can get into details.
- Councilor Watson suggested using bullet points in the “be it further resolved” section rather than so many paragraphs. City Administrator Kress said that the bullet points could be added after the “natural world” statement. Kress also suggested adding Fahrenheit references to each Celsius reference. He will add signature blocks, etc. once the document is finalized.
- Councilor Watson asked if the document should begin with the 5th and 3rd paragraphs that focus on the 10 warmest years and the experiences of the past year and then move into the science. Commissioner Kianian said it is an interesting suggestion because the connection to recent events will help elicit an emotional response. Commissioner Hawkins said starting with local factual information may be more palatable to readers and could act as a persuasive hook to keep people reading. It will engage them but not overwhelm them. Bob Mackie and Lori Olinger agreed.
- Chair Dunn asked if it is necessary or appropriate to say a climate action plan will be developed. Commissioner Hawkins said it is a good idea, and it could go right before the examples of things North Oaks could do, and also the things they will continue to do.
- Councilor Watson suggested pointing out in the document that the NRC is an existing body that could be leveraged as a framework for much of this work.
- Winsor said she will incorporate these changes. Commissioner Hawkins and Councilor Watson agreed to help. City Administrator Kress said he will forward his edits on to Winsor. City Staff will send the recording of the meeting to her as well. Once finalized, they will present it to the City Council at their March 14th meeting. The group will wait to work on a Climate Action plan until the resolution is approved. It was also suggested that an article about the resolution be written for the April North Oaks News, which will be just in time for Earth Day.

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by White, to recommend the resolution declaring a climate emergency as edited to the City Council at the March 2022 meeting.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

MOTION by White, seconded by Hawkins, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call.

Kevin Kress

Kevin Kress, City Administrator

Shannon Dunn

Chair, Shannon Dunn

Date approved: 3.14.2022