

2015-0486 Recommendation to adopt the Rochester Hills Natural Features Stewardship Program Long Term Management Plan

Attachments: [Pt. 1 Long Term Management Plan.pdf](#)
[Pt. 2 Appendix A-Long Term Management Plan.pdf](#)
[Pt. 3 Appendix B Sec. 1 Long Term Management Plan.pdf](#)
[Pt. 3 Appendix B Sec. 2 Long Term Management Plan.pdf](#)
[Pt. 3 Appendix B Sec. 3 Long Term Management Plan.pdf](#)

Chairperson Carvey opened the discussion on the adoption of the Long Term Management Plan. Director Hartner informed the Board that he would like to have the Rochester Hills Natural Features Stewardship Program Long Term Management Plan adopted by the Board at tonight's meeting and then presented for adoption by City Council at the December 14, 2015 meeting. It is his intent to invite Steve Niswander to the December 14th Council meeting to help with the presentation of the plan as well as answer any questions.

Board Members discussed issues with the scoring calculations of the Restoration/Enhancement Values in the plan and requested further clarification from the Niswander Environmental staff. Director Hartner explained how the Long Term Management Plan will be used in determining which projects will be decided upon within each year's budget. He assured the Board that they would have input into the annual decision process. Park Ranger DeVoe reviewed how the final scores for each project were reached based upon the addition of the Public Benefit analysis. He explained that the Public Benefit scores were based upon direct input from Park Department staff on criteria that was deemed to be of importance to the public, the costs of improvements and potential success rates of individual projects. Director Hartner assured the Board that they would continue to have the support of the Niswander team in the selection of future projects as well as help with determining the budget costs of the projects that would be recommended to City Council each year. Park Ranger DeVoe reminded the Board that Niswander developed and tested the scoring system on each of the Green Space properties and tailored the plan to meet the specific needs of each property. The plan's final scoring will assist the Board in their future decision making. Board Members continued to discuss the Public Benefit scoring method and requested additional clarification from Niswander on this topic. Park Ranger DeVoe observed that the Long Term Management Plan was a tool that the Board could use in determining what projects would be recommended to City Council but the final decision remained with the Board in determining the annual projects recommended.

Discussion concluded with the agreement that Niswander would provide additional clarification on the Public Ranking scoring. Board Members discussed the wording of the resolution to have the Green Space Advisory Board adopt the Rochester Hills Natural Features Stewardship Program Long Term Management Plan and agreed to put the motion up for adoption with a change in wording to refer to the plan as a living document to guide the Board in carrying out an effective stewardship management plan for all Green Space properties.

Now therefore be it resolved that a motion was made by Janulis, seconded by Niks, to adopt the Rochester Hills Natural Features Stewardship Program Long Term Management Plan. The matter carried by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Carvey, Gauthier, Graves, Janulis, Niks, Peterson and Phillips

Absent 2 - Beightol and Neveau

Whereas, GSAB has been diligently working to acquire open space per the Green Space and Natural Features Millage approved in 2005; and

Whereas, GSAB has undertaken a steady effort to research elements of a good stewardship program to protect the City residents' investment in city-owned green spaces that included obtaining a baseline assessment study, placing boundary markers on green space parcels, hosting "discovery hikes" to educate the public, and conducting several pilot stewardship projects on city-owned green spaces to determine the scope of stewardship needs; and

Whereas, GSAB has had several discussions to define stewardship and develop a mission statement, vision statement and value statement regarding a future stewardship management plan for significant natural resources within Rochester Hills;

Whereas, GSAB has worked diligently with the staff at Niswander Environmental to develop a living document to guide the Board in carrying out an effective stewardship management plan for all Green Space properties;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Green Space Advisory Board adopts the Niswander Environmental Rochester Hills Natural Features Stewardship Program Long Term Management Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Carvey adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.
Minutes prepared by Maureen Nakonek.*

Gerald Carvey, Chairperson