

Meeting Minutes - Parks and natural Resources Committee - February 27

Present:

Houstoun Clinch

Bridget Sperl

Larry Walker

Judy Walker

James Nelson

-Corrections were made to previous meeting minutes and then approved

-Birchwood swale design

The committee is supportive of the design. Brian McGinnis was in attendance and expressed his support. Committee input: repair the rain gardening make sure the silt is pumped out. Also, make sure the appropriate elevation is maintained near the lake. Finally the committee suggests the same approach be used for Elm.

-Survey vote summary content and form

Larry Walker summarized the survey results. The committee agreed to focus on the top 11 categories on the survey and take quick action on those things that can be done easily and quickly - with a particular focus on maintenance.

-Use of salt on city streets

Bridget reported out information she received about salt levels in White Bear Lake - after meeting follow up from Aaron DeRusha from the Washington Conservation district was as follows:

The chloride concentration from 1988 to 2016 has ranged from 11 mg/L to 58 mg/L, with an average concentration in the late 80's and early 90's of around 25 mg/L, to an average concentration in recent years of around 40 mg/L. The state standard for chloride is 230 mg/L, meaning aquatic life should experience no adverse effects below that concentration.

-Presentation by Mr. Charles Kaufmann did not occur. Mr. Kaufmann was not in attendance.

-Decision was made to limit speaking time to 3 minutes for non committee attendees unless the committee requests additional time.

-Jim Nelson wanted more information about the undeveloped walking trails and was asked to get a cost estimate to survey all undeveloped walking trails in Birchwood.

Agenda items for next meeting:

Presentation by John Lund on the maintenance plan for Birchwood

Create set of actions to address survey results

Volunteer program and clean up day this spring

Birchwood Wishlist

Mahtomedi Garden Grant

Ongoing communications to the city about what's happening