

Natural Resources Advisory Group
5.23.2024 Minutes
3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

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

Guest: Steve Hoff

- I. Minutes from 4/25/2024 - approved.

- II. Old Business
 - A. Dog Park Update - currently waiting on final approvals from zoning to proceed.
 - B. Wagon Wheel Sign - completion is on hold until later in the year.
 - C. Garlic Mustard Pulling Efforts. Volunteers pulled garlic mustard on 5 different days for a total of 30 hours. The last day was April 29, at which point it was approaching seeding.
 - D. Frank J. Kistler Memorial Park pollinator gardens - The electric lines in the veteran planting in the park need to be marked. The dead vegetation has been removed and approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the plantings have been weeded. When that is complete, mulch needs to be spread.
 - E. Wagon Wheel Trail Usage - reviewed the counts provided by the counters in the ground for bikes, and on the post for pedestrians. This information will be made available on the city web page.
 - F. Blue Lake Canoe/Kayak Project - The dock is in and concrete is scheduled for June.
 - G. Migratory Bird Day - The date proposed by the banding team did not give us sufficient time to plan, so they used the date for an event at Goose Island instead. The hope is to schedule for next year.

- III. New Business
 - A. Review of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant project - Discussed the forest mowing project on the Stoney Point property. The grant was reviewed at the recent Park and Rec meeting, and will be addressed at their next meeting. City Council will address the grant at a future meeting. Discussed if DNR Forester will be available to answer questions at meetings. The approximate timeline is to mow in November 2024, return in March/April, 2025 and 2026 for foliar spraying, and tree

planting in 2026 or 2027. Discussed ways to inform the public about the project - including the use of signs on location with a QR code linking to information on the city web page. As part of this grant, Horse Track Meadows will be inter-seeded.

B. Trail Maintenance Guidelines. A draft of trail maintenance guidelines and considerations was reviewed to follow up with one of the outcomes from the April 3, 2023 trail maintenance meeting.

IV. Additional discussion

A. Pine Creek Prairie Bluebird boxes - will be installed and maintained.

B. LaCrescent will be a recipient of a MN GreenCorps Program member - This individual will work in La Crescent from September 2024 - August 2025. Their focus will be forestry, invasive species, and storm water drainage work.

V. Next Meeting July 10, 3:15 pm - City Hall Conference Room

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Knowles