

Natural Resource Advisory Group
4.25.2024 Minutes
3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

Present: Betsy Knowles, Marge Loch-Wouters, Jason Ludwigson, Ruth Nissen, Bill Waller

Old Business

- I. Minutes from 3.19.2024 approved
- II. Dog Park update - currently waiting on reviews from the appropriate agencies before next steps.
- III. Wagon Wheel sign - no updates
- IV. Garlic Mustard Pulling Efforts - Pulling has happened on three days with community volunteers for a total of 18 volunteer hours. One additional day is planned for April 27, and then we will evaluate whether another date is feasible.

New Business

- V. Invasive Terrestrial Species List - Jason discussed the DNR list for reference. The City is working with Fish and Wildlife to cut and treat invasive exotic grass along Wagon Wheel trail and bike path.
- VI. Jason explained the information provided by My Tree Tool. Discussed how this could be an interesting link to demonstrate the impact of tree planting in the city.
- VII. Memorial planting at Pine Creek prairie with Quail Forever chapter - discussed options for including this memorial that would preserve the prairie.
- VIII. Invasive species plant removal. Discussed use of signs to communicate where invasive species work is being completed. With the approval of the CPL (Conservation Partners Legacy Grant - MN DNR) grant, this signage may be helpful for park users to understand the approach to reestablishment of the forest.
- IX. Migratory Bird Day - the license has been extended for a year, so it may be possible to schedule a bird banding date - to be determined.
- X. Minnesota Driftless Hiking trail has received funding. The library is planning an informational meeting this summer about the trail.

- XI. Discussed the function and purpose of Natural Resource Advisory Group, and how to address requests from the public for changes/modifications to the City's open and natural spaces.
- XII. Blue lake canoe/kayak access dock is in. Discussed need for signage to protect secretive marsh birds (rails, bitterns,) black terns and waterfowl. If plans are considered for a future canoe trail this would require cooperation with Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge.
- XIII. Next Meeting - Thursday May 23 at 3:15.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Knowles