

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



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 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. [See page 3 for more information.](#)

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

You can register and join the Zoom meeting anytime up until the meeting ends.
 Cosponsored by AAUW (American Association of University Women)

How Duluth is Addressing A Shortage of Affordable Housing
Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 PM via Zoom

Jason Hale, Senior Developer, City of Duluth
 Jeff Corey, Executive Director, One Roof Community Housing



Join us to hear how Duluth is addressing the challenges of providing safe, stable and affordable housing for all in our community. Open to LWV Duluth members and the public.

Register in advance for this meeting:

[See page 3 for more information and registration link.](#)

It's Not Easy Being Green

Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, Open to the Public

An Earth Week Forum jointly sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Duluth and the McCabe Chapter of the Izaak Walton League



Duluth City staff and the Natural Resources Commission have been working on several fronts to protect and plan for the future of Duluth's public lands. A panel of speakers from the City of Duluth, the Duluth Natural Resources Commission, St. Louis County and the Minnesota Land Trust will provide an update on the City's work with partners to protect our public lands, the role of

climate resilience and future growth, and the importance of public engagement in the work that lies ahead.

[See page 3 for Zoom link and more information.](#)

League of Women Voters of Duluth Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Annual Meeting: 7:00 pm, Speaker: 7:30 pm

The speaker, Jodi Slick, is the founder and CEO of Ecolibrium3.

****Due to the need for a membership quorum, please RSVP. [Find RSVP and speaker information on page 5.](#)**
[See Slate of Officers on page 5](#) and [Budget on page 6](#)



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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
<hr/>	
Editor	Julie Seidelmann

Calendar

April

- 4-4 International Relations Meeting
- 4-6 Women of Influence
- 4-12 How Duluth is Addressing a Shortage Of Affordable Housing
- 4-14 LWV Duluth Board Meeting
- 4-20 Our Green City: Looking to the Future
- 4-25 Natural Resources Meeting

May

- 5-10 Membership Committee
- 5-12 LWV Duluth Annual Meeting
- 5-26 LWV Duluth Book Club

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,

In December, the Board directed the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee to draft a Land Acknowledgement to submit to the Board for approval, and I offered to facilitate this work with the DEI subcommittee. We could still use members to help with this process—email me @ meg.e.litts@gmail.com or talk/text 320.699.0077. Concurrently, the LWVMN had formed a committee to work on a Land Acknowledgement at the state level, and I was asked to participate in this process as well.

Land Acknowledgements are tricky. Quite often, they are statements drafted by white people that speak of the Indigenous tribes whose land we stole when we came over as ‘settlers’. My bias about Land Acknowledgements is that they should acknowledge the ways in which we white people have been complicit in systemic racism and perpetuate White Supremacy Culture; not simply as atrocities that occurred historically far removed from our current day culture and communities, but that we acknowledge the work we have to do to dismantle our own white privilege along with the implicit bias prevalent on both the systemic and personal levels.

Furthermore, sincerity in a Land Acknowledgement—or any Acknowledgement of White Supremacy Culture and the way we have marginalized other cultures historically and still do - should include a commitment to specific actions we will take to unpack our bias, live outside our privilege, and bring healing and reparation.

I offer you this [link](http://www.dismantlingracism.org) to a list of characteristics of White Supremacy Culture by Tema Okum (www.dismantlingracism.org) with some specific examples provided for each characteristic. I do not offer it to be used as a weapon, but as a tool to help each one of us white people examine our thinking and practices in order to identify implicit bias and systems of oppression we need to address.

While we haven't had a Land Acknowledgement, we have had a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement that is read at the beginning of every meeting and event: see below.

Let us commit to this work - individually and collectively, being willing to be vulnerable, to hold and be held accountable - so that our words carry meaning.

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.

More Information About Upcoming Events

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



Speaker, Sharon McMahon was recognized, on March 16, 2022, as Communicator of the Year at the PR Week U.S. awards ceremony on Wall Street in New York City. Click here to read the article in the Duluth News Tribune: [Communicator of the Year](#).

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.



How Duluth is Addressing A Shortage of Affordable Housing Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 PM via Zoom

Jason Hale, Senior Developer, City of Duluth;
Jeff Corey, Executive Director, One Roof Community Housing
Q &A Follows



Minnesota is noted for having some of the worst racial disparities in the nation. These disparities occur in the areas of housing, education, economic development, public safety, health and human services, and environmental justice.

This month we are focusing on the issue of affordable housing. Statewide, as well as in Duluth, the demand for affordable housing exceeds the supply. BIPOC people are disproportionately affected by the need to spend more than 30% of their income on housing, leaving them less likely to have money to meet basic needs such as food, medicine, health care and transportation.

Join us to hear how Duluth is addressing the challenges of providing safe, stable and affordable housing for all in our community. Open to LWV Duluth members and the public.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuceygrDgvGdSXV7aOgt1IOUsYrBsmPMP6>



It’s Not Easy Being Green

An Earth Week Forum jointly sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Duluth and the McCabe Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom



Speakers:

Jim Filby Williams, City of Duluth (invited)
John Lindgren, Duluth Natural Resources Commission (invited)
Gini Breidenbach, Minnesota Land Trust
Carol Andrews, St. Louis County

Open to the public

Join us at:

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/82377532097?pwd=cEt2UVJmaTVTNitTaU1uSUQyYkk2Zz09>

League of Women Voters of Duluth Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2022
Annual Meeting: 7:00 pm, Speaker: 7:30



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. 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, LNP Solar Garden, neighborhood-based health planning, developing an age-friendly Duluth, and advancing anti-poverty efforts through a 41-member VISTA program.

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

Due to the need for a membership quorum, please RSVP by filling out the form on our website at <https://www.lwvduluth.org/may-12-2022> or email lwvduluth@lwvmn.org and include your name and phone number, or call Gwen Thorson at 218-624-4756

Zoom Link: <https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/97718790031>
 Meeting ID: 977 1879 0031 Dial-in only: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

See Board Slate below and the 2022-2023 Budget on Page

League of Women Voters of Duluth Board of Directors Slate

Positions to be voted on at the 2022 Annual Meeting

Officers

President

Mary Faulkner 2022-2023

Vice President:

Jane Hovland 2022-2023

Membership / 2nd VP

Anita Gille 2022-2024

Secretary

Gwen Thorson 2021-2023

Treasurer

Nancy Aldridge 2021-2023

Elected Directors

Katherine Rasley 2022-2024

Jeri Quest 2022-2024

Meg Litts 2022-2024

Ellen Wiss 2021-2023

Sandy Grandmaison 2021-2023

Sue DeNio 2021-2023

Emeritus:

Warren High

Portia Johnson

Gail Schoenfelder

Nominating Committee

Candy Winkler, Chair	Anita Gille
Sally Munger	Theresa O'Gara
Christina Woods	Nancy Aldridge



LWV Duluth is looking for a chair or co-chairs of the Communications Committee.

The position of chair or the positions of co-chairs or would start June 1, 2022.

The chair or co-chairs would oversee these responsibilities:

- Publish a monthly newsletter 8 times a year
- Maintain and update the LWV Duluth website and calendar
- Monitor the LWV Duluth email account
- Create E-News emails about LWV Duluth events/meetings
- Post information on Twitter and Facebook
- Send LWV Duluth event information to LWVMN calendar
- Create flyers and posters for events when necessary
- Coordinate use of the LWV Duluth Zoom account



We are also recruiting committee members for these responsibilities. Training will be provided.

Please contact to volunteer or for more information:
 Mary Faulkner at faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com or 814-883-6107

**League of Women Voters of Duluth
Proposed Budget
April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023**

Income

Contributions and Support

Member & other donations	\$2,000
Income from member dues	\$365

Events

Annual meeting, dinner, auction	
Plant and Book Sale	\$1,800
Other Fundraisers	\$2,000
Voter Service Grant	\$1,000

Total **\$7,165**

General Funds from Checking \$1,475

Total Budgeted for Year **\$8,640**

Membership/Dues

Household (\$100) received	\$2,878
Individual (\$65) received	\$7,560

Total **\$10,438**

Payments

Paid to LWVMN - PMP	\$4,553
Paid to LWVUS - PMP	\$5,520

Total **\$10,073**

Balance in Checking 3/15/2022 \$15,870

Balance in Savings 3/15/2022 \$8,208

Expenses

Committees

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	\$400
International Relations	\$550
Membership	\$400
Natural Resources	\$400
Program Planning	
Voter Service	\$1,000

Total **\$2,750**

Operating and fixed costs

Miscellaneous Operating	\$650
Zoom and Website	\$200
President's Fund	\$100
Rent	\$780

Total **\$1,730**

Member Activities

Annual Meeting	\$400
Citizens in Action	\$1,000
Fall Kick-Off	\$300
Holiday Social	\$500
Member Directory	\$510
Women of Influence	\$400
Voter Newsletter Postage	\$550
Voter Newsletter Printing	\$500

LWVMN State Convention

LWVUS Convention

Total **\$4,160**

Total Expenses **\$8,640**

Voter Services

The League of Women Voters of MN is offering a series of virtual trainings related to Candidate Forums: Moderator, Event Planning, and Question Facilitator Trainings. In March, Event Planner and Question Facilitator (Combined) Training will be offered on Monday, March 21st from 6:00-9:00PM. Question Facilitator Training will be offered on Thursday, March 24th from 12:00-1:00PM. The April schedule is: Event Planner and Question Facilitator (Combined) on Saturday, April 9th from 9:00AM-12:00PM; Moderator Training on Tuesday, April 19th from 6:00-9:00PM; and Question Facilitator on Wednesday, April 20th from 12:00-1:00PM. In May, there are two more opportunities: Event Planner and Question Facilitator (Combined) on Wednesday, May 18th from 1:00-4:00PM and Moderator on Tuesday, May 24th from 10:00AM-1:00PM.

For more information and to register, visit lwvmn.org/voter-service-training. Training is required to volunteer at Candidate Forums as either a Moderator or Question Facilitator. Also, you can attend if you have already been trained and would like a refresher.

If you have questions about our league's needs, please contact Mary Faulkner at faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com or Pat Castellano at castellanop4@gmail.com.

Submitted by Mary Faulkner

Get ready to register voters

Voter Registration events will be ramping up soon. If you would like to help with an event and are not on the Voter Services email list, let Sue know at cornelia_road@hotmail.com. Lists of dates and times will be sent out for you to choose what fits you best. Training is provided.



Submitted by Sue DeNio



April 30th is LWVMN Council Plan to Participate!

What is Council?

LWVMN Council is held in the interim year between LWV MN State Conventions. Council is April 30 on Zoom and cost is \$10 for voting delegates and non-delegates. LWV Duluth will provide financial assistance upon request. No questions asked. (Note: LWV Duluth has 12 voting delegates, but more may become available).

The Council will review League activities across the State and impact from the past year, as well as our State budget. Council is authorized to modify the LWV MN Program for Action, provided that two-thirds of the Council delegates present and voting adopt any modifications brought forward. There will be two modifications brought before the voting delegates at Council this year:

- [END OF LIFE OPTIONS CONCURRENCE RESOLUTION](#)
- [FIREARMS UPDATE STUDY RESOLUTION](#)

[Visit LWVMN Council Webpage for more information](#)

How To Become Involved

Delegate Role: Become informed about the two resolutions and then attend the LWV Duluth delegate zoom meeting on April 26 from 7-8 pm. Be available on Zoom to vote on April 30th between 1-3 pm.

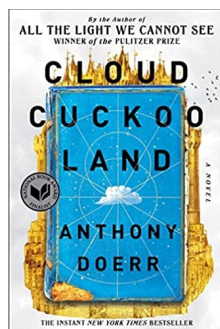
Non-Delegate Role: Observe and report on the high points of what is presented on April 30th or just observe for your own learning.

Knowledge Provider Role: Share your knowledge about one of the resolution topics mentioned above. Your input is important for our delegates to hear.

If you want to participate in one of these roles, email Jane Hovland indicating your interest as 1) delegate, 2) non-delegate or 3) knowledge provider and she will reply with more information: jane.hovland@gmail.com



LWV Duluth
“The Sisters” Book Club
Thursday, May 26
6:30 pm via Zoom



Book: “Cloud Cuckoo Land”.
Author: Anthony Doerr
Discussion Leader: Barb Akre

Questions: Gay Trachsel. 218-728-5478.

Gaytrachsel420@gmail.com

Zoom link for now:

<https://lwmn-org.zoom.us/j/2152347864>

“a book for adults infused with the magic of childhood reading experiences.”

Membership

Why I Am A Member By Ruth Strom McCutcheon



These past five years have caused me to reflect on our entire democratic process. Not only who our candidates are, the policies they stand for, but our voting process as well. I guess I never really worried that our country could get so polarized, or women rights erode, or election results denied or the fact that I could fear our democracy could erode away! I think the George Floyd death in Minneapolis “*knocked the socks off my white privilege* as well.” I felt compelled to get more educated and become more involved instead of “*letting others do the work*”.

During the last election, I hung out with a bunch of women that, too, felt worried given the last 4 years we had lived through. Many of those women were involved in LWV (Gail, Anita, Sue, Theresa, Jan and Sally). I vaguely knew about the organization except for their activity during elections. I began to get to know about some of the committees that these women were a part of and educational efforts that the LWV was involved in. I wanted to be a part of and support an organization that encourages and fosters civic responsibility.

After 50+ years living in Duluth, and 40+ years as a health care professional, I realized most of my connections or educational pursuits were more about the professional work I was doing. I was involved in teaching, community health issues and women’s reproductive rights, but did not inform myself with other policy or political processes. Now was the time in my retirement where I could begin to get more actively involved. So...I am beginning. I am attending some of the committees by Zoom to start getting an idea of what areas I might be interested in and I have attended most of the Educational Zoom sessions. I love reading the Newsletter and getting the emails from the state and national chapters!

Welcome New LWV Duluth Members

Carol Thompson



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>

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 - helping plan educational events. Advocacy Action Team - plan advocacy events.
Voter Service: Forums	Mary Faulkner: faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com Pat Castellano castellanop4@gmail.com	As needed
International Relations	Liz Taylor 393-0703 (cell)	Meeting on Monday, April 4 at 7 pm. Topic: visit on April 29 of Humphrey International Fellows. Contact Liz for Zoom link.
Membership	Anita Gille 218-428-7232 anitagille@gmail.com	Meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 2:30 –3:30 pm. Contact Anita if you would like to attend.
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 - 4th Monday of the month - Monday, April 25, 5pm. Zoom link sent before meeting or contact Sally.
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	No second Saturday meeting in April. April 12 Program: How Duluth is Addressing a Shortage of Affordable Housing - pages 1&3
Book Club	Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	Thurs. May 26, 6:30 via Zoom “Cloud Cuckoo Land” by Anthony Doerr. Discussion Leader: Barb Akre. Link sent before meeting
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	Women of Influence with Sharon McMahon on April 6. Must register in advance. See page 1&3

Observer Corps Reports

**City of Duluth Natural Resources Commission Meeting
February 2, 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.

Natural Resources Management Program Plan Updates – Diane Desotelle provided an update on the plan and provided an overview of the implementation chapter, which lays out 3 proposed implementation levels (existing, baseline, and preferred) with varying levels of staff time and budget. The current level of funding for the work is \$55,000 and 1 FTE; the preferred level of eventual funding is 2 FTEs with a budget of \$350,000 - \$500,000. The **existing** implementation level includes nurturing projects already in process, reactive operations & maintenance costs, and administrative tasks. **Baseline** implementation level would include land protection work, assessment work, and repair projects; **preferred** implementation level would include the ability to take on new projects. Annual coordination activities will include a spring partner meeting, solicitation for new projects in late summer, data collection in the fall for project evaluation, and a winter partner meeting to rank priorities. The completed plan will be sent to the NRC and posted to the website by February 23, to allow for review before a vote on it at the March 2 meeting: <https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-planning/progress-in-the-park/natural-resources-program-plan/>

Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project – Jim Filby Williams shared and reviewed a memo he is drafting which outlines the Public Lands Strategy. There were suggestions from the Commission members on the need to clarify the percentages of the 2400 acres of land proposed for protection that fall into the various categories (park lands, St. Louis River natural area, and neither). There was also discussion of how to build public support for permanent land protections and mention of the need to make the parks fund whole. A small working group will work with Diane Desotelle to finalize the strategy for final review and approval at the March meeting. There were several requests that the draft be shared, and a response that it will be made available on the website: <https://duluthmn.gov/planning-development/public-lands-realignment/>

Natural Resource Coordinator Report – Diane Desotelle reported that the land acquisition process is moving forward. The Natural Resources Coordinator position has been posted and will close February 6th. Invasive species management work across the City is proceeding, with a focus on getting contracts in place for projects planned for 2022. The Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) has a grant to conduct native plant assessments across the City. Diane recommended that MLT provide an information session on the work they have completed at Hartley and the Brewer/Piedmont area for the NRC. The Army Corps of Engineers is planning a charrette in March to lay out work on the study that will look at federal structures on Minnesota Point and whether they are contributing to the erosion problems.

Forester's Report – Clark Christensen reported that the revitalization project will be open for bidding in April. Bidding is out for ash removal on City streets; grant funds are being sought for ash removal. Some outreach is happening to homeowners with ash trees on private property, but funding is not available to assist with removal. In response to a question regarding clean-up in the 2016 blowdown area (Hartley over to Howard Gnesen Rd.) Clark reported that The Nature Conservancy has done some brush removal in the area and planted a mix of trees in those area.

Director's Report – Jim Filby Williams reported on the City's purchase of private lands for protection. City Council authorized an application to the USFS for federal funds to purchase 72 acres in the Amity Creek watershed. About 500 acres of high quality contiguous forest parcels have been identified and efforts to protect them in various ways are in the works. 50 acres of land will be transferred from U.S. Steel to the City to be added to the St. Louis River Natural Area (does not include Boathouse Point).

Announcements - Mindy Granley will be presenting the City's Climate Action Plan to the City Council on February 16th.

Public Comments – there were several comments from members of the public. Comments: one expressing concern about the need for permanent protections for the tax forfeit properties being transferred to the City; a question about the process for approving proposed trails; frustration with the platform used for the NRC meetings which does not allow members of the public attending to see other individuals attending, among other issues.

Observer Corps Reports

Library Advisory Board Meeting February 22, 2022

The meeting was held virtually. Terese Tomanek was present as the new City Council representative to the Library Board. The Foundation reports that Library Giving Day at Hoops will occur on April 6, 2022, from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Additional events are planned. Friends of the Library report that \$10,000.00 was given to the Library this month.

Library Manager's Report:

- Masks are recommended for patrons inside the library facilities, but no longer required. Employees are still required to wear masks.
- This month the library's new virtual reality system will be put into use with a series of orientation programs.
- The Little Library Go van has arrived and is being outfitted for use.
- Every Child Ready Duluth remains busy, although some activities have had to be rescheduled because of Covid. Program evaluation is underway in conjunction with Colibri Consulting.
- The library's PR staff is inviting library patrons and supporters to express their love during February by writing a note or posting a message on social media. Notes are on display at all three library locations.

Library staffing continues to progress.

There was lengthy discussion on library security. It was noted that since last month there has been an assault on a library staff member over mask issues. Currently a job description is under development for two half-time positions for security personnel to cover most open hours. The position is intended to increase security for staff and patrons by providing a welcoming atmosphere, observing, and helping to de-escalate any problems that arise. The individuals who fill these positions will have authority to call 911 if necessary. Ideally, they will have some experience in street social work and possibly in law enforcement. They will not be armed. It will probably take a couple of months to finalize the job description and hire for the positions.

Main Library Facility update: a contract has been developed with an architectural firm to conduct a study of library needs. Work on the study has begun.

New board officers will be elected at the next meeting, March 22, 2022.

Submitted by Debbi Rasmussen

Saint Louis County Board Meeting March 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.

County Administrator, Kevin Gray and Director of Human Resources and Administration, Jim Gottschald acknowledged the death of former county employee, Dennis Frazier. Mr. Frazier worked in Child Protective Services and was active in labor relations (AFSCME).

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously, except for Item #8, establishment of a public hearing for April 26, 2022, at 9:35 a.m., in the Hoyt Lakes City Hall, Hoyt Lakes, MN, to consider the proposed 2022 County Commissioner Redistricting Plan; and further, authorize required publication of the notice of intent to adopt the redistricting plan in the county's official newspaper of record. Commissioner Jewell requested that Item #8 be pulled for further discussion because of questions he received from LWV Duluth.

The Regular Agenda had no items, except for discussion of Item #8 from the Consent Agenda. County Auditor, Nancy Nilsen, provided the following comments for clarification:

- 1) St. Louis County gained only 5 people, according to the 2020 census; so no significant changes in commissioner districts are anticipated.

Continued on page 11

Observer Corps Reports**Saint Louis County Board, March 8, 2022 (Continued)**

- 2) The County cannot take action until information is received from cities and townships who have a deadline of March 29, 2022.
- 3) The County will present a proposed redistricting plan to the commissioners at their Committee of the Whole meeting, on April 5, 2022, at the Duluth Government Services Center.
- 4) After the April 5 presentation, maps will be posted on the county's website and available in the auditor's office (Rm. 214, 100 N. 5th Ave. W.) during regular business hours.
- 5) Written public comment will be accepted until April 22. People can submit their comments to the attention of the Board clerk, Phil Chapman in the auditor's office or to Mr. Chapman at (chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov) Comments will be forwarded to the commissioners.
- 6) Notice of the public hearing will be posted on the county's website, on county bulletin boards and for 3 consecutive weeks in the Duluth News Tribune.
- 7) Verbal comments will be accepted at the public hearing on April 26.
- 8) After the public hearing and the plan's adoption, maps will be available on the county's website and in the auditor's office, and will be published in the Duluth News Tribune.

The resolution to adopt the public hearing was approved unanimously.

Following the Regular Meeting, the Board moved on to the business of the Committee of the Whole. Significant was the presentation of the "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Update" by the Center for Economic Inclusion. The Center has been working closely with the county. To date, they have conducted 27 workshops for 648 employees (33 % of the county workforce).

Submitted by: Gwen Thorson,

**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
March 9, 2022**

Janelle Long, director of the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, presented a draft site plan for Hawk Ridge that details improvements and expansion for visitors and education programs. The number of visitors for the fall migration at Hawk Ridge has grown to 18,000 per year. A major challenge for HRBO is accommodating the increasing number of visitors and participants safely. A primary goal is to get more of the activities away from the immediate vicinity of Skyline Parkway, where much of the activity has been concentrated in the past. The proposal includes a plan for a 50 seat amphitheater, group learning areas, a picnic shelter, improvements to the trail system, and permanent restrooms. The plan will be considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission at its April 13 meeting; if approved, it will go to City Council for final action.

To view a summary of the plan to date, which includes a link to the HRBO presentation, go to <https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-planning/progress-in-the-park/hawk-ridge/>

Director Jessica Peterson also presented an overview of Parks and Recreation Capital Projects.

The total parks capital budget exceeds \$14.7 million, over half of which is accounted for by conveyance of County tax forfeited land (\$4.4 million) and St Louis River Natural Area land acquisition (\$3.7 million). Major parks improvement programs are Lincoln Park Restoration at \$2.7 million, Hartley Legacy Project at \$2 million, and Enger Park Golf Course Renovation at \$4.5 million. City sources of funding for parks amounts to about \$4.2 million. A variety of state, federal and private grants and donations, plus \$4 million in revenue bonds for the Enger Park Golf Park renovation cover the rest.

Submitted by Lane Palmer

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