

Natural Resource Advisory Group
4.2.2025 Minutes
3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

Present: Tyler Benish, Mary Gegen, Ruth Nissen, Betsy Knowles, Marge Loch-Wouters, Jason Ludwigson, Randy Urich, Cindy Wright

- I. Approved Minutes from 2_18_2025.
- II. Old Business
 - A. Stoney Point Forestry Habitat Restoration Project Updates. No spraying has been done yet, but signs are prepared for notifying the public when it does occur. Discussed the need to guide hikers in the area. The city web page is updated for the project, and it was suggested that updates be included in the city newsletter if possible.
 - B. Update on the tree trimming efforts. This work is on-going, and there was an effort to complete trimming oaks by early March. Mary has continued to update a spreadsheet to record which years public trees are trimmed.
 - C. Update on Buckthorn and bittersweet removal. On February 26, work to remove buckthorn and roundleaf bittersweet was completed in Eagle Bluff Park by the dry bluff prairie. Additional work on the MacIntosh entrance was done. The season for cut and treat is now over.
 - D. Garlic Mustard Pulling Efforts. Garlic mustard is not yet up in Vetsch. NRAG will coordinate pulling on the following dates: April 22 at 9 a.m., April 23 at 11:00 a.m., April 26 at 10:00 a.m., and April 28 11 a.m. Marge will coordinate with Chris to post on the City facebook, and notify past volunteers.
 - E. Tree Ordinance. This has gone before city council, and a few final changes are being considered.
 - F. Trail Maintenance Guidelines. These were previously read into minutes. NRAG members will periodically evaluate the park trails - downed trees should be called into the city. Discussed the erosion on the gravel surface trail on the south side of Vetsch adjacent to the mowed area and discussed the need for water bars.
 - G. CPL Blufflands Grant Application. This has been submitted and addresses general invasive species eradication of buckthorn and roundleaf bittersweet.

- H. CPL Grant Application Phase 2 Forestry Habitat Restoration. This has been submitted and addresses the area below Stoney Point Road, including removal of Black Locust.

III. New Business

- A. Boulevard Tree Application. Approximately 38 applications have been received. Discussed evaluating applications and how to overlay with the existing tree survey. These will be electronically forwarded to NRAG members.
- B. SHIP grant park entrance signs. The design has been chosen by the Parks Commission, and each sign will have a QR code that will take users to appropriate city web links. Signs will be installed perpendicular to the roadway and be double sided.
- C. \$103 million Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) Funds Request for Proposals. Larry has submitted plans which would eventually be an extension of the Root River Trail.
- D. Cindy shared materials on invasive species prepared by the MN Department of Agriculture and that were shared with township boards.
- E. The Arbor Day tree planting will occur on Friday April 25 starting at 8:30 a.m. at Old Hickory park.

IV. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 6, 3:15 pm

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Knowles