

League of Women Voters of Duluth • 32 East First Street, Duluth, MN 55802 •

Join us for “Medical Aid in Dying”

Dr. Rebecca Thoman, LWV Minneapolis

Carrie Framstad, Compassion & Choices Volunteer

Tuesday, March 15 7:00-8:00 pm (open to LWV Members and friends)

<https://lwmn-org.zoom.us/j/96644540235>

Call-in only: 301-715-8592 | Meeting ID: 966 4454 0235

Carrie Framstad, Compassion & Choices volunteer, will share her personal experience about how this legislation could have made a difference for her partner during the dying process.



Dr. Rebecca Thoman, League of Women Voters of Minneapolis, and representative of **Compassion and Choices** will share information about companion End-of-Life Options bills in the MN Legislature: **SF1352** and **HF 1358**. She will inform us on the upcoming vote on April 30 at LWV MN Council to adopt a Concurrence with LWV Utah.

More Information: Both bills allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult with a prognosis of six months or less to live, who is a resident of Minnesota, the option to request, obtain and take medication — should they choose — to die peacefully in their sleep if their suffering becomes unbearable. The bills are modeled after the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, which has been in practice for 20 years without a single instance of abuse or coercion.



Women of Influence
"How Democracy Can Survive
Misinformation in a Digital World"
 April 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom,
 Open to LWV Duluth Members and the Public

Speaker Sharon McMahon [See page 7 for more information.](#)

Please register in advance: [Click here](#)

* Time will be set aside for Questions and Answers

Cosponsored by AAUW (American Association of University Women)

SAVE THE DATE

League of Women Voters of Duluth Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Annual Meeting: 5:30 - 6:15, Speaker: 6:15

The speaker, Jodi Slick, is the founder and CEO of Ecolibrium3, a nonprofit organization with a mission to lead and inspire community change toward an equitable and sustainable future.

See page 7 for more information

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Our Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Officers

President	Meg Litts
Vice President	Mary Faulkner
Secretary	Gwen Thorson
Treasurer	Nancy Aldridge
Editor	Julie Seidelmann

Calendar**March**

- 3-7 International Relations Committee
- 3-8 Membership Committee
- 3-12 DEI Committee
- 3-15 Medical Aid in Dying
- 3-17 LWV Duluth Board Meeting
- 3-24 Sisters Book Club
- 3-28 Natural Resources Committee

April

- 4-6 Women of Influence
- 4-14 LWV Duluth Board Meeting

May

- 5-12 LWV Duluth Annual Meeting

Keep informed about League of Women Voters

LWV Duluth
www.lwvduluth.org

LWV Duluth
E-News

LWVMN
www.lwvmn.org

LWVUS
www.lwv.org

**President's Letter**

Dear League Members,

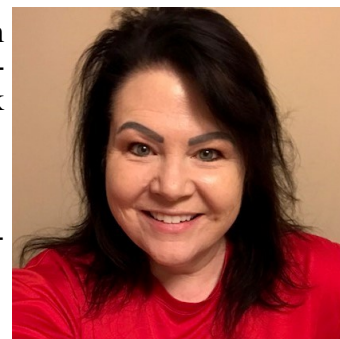
Between MLK Day, Black History Month, the Olympics, the NFL playoffs and Super Bowl, and our own local teams, we have had the opportunity to observe and celebrate many phenomenal accomplishments here at the start of the year. This, while we sit on the precipice of war, observing yet again how some in power attempt to re-write truth in order to justify invasion. This reminds me of the importance, once again, of upholding and supporting the principles of democracy here in this nation even as we promote peacekeeping measures in other nations. A huge thanks and kudos once again to Sandy Grandmaison and LWV Duluth for organizing the Vigil to Take Back Democracy.

Speaking the truth is at the heart of Kathy Wilson's talk "Redlining in Duluth." I am so thrilled that Gail Schoenfelder was able to arrange for us to sponsor this event so that more can learn the truth about this racist practice that we still see the evidence and effects of in our own community. If you missed the DEI January meeting where we watched, "Jim Crow of the North," you can still catch it here on [YouTube](#).

There is still time to be inspired by the "Like You, Like Me" exhibit at the Duluth Arts Institute showcasing our local APIDA Artists, of which we are a co-sponsors. If you weren't able to catch the Artist Talk, you can still access it on the [DAI YouTube Channel](#).

We will also have the opportunity to celebrate and be inspired by our 2022 LWV Woman of Influence. This is an evening you won't want to miss! Be sure to invite a friend, especially those who might have interest in LWV membership, then take the opportunity to talk with them more after the event.

The daylight is returning, slowly but surely, and it would seem that our COVID rates are dropping. The latter is, in large part, due to how we as a community have responded—masked up, vaxxed up, socially distanced to keep one another safe, and given grace, support, and comfort to others in the midst of trying times. To quote (emphasis mine) the late, great MN Senator Paul Wellstone, "We all do better when we all *DO* better."



In hope and solidarity, Meg Litts, President

LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

League of Women Voters of Duluth realizes that creative and innovative policies and practices are forged out of diverse points of view. We believe that diverse perspectives are necessary for responsible and representative decision making. Let us pause to acknowledge our commitment to welcome and facilitate diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of our work. We strive to include people from a mix of abilities and backgrounds in all of our activities.

League of Women Voters of Duluth Committee Information

DEI (Diversity Equity Inclusion) Committee Meets March 12, 2022 at 10:00 am Join us!

The MN House Ways and Means Committee recently issued a follow-up report to highlight the progress that the Legislature made in the 2021 Session. This report discusses the progress in 6 areas in which racial disparities, many the worst in the nation, continue to persist in spite of the efforts that were made by the Legislature to address them.

At the March 12 DEI Committee meeting on Zoom at 10:00 AM, we will zero in on the issues of Education and Housing. What progress did the Legislature make during the 2021 Session to address racial disparities in these areas and what is still left to do this Session? What is our role in the 2022 Legislative Session? How can we influence Legislators to work for and vote for the changes we want to see?

Be part of this important conversation. See you on March 12!

Contact Gail Schoenfelder for the Zoom link: Gail4duluth@gmail.com.

---General Findings of the *Racial Justice Report*., Page 37---

“For centuries systemic racism has contributed to stark and persistent racial disparities in health, education, public safety, and wealth and financial well-being. These disparities can be traced back to government-sanctioned laws and policies that have created a system built on racial inequality where inequity is entrenched in our systems. Government-sanctioned racial discrimination created these inequities and only racially-conscious policies can address the inequities. Each year that goes by without addressing systemic racism costs our state and nation billions of dollars. It is imperative on the Minnesota Legislature to make amends for past and present harms by prioritizing the enactment of laws and policies designed to address racial disparities and expand access to opportunity to build a prosperous state for all Minnesotans.”

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/tElVeP6cVEaYSyh0-o0utQ.pdf>

Submitted by Gail Schoenfelder

International Relations Committee

Following our January 24th Committee meeting with guest Terrie Shannon regarding four female Afghan newcomers resettling in Duluth before the end of February, the following needs, support, and education have been identified by Peace United Church:

--Learning about their needs, perceptions, and culture.

--Furniture or household goods (description/condition of items sent to Charlotte Frantz--charlotte@peaceucc.org)

--Financial donations to Peace Church-- <https://www.peaceucc.org/donate/> selecting *Afghan Resettlement* fund.

Visit our League of Women Voters of Duluth website for recording of Terrie Shannon's presentation with the International Relations Committee-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrQuyBjZ1AA>

Visit <https://www.peaceucc.org/connect-page/adult-forums/> for recent forums regarding the Afghan newcomers.

For more information regarding the newcomers resettling in Duluth, contact Terrie Shannon (tshannon@d.umn.edu).
For questions regarding donations--contact Charlotte Frantz (charlotte@peaceucc.org).

Join our committee meeting on Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm. Tom Morgan will give an update on the Russia-Ukraine situation. Zoom link: <https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/87945781111pwd=czBTOVVVYZDdVtjZnN3R5bXVJYnB3dz09>

Submitted by Liz Taylor



New Chance to Impact Democracy!

Two new sub-committees are beginning, and we need people who have a passion for Program and/or Advocacy.

Program Committee:

Purpose: To provide regular educational events to the general membership regarding League of Women Voters national, state, or local positions. When a local issue requires a new position, the Program for Action process will be initiated and led by this committee. A close working relationship with the Advocacy team is necessary.

Advocacy Action Team:

Purpose: To coordinate advocacy efforts, helping the League use effective advocacy efforts to support positions from national, state, and local positions.

If you are interested in being part of either group, email Mary Katherine Faulkner, Program Chair at faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com.

Full job descriptions are available on the website:

<https://www.lwvduluth.org/program-committee-and-advocacy-action-team.html>

or Go to our website at www.lwvduluth.org and look under the Local Committees/Groups tab.

Submitted by Sue DeNio

Redistricting

Redistricting Moves To A New Stage But Our Work Is Not Over

Congressional District lines have been drawn by the courts and are posted at: [Minnesota Judicial Branch - A21-0243 \(mncourts.gov\)](https://mncourts.gov)

While much attention is given to congressional and legislative redistricting during the redistricting cycle, few are aware that every ten years all Minnesota counties, city councils, and school districts where school board members are elected by election districts are also required to review population and demographics changes and adjust district lines as necessary. Since few people are aware that local redistricting occurs and this process does not receive much publicity, there is very little public involvement. We need to continue to be vigilant as elected officials can make decisions on who votes for them with limited public involvement or transparency.

We only need to remind ourselves about the number of services provided by local governments and the amount of funding and resources they control. County governments in particular provide a wide range of services including law enforcement and corrections, public safety, parks, medical services, road maintenance and construction, housing development, and elections.

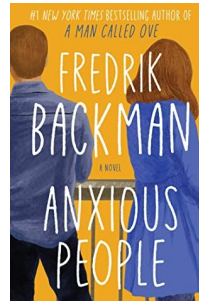
**Please watch for E-news announcements and check our website for links and frequent updates.
Click here to visit our Redistricting page on LWV Duluth website: [Redistricting](#)
or to www.lwvduluth.org and click on Redistricting under the Voting tab.**

Submitted by Ellen Wiss



**LWV Duluth
“The Sisters” Book Club
Thursday, March 24
6:30 pm via Zoom**

Questions: Gay Trachsel 218-728-5478
Zoom link will be sent the week of March 24



Book: “Anxious People”
Author: Fredrik Backman
A book about the enduring power of friendship and hope in the most anxious times that takes place in an open house for an apartment.
Discussion Leader: Nancy Aldridge

Membership

**Why I Am A Member
By Zandy Zwiebel**



Back 30 some years ago, I was an idealist college student who believed that approaching things with high energy and dogged commitment to ideals would rally change. It was here that I was first exposed to LWV. I was working for a student advocacy group (MPIRG). Although I was exposed to, and lobbied with LWV and its members since the mid-1980s, it wasn’t until 10 years later that I joined.

Being a member of LWV has presented me with some amazing experiences and opportunities to learn from the best mentors. Joining as a new mom in my 40’s, LWV Duluth gave this newly retired regional office director a place to feel valued and to be surrounded by motivated women with the ability to reason through conflict in a professional manner. BEST OF ALL, these members have become my endearing friends, and they make me laugh.

Through all my experiences with LWV, I have been surrounded by amazing women and men, full of passion and commitment. Twelve years of positive League experiences have kept me connected to people and events in my community and actively engaged. I couldn’t imagine NOT being a member of LWV. As I note the growing numbers of new members, I am NOT surprised to see the familiar faces of women I have worked with over the years. After all, *“These are women of action and of doing, and it only follows they would find their way into League.”*

Join us for a LWV Duluth MeetUp!



Would you like to meet with a couple of other League members to discuss League activities in a social setting, such as a restaurant? Need to be vaccinated and boosted. We’ll be following COVID protocols.

**Please contact Anita if this interests you.
Anita Gille 218 428-7232 anitagille@gmail.com**

**Welcome New
LWV Duluth Members**

Katie Spreitzer
Jim Spreitzer
Margaret West



**Members are always welcome to attend
the LWV Duluth monthly Board meetings.**



The monthly meeting dates are listed on the calendar on page 2 of the newsletter or on the homepage of our website at: <https://www.lwvduluth.org/>. The meetings are held at 5:30 pm on zoom at this time.

Contact Anita Gille for the zoom link: anitagille@gmail.com.

Opportunities to Make a Difference; Become Involved in a LWV Duluth Committee
Check website at www.lwvduluth.org or E-News emails for updates.

Committee	Contact	Next Meeting Date
Voter Service: Registration & New Citizens	Sue DeNio cornelia_road@hotmail.com Theresa O’Gara tntogara@gmail.com	NEW! Program Committee and Advocacy Action Team. See page 4 for more information.
Voter Service: Forums	Mary Faulkner: faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com Pat Castellano castellanop4@gmail.com	As needed
International Relations	Liz Taylor 393-0703 (cell)	Monday, March 7, 7 pm. Tom Morgan will give an update on the Russia-Ukraine situation. Zoom: : https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/8794578111?pwd=czBTOVVYZDdvTjZnN3R5bXVJYnB3dz09
Membership	Anita Gille 218-428-7232 anitagille@gmail.com	Meeting: March 8 at 2:30 pm. Join us for an LWV MeetUp! See page 5.
Citizens in Action	Rosie Loeffler-Kemp 341-2014 Ellen Wiss 612-310-9797	January 28, 2023
Natural Resources	Sally Munger 728-0711 Gay Trachsel 728-5478	Meeting via Zoom - 4th Monday of the month - Monday, March 28, 5pm. Link sent before meeting
Newsletter Mailing	Sally Munger 218-728-0711 Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678	Generally last Wednesday of the month /Call Sally for information
Observer Corps	Sue Henke 218-340-9383	Depends on Board or Commission
Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee (formerly Cross Cultural Committee)	Janet Kennedy 218-349-8057 Interim Co-Chair Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678 Co-Chair gail4duluth@gmail.com	Meets second Saturday of the month, March 12, 10 a.m. More information page 3. Gail4duluth@gmail.com for link
Book Club	Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	Thurs. March 24, 6:30 via Zoom “Anxious People” by Fredrik Backman.” Discussion Leader: Nancy Aldridge. See page 5.
Plant & Book Sale, Saturday June 11	Zandy Zwiebel 218-341-6099	Email Zandy with intent to donate plants or books and/or to volunteer
Communications	Julie Seidelmann 348-1209 (cell) Gwen Thorson 624-4756 (home)	As needed
Equali-TEA Date TBD	Gail Nouska 218-206-4682 Newska519@hotmail.com Jean Farmakes 218-724-4186 jfarmake@yahoo.com	Contact Jean or Gail if you are interested in helping.
Events Women of Influence	Sandy Grandmaison, 348-7589 srgrandmaison@gmail.com	Contact Sandy if interested

Women of Influence
April 6, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom Open to the Public
Speaker: Sharon McMahon

Sharon McMahon is on a mission to curate facts, fun, and inspiration by educating Americans on democracy, politics, and history.



After years of serving as a high school government and law teacher, Sharon took her passion for education to [Instagram](#) with a mission to combat political misinformation with non-partisan facts on matters of national importance. Sharon has earned a reputation as “America’s Government Teacher” and quickly amassed over 711K followers (and counting), affectionately known as “Governerds.” Sharon is also the host of the top-rated Sharon Says So Podcast where, each week, she provides entertaining yet factual accounts of America’s most fascinating moments and people in history. She also hosts meaningful discussions with some of the nation’s most inspiring thought leaders, government officials, and authors.

In a time where flashy headlines and false information often takes the spotlight, Sharon is a reliable source for truth and logic. Sharon has shared her knowledge with [CNN](#), [The Daily Show with Trevor Noah](#), and [Good Morning America](#).

In all that she does, Sharon encourages others to be compassionate, thoughtful, and world-changing humans. She has led her “Governerd” community in various philanthropic initiatives that have raised over \$3.6 million for teachers, domestic violence survivors, terminally ill children, victims of COVID-19, medical debt forgiveness and more.

About The Sharon McMahon Podcast:

The [Sharon Says So Podcast](#), a top 1 percent podcast, is hosted by Sharon McMahon—a longtime government and law teacher—who dives deeply into fascinating historical stories, state by state.

Sharon shares the history of America you probably haven’t heard; stories of espionage, sled dog heroes, presidential scandals, change makers, law defiers and more.

She is also joined weekly by some of the nation’s most prolific thought leaders, politicians, and creators to discuss ways to keep our humanity and connection in an increasingly divided social landscape. Past guests have included Adam Grant, Mel Robbins, Emmanuel Acho, and Peter Baker.

Social Fans: 711,000

1 Million unique podcast downloads per month, Number 1 Apple Podcast Debut (Summer 2021)

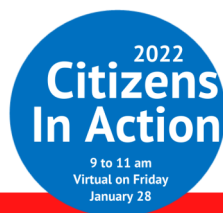
Apple Podcast Top Show in Government (Summer 2021-present)

SAVE THE DATE
League of Women Voters of Duluth Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2022
Annual Meeting: 5:30 - 6:15, Speaker: 6:15



Jody Slick is the founder and CEO of Ecolibrium3, a nonprofit organization with a mission to lead and inspire community change toward an equitable and sustainable future. Ecolibrium3 focuses on developing community resilience in economic and environmental systems in low-income neighborhoods. She was named a White House Champion of Change for Building Resilient Communities in 2013 and has led multiple efforts to advance climate action, reduce health disparities, and expand economic opportunities. Current Ecolibrium3 efforts include Main Street Lincoln Park, COVID Recovery, energy efficiency, the Duluth Citizens’ Climate Action Plan, LNPk Solar Garden, neighborhood-based health planning, developing an age-friendly Duluth, and advancing anti-poverty efforts through a 41-member VISTA program.

Jody Slick will focus her talk on the intersections of challenges and opportunities at this moment in time.



Misinformation & Media Literacy

Strengthening your ability to be a critical consumer of information, addressing the impact of disinformation on our political process, & identifying bias and other slants in a variety of communication.

24th Annual Citizens in Action Workshop

Virtual – Friday, January 28, 2022

Misinformation & Media Literacy

Strengthening our ability to be a critical consumer of information, addressing the impact of disinformation on our political process, & identifying bias and other slants in a variety of communication was this year's focus.

Our event was held during National News Literacy Week.

The goal of this week is to challenge the public to test & improve our news literacy skills.

<https://scripps.com/press-releases/national-news-literacy-week-challenges-public-to-test-improve-news-literacy-skills/>

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar provided a thoughtful welcome video and stressed the importance of our theme and legislation related to media she is working on.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AIFIZjZql8rP4XZgUTgXnWIM72XW3MEo/view>

Event Speakers included: Dr. Jennifer Moore, UMD/Associate Professor of Journalism/College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Science and Renee Passal, WDIO Reporter/Anchor.

Dr. Jennifer Moore provided context to *What* misinformation is, *Why* it's nothing new but is more insidious today, and solutions on how to approach the problem as a citizen. Thank you for providing additional resources including: The Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics, Pen America /How to talk to family and friends about disinformation and spreading it as misinformation, and Tip sheet "How to Spot Fake News."

Renee Passal provided insight into the day to day work of a journalist and the unique challenges.

Paul Huffman, Redistricting Coordinator/LWV Minnesota

We appreciate the elected & government leaders who attended: MN State Representatives: Mary Murphy, Liz Olson, and Jen Schultz, MN Senator Jen McEwen; ISD 709 Duluth School Board: Rosie Loeffler-Kemp, David Kirby, Amber Sadowski, Kelly Durick Eder, Paul Sandholm, ISD 709 Duluth Public School Superintendent John Magas; Duluth City Councilors: Aric Forsman, Janet Kennedy, Terese Tomanek, Azin Awal, Renee Van Nett, Gary Anderson, Mike Mayou and Mayor Emily Larson; St. Louis County Commissioner Ashley Grimm and Frank Jewell. It was great to get to hear your insights and experiences on how misinformation has impacted your work. We appreciate your time and commitment you give to listening to citizens and your service to our community.

More information & resources: www.lwvduluth.org

View the recording of Citizens In Action 2022: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmSU47JtPLI>

Look forward to our 25th Annual Citizens in Action on Saturday January 28, 2023!

**Special thanks to our 2022 LWV Citizens In Action Planning Committee:
Stacey DeRoche, Ellen Wiss, Candy Winkler, Sarah Mikesell**

Submitted by Rosie Loeffler-Kemp

2022 LWV CIA Planning Committee Chair

Did you miss a LWV Duluth Event?

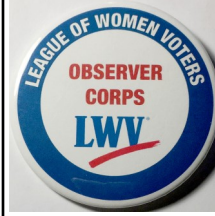


Most of our events have been recorded and are posted on our website so you can view them anytime.

Click the link below or go to our website and click on Videos of LWV Events under the Events and Newsletter tab.

<https://www.lwvduluth.org/videos-of-lwv-events.html>

Observer Corps Reports Online



Complete Observers' Reports for all boards, councils and commissions are found on League of Women Voters of Duluth website under the Local Committees/Groups Tab.

<https://www.lwvduluth.org/observer-corps-reports.html>

Observer Corps Reports

St. Louis County Board Meeting February 1, 2022

The Regular Meeting began at 9:31 a.m.

The meeting was held at the Duluth Government Services Center, Duluth, MN.

6 out of 7 commissioners were present. (Commissioner Musolf was absent due to illness.)

One citizen, Nancy Watkins, of Rice, MN, addressed the Board, announcing that she is taking over as Co-Chair of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) division of the Vermilion Lake Association and thanked the Board for their support.

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously. Item #13, request for Sponsorship of Pathblazers Snowmobile Club Trail Grooming Equipment Purchase was pulled for separate consideration.

The Regular Agenda included a resolution moved by Commissioner P. Boyle, supported by Commissioner A. Grimm, to contract with SISU Healthcare IT Solutions for the time period January 1-December 31, 2022, for up to \$450,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support the increased capacity of skilled registered nurses to assist PHHS with COVID-19 response efforts, to coordinate with regional facilities, evaluate and assess facilities for risk, providing training for the prevention and control of COVID-19, and provide direct clinical services to St. Louis County residents. Administration requested that the resolution be amended to change the beginning contract date to February 1, 2022. There were no objections. Commissioner Nelson moved to amend, supported by Commissioner Jugovich, the resolution to state that the first \$225,000 for this program be paid from ARPA funds and the second \$225,000 by paid from Public Health Initiative funds. Following contentious discussion and input from PHHS Director Linnea Mirsch, the amendment was withdrawn and the resolution passed. Commissioner Nelson expressed interest in reconsideration of the resolution at the next Board meeting, so Commissioner Musolf could offer input and vote.

Item #13 (from the Consent Agenda), request for Sponsorship of Pathblazers Snowmobile Club Trail Grooming Equipment Purchase was discussed. Commissioner Jewell, supported by Commissioner Boyle, moved that St. Louis County make application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Federal Recreation Trail Program and to sponsor the purchase of snowmobile trail grooming equipment on behalf of the Pathblazers Snowmobile Club at no cost to the County; that if the County is awarded a grant, the County agrees to accept the grant, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Submitted by: Gwen Thorson

Observer Corps Reports**St. Louis County Board Meeting
February 8, 2022**

The Regular Meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was held at the Duluth Government Services Center, Duluth, MN.

7 out of 7 commissioners were present.

Three public hearings were conducted:

- 1) Resolution to consider the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to Side Lake Store, LLC dba R & B Side Lake Store, French Township. Passed unanimously.
- 2) Resolution to consider the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to Country Corner Bar, LLC dba Country Corner Bar, LLC, Culver Township. Passed unanimously.
- 3) Resolution to consider the request for tax abatement financing regarding the City of Duluth - Cirrus Aircraft's conversion and expansion plan at the Duluth International Airport. Passed unanimously. NOTE: Cirrus Aircraft plans to convert the former (now empty) Northwest Airlines/AAR maintenance building. Expansion will mean an increase of 80 new jobs. Cirrus is requesting a \$600,000 tax abatement over 10 years from the County and will also request a \$600,000 tax abatement over 10 years from the City of Duluth.

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously. Item #4, bid to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc., was sent back to administration for more work.

The Regular Agenda included 3 items:

- 1) From the Environment & Natural Resources Committee - Commissioner Jugovich, Chair: Sale of certain state tax forfeited lands to the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Approved unanimously. (NOTE: The land parcels are in the Brookston and Culver areas.)
- 2) From the Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee - Commissioner Jewell, Chair: Request for sponsorship of Ashawa Ski Club trail grooming equipment. Approved unanimously. (NOTE: Sponsorship by the County is needed for the club to accept a grant, which would be in the amount of \$15,000, approximately.)
- 3) Commissioner Nelson initiated a motion for reconsideration of a resolution passed at the Board meeting on February 1. Motion approved 4:3. (Nelson, McDonald, Jugovich, Musolf in favor; Jewell, Boyle, Grimm opposed.) Commissioner Nelson initiated a motion to amend the original resolution to contract with SISU Healthcare IT Solutions for the time period February 1 - December 31, 2022, to support the increased capacity of skilled registered nurses to assist PHHS with COVID-19 response efforts, to coordinate with regional facilities, evaluate and assess facilities for risk, providing training for the prevention and control of COVID-19, and provide direct clinical services to St. Louis County residents for up to \$450,000 funded with the first \$225,000 paid from American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds and the second \$225,000 paid from Public Health Initiative funds. Motion passed 4:3. (Nelson, McDonald, Jugovich, Musolf in favor; Jewell, Boyle, Grimm opposed.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Submitted by: Gwen Thorson,

Observer Corps Reports**City of Duluth Natural Resources Commission Meeting,
January 5, 2022**

The meeting was held virtually and began at 6 p.m. The primary items on the agenda were the Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project and the Natural Resources Management Program Plan.

Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project – Jim Filby Williams reviewed the public lands strategy, which proposes a 3-pronged approach to protect approximately 2400 acres of tax-forfeit open space. Lands are divided into 3 categories – 75% of the identified lands will be designated as parklands; another 16% will fall into the Duluth Natural Areas Program (DNAP), with 60% of these parcels being in the St. Louis River corridor. Williams stated that these lands will have “adequately robust protections” because a supermajority of both the City Council and the Planning Commission is required to change the designation. The remaining 9% of identified lands are smaller, isolated parcels in otherwise developed areas that are on steep slopes, are wetlands, or important for water management but do not meet the requirements for parks or the DNAP designation. State statute limits protections to 30 years for lands conveyed for less than market value; after that, another strategy would be needed for these parcels. Staff is considering a recommendation to create a third category for long-term protection of lands important for stormwater and floodwater management. Commission members indicated support for this, and would like to see a stronger statement in the plan about a commitment to pursue this. Concerns were also expressed about protections for Hawk Ridge and wildlife corridors within the City.

Revisions to the strategy will be made in January, with a return to the Commission for discussion at the February meeting. More information about the Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project is available here: <https://duluthmn.gov/planning-development/public-lands-realignment/>

Natural Resources Management Program Plan – Diane Desotelle solicited feedback on the plan, which had been presented to the Commission at the December meeting and available for review on the City website. Issues brought forward included problems loading maps, the format and appearance on different types of devices that might be used to view it, the intended audience, how to make it more accessible, and the feasibility of integrating summaries since the plan is dense. The intended audience is primarily City staff and project partners, not necessarily the public.

New Business – The 2022 meeting schedule was discussed. Meetings will remain on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. and decisions about need/cancellation will be made on a month-to-month basis.

Forester’s Report – Clark Christensen presented a year end update on 2021 activities. Below is a summary.

455 trees were removed in 2021, mostly ash, due to emerald ash borer (EAB)

387 trees planted – lower than normal due to EAB and the pandemic

2125 trees were pruned

Trees planted included 25 genera and 40 different species.

56 trees were ordered but not received

EAB continues to be a driving force for removal – 1620 ash trees remain on City streets

Senescence of silver maple is also an issue

Replacement and succession of trees in parks needs to be a priority, with emphasis on parks that lack trees. Enger Park is a particular concern. Some trees were planted on Indian Point in the last year and a half.

Upcoming in 2022:

Sourcing trees through an RFQ, contract growing and growing a limited number themselves;

Developing an urban forest management plan – Rochester has just completed one at a cost of \$85,000.

Director’s Report – Jim Filby Williams had no formal report. In response to a question about how the Commission can stress to the City the importance of filling the Natural Resources position when Diane leaves, Williams responded that the position is fully funded in the budget, the position description is written and the process is lined up and ready to go. The hope is to have someone in place before Diane leaves.

Submitted by Julie O’Leary

League of Women Voters of Duluth
32 East First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

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Membership Renewals due by Sept. 30

Date: _____

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Name: _____ email _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____ 2nd Address: _____

Membership (Check one)

- Individual \$65
- Household \$100 (2 members living at same address)

Name of additional household member: _____

E-mail of additional household member: _____

Phone number of additional household member: _____

- Limited Income \$20
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- Full Scholarship \$0
- Additional support: \$20 \$40 \$60 \$100 Other Amount: _____
- I want to donate \$20 to sponsor a limited income member.

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