

**Natural Resource Advisory Group**  
**8.28.2024 Minutes**  
**3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room**

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

**Guest:** John Fuchshel

I. Minutes from 7/10/2024 approved.

II. Old Business

- A. Frank J. Kistler Memorial Park pollinator gardens. Public feedback has been positive. The QR code linking to the flower identification guide has been fixed.
- B. Blue Lake Canoe/Kayak Project status. The concrete is poured and steps made and a handrail will be added. The bank will be seeded with native pollinator mix.
- C. Update on the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. RFPs have been received and it is recommended for approval at the September 23 council meeting. Work could start late in fall. There are additional rounds of CPL grants.
  1. Outreach efforts:
    - Signs are up in Vetsch and Stoney Point with short explanation and QR code to link to more detailed information.
    - Table at Farmers Market, Sept 17 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Jason will staff with any available NRAG members.
    - Betsy will explore/write a piece for the HCN.
    - Plan to contact TV stations after activity starts.
- D. Trail Maintenance Guidelines. Previous and proposed guidelines and timeline were discussed, as well as work to complete this fall. Guidelines will be revised for review next meeting.
- E. Dog park status. Park has been leveled and seeded, and fencing is anticipated the week of September 9. Working with MN DOT on landscaping the slope up to the bridge.

- F. Trail sign installation in Eagle Bluff Park. Current plan is to install signs the week of September 30, with trees planted at the same time.
- G. SHIP grant for park entrance signs. Drafts of park entrance signs will be reviewed by the Park Commission. The grant is \$5000 and signs will have the new city logo.
- H. John Fuchsel (Quail Forever) memorial planting. John provided historical background on this idea, and options were discussed for areas outside the city.
- I. Prairie Restoration signs and seeding. Some additional seedings are still planned for this year.
- J. Conservation Easement - Eagle Bluff Park - Minnesota Land Trust. The deed transfer has been completed. This generates an opportunity to review the guidelines of the existing conservation easement.

### III. New Business

- A. Planning for trail maintenance next year. Ideas were discussed as a part of the trail maintenance guidelines, including using each meeting to identify trail needs and adding work day(s) in July.
- B. GreenCorps member introduction. Mary Gegen will be our MN GreenCorps member. Her background is in biology and environmental studies. She begins with the city on September 23 and Randy will be her mentor. Her work will focus on stormwater/water quality issues, and forestry.
- C. The La Crosse Area Waters celebrated the work done in La Crescent at an event at John S Harris park.
- D. The city is exploring making a living snow fence to replace the snow fence that has been erected in Old Hickory.

IV. Next meeting: Wednesday October 16, 3:15 pm

Respectively submitted, Betsy Knowles