

City of Lake Elmo Parks Commission Minutes
June 21, 2023

Members Present: Commissioners Kastler, Rivera-Reyes, Hoelscher, Elam, and Esch

Absent: Commissioners Barrett and Bloyer

Staff Present: Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel

The meeting was called to order by Kastler at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Esch motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Hoelscher provided a second; no discussion. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Rivera-Reyes motioned to approve the May 15, 2023 Parks Commission Minutes, Kastler provided a second; no comments. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Public Comments

Susan Dunn at 11018 Upper 33rd St N, a previous parks commission member, commented about positive activity at Lions Park and addressed some safety concerns.

Sunfish Buckthorn update

Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel introduced George Johnson, 3070 Lake Elmo Ave., who presented a portion of the buckthorn update. Mr. Johnson commented on all of the work involved with buckthorn removal, granting, and the vision for the park. Larissa Mottl M.S., ecologist with Stantec, presented next in relation to the goal for natural resources in the park. The commission had follow up questions.

Public comments were provided by Tony Manzara, 5050 Kirkwood Ave. N, in regards to the restoration project.

Kastler motioned to recommend that Council direct the continuance of removal of buckthorn and native species and nonnative species using the high intensity method, work with Stantec to identify appropriate native species identified in the Forest Management Plan as climate change resilient and spare those trees in areas of the park where feasible and appropriate, use medium intensity methods, adjust trail signs and/or layout in areas at trail intersections where there identified safety concerns, but do not keep invasive species as trail barriers, Hoelscher provided a second; discussion held. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Communications

- a) 4th of July Parade
- b) Council tabled baseball to the workshop meeting.

Kastler adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Rebecca McGuire, Deputy Clerk