

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

**You are invited to the League of Women Voters of Duluth  
Annual Meeting via Zoom**

**Thursday, May 6, 2021  
7:00 pm Business Meeting  
7:30 pm - 8:15 pm**

**Speaker, Terresa Moses  
“The Justice of Intersectionality”**



See bio of Terresa Moses at: <https://www.lwvduluth.org/may-6-2021--annual-meeting.html>

**RSVP required as soon as possible!**

We need to have a quorum to conduct our business and vote on the budget, the nominating slate, and the revised bylaws.

You can find these on our website at

<https://www.lwvduluth.org/may-6-2021--annual-meeting.html>

You can also fill out the RSVP form on the page above or email [lwvduluth@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvduluth@lwvmn.org) and include your name and phone number, or call Julie Seidelmann at 724-3031.

**Zoom information for the Annual Meeting**

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/97718790031>

Meeting ID: 977 1879 0031

Dial-in only: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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**Got Plants? Got Books? Got Time?  
LWV Duluth Plant and Book Sale  
Saturday, June 12  
Noon - 4:00 pm**



LWV Duluth is going to attempt one of our FIRST traditional in-person events in over a year. We are hoping our outdoor, well ventilated Annual Plant and Book Sale will be a go!

Saturday, June 12 from noon - 4:00pm at the Mt. Royal parking lot, provided no additional COVID restrictions are put in place prior to that date. The time of the sale has been adjusted to allow LWV members to attend the State Convention (see article on page 3).

There are many ways you can help. Please watch for E-News updates. For more information, to donate plants and/or books, or to volunteer, please contact Zandy Zwiebel at [zzwiebel@gmail.com](mailto:zzwiebel@gmail.com) or 218-341-6099.

**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**

Co-President	Candy Winkler
Co-President	Sandy Grandmaison
Secretary	Gwen Thorson
Treasurer	Nancy Aldridge
Editor	Julie Seidelmann

**League of Women Voters of Minnesota 2021 Convention  
June 11 – 12 Virtual and Fun!**

[See page 3 for more information](#)

## Calendar

### May

- 5-6 LWV Duluth Annual Meeting
- 5-8 Cross Cultural Committee Meeting
- 5-19 Invasive Species Event
- 5-26 Membership Committee Meeting
- 5-27 LWV Duluth Book Club

### June

- 6-12 Plant and Book Sale
- 6-11-12 LWVMN Convention

## The Cross Cultural Committee will meet on Saturday, May 8, 10:00 AM on Zoom.

The program will highlight two local initiatives created by members of the African Heritage community: Morgan Park Free Lunches and the Giving Garden in the Hillside. Karlisha Clark, founder of Morgan Park Free Lunches, and Regina LaRoche, organizer of the Giving Garden, will speak about their involvement with these programs. **Join Us!**

**Contact Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678 for Zoom link**

## Presidents' Letter

The League of Women Voters of Duluth will have its Annual Meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have completed an entire year of League business without ever gathering in person. This has been a productive year on so many levels. League members weren't stopped by a national pandemic; instead, as women often do, we rolled up our sleeves, got to work, and figured out creative ways to do the League activities that were critical during an election year. The League provided voter registration and education throughout the community, continued to promote a healthy and clean environment, and collaborated with community groups on racial justice issues to name a few. Our annual events still took place ~ they just happened in a virtual manner, and the membership showed up! And none of that would have happened without you, our committed members! On behalf of Sandy Grandmaison, my co-president, and myself, I want to thank all of the Board members for your commitment to the work of the League of Women Voters of Duluth. You provided leadership during a challenging time, and you were amazingly creative in how you facilitated the league's work in the community. There are too many people to thank everyone individually, but three long-time committee chairs are stepping down from their positions this year. We want to recognize Ellen Wiss, Voter Services Chair, Theresa O'Gara, Membership Committee Chair and Mary Jane Peterson, Observer Corp Chair for all of the outstanding work they have done in these leadership positions! Committee work is a true commitment for our members and we encourage every member to be part of one of these groups. This is where you get to understand

what the LWV Duluth is really all about and learn from creative, intelligent and passionate leaders. We do understand that there are life circumstances that make it more difficult to be actively involved in committees and we want every member to know that we value your involvement at any level. The LWV Duluth is the largest League in the state of Minnesota and is recognized for the incredible work that is done in our community. We need every one of you!

I hope in the next year that we will be able to hold our events in person again; it will be so good to greet each other and sit down together to discuss the issues that are so important to us and our community. Meanwhile, I will see you on Zoom! It has been a privilege and honor to be your co-president for the past two years. I have learned so much and I thank all of you who have offered help and support! As we move into a new year for our League, may we stay the course and continue to fight for justice on every level!

In solidarity,

Candy Winkler, Co-President  
Sandy Grandmaison, Co-President

P.S. And we just have to thank Julie Seidelmann and Gwen Thorson for their commitment to producing the newsletter every month and keeping our website updated. This has been even more important in helping us stay connected this year. Thank you, Julie and Gwen,!!

## 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 Minnesota 2021 Convention June 11 – 12 Virtual and Fun!

**League of Women Voters of Duluth members are encouraged to attend!!  
There will be so much good information available to us through the convention.**

LWVMN is doing an all-virtual convention via Zoom and has prepared a schedule that minimizes your on-screen participation each day, gives you many choices for participation, and provides opportunities for social interaction with fellow members.

Members can register as Observers for free. You will have view-only access via YouTube livestream to watch the Business and Plenary sessions on Friday and Saturday; and full access to everything else, including Thursday workshops.

**Click here for more information and to register.**

<https://www.lwvmn.org/convention-2021>.

### Humphrey International Fellows' Duluth Visits This Year

With restrictions due to this year's pandemic, Zoom meetings with the 2020-2021 Humphrey International Fellows took place with--Duluth's Mayor Emily Larson, Jen Carlson (City Finance Director), Alicia Kozlowski (Community Relations Office), Janet Kennedy (City Councilor), Carl Crawford (City Human Rights Officer), Dan Lew (Chief Public Defender), Mark Rubin (County Attorney), Chris Godsey (Men as Peacemakers staff), and Jordan Johnson (Life House staff).

The Fellows—young professionals from developing countries around the world--come to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus for one year to learn about our social and human services. They usually come to Duluth for a couple days to learn about our medium size city's public policy and human rights. During this year's Zoom visits, some of the subjects brought forward were: priority based budgeting, public participation, racism, approaches for policy-making, and women as leaders.

This year's Fellows come from Morocco, Pakistan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Romania, Venezuela, Kyrgyzstan, India, Argentina, Philippines, and North Macedonia.

Liz Taylor and the International Relations Committee

### Why I am a Member by Mary Johnson

I decided to join the League of Women Voters several years ago to **Learn**. People should think for themselves, not become "Sheeples" by always agreeing with their "Pack", but forming their opinions on the knowledge they gain from exposure to books, articles, discussions with differing opinions, and seeing with their own eyes. I joined the Book Club. I enjoy this group! All are intelligent and engaging. We live in exciting and controversial times! What a great time in America's history to discuss difficult topics! Many of the Zoom meetings and suggested books, online education and illuminating discussions are helping me to become more informed. Other groups in our local League are sharing their meetings and content, and now I am hoping to get more involved in the Cross Cultural Committee! So many important topics to learn about and new voices for discussion! Having all of this available is a treasure!

### Welcome New LWV Duluth Members

David Grandmaison  
Amy Madsen  
Samantha Singer



### LWV Duluth Event Videos



All of LWV Duluth events in the past year have been virtual. Recordings of these events are posted on our website. If you were unable to attend an event, you can view the video online. You can also share these videos with friends.

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

## Slow Rollout of Census Information Provides A Renewed Opportunity for Community Engagement in Redistricting

Last year, many of our members worked diligently to insure a complete count for the Constitutionally-Mandated 2020 Census. The numbers are in and are in the process of being tabulated and disseminated. The pandemic made the process challenging and required changes in deadlines resulting in a delay in reporting results. Although the results are delayed, the next Constitutionally-Mandated process is Redistricting which also carries its own prescribed deadlines.

A key component of our efforts for 2021 – 2022 is to work with our community partners to map their communities based on their shared policy interests. While we want to engage as many communities and groups in mapping as we can, we want to make a special effort to partner with communities of color and immigrant communities to create maps for their communities to submit to elected officials for redistricting.

Community mapping has a number of benefits in the redistricting process. These include:

1. Communities are a fundamental building block for drawing districts at all levels of the redistricting process;
2. Community does not require learning all of the legal requirements for creating legislative and congressional maps; people bring their knowledge of their communities and what's important to them;
3. Because maps are not specific to a city, county, legislative or congressional district, community maps, and the community stories that accompany them, can be used in all phases of the redistricting process.

Paul Huffman, LWVMN Redistricting Coordinator, has informed us that the U.S. Census Bureau is on track to provide Apportionment data to the President in the last half of April. This will be the point where we know whether Minnesota will continue to have 8 congressional seats or if we will be reduced to 7 seats in Congress.

The Census Bureau has reported that they will have Census Block data, the information states use in the redistricting process, to states by the end of September this year. However, the Census Bureau has said it will be able to send states this data in an old form in the last half of August. While groups like LWVMN and the legislature would not normally be able to use this data in the existing mapping programs, the Minnesota state Demographer (Dr. Susan Brower) has committed to convert the data to a useable format when it is received in August. This will enable the legislature – and other parties such as LWVMN – to start making final maps.

While both parties have introduced legislation related to redistricting in both chambers, we believe it is unlikely that there will be any agreement either on redistricting principles or on congressional and legislative maps. **LWVMN's focus in legislative engagement is on general education for legislators and advocacy for changes in the redistricting process to provide greater transparency, greater opportunity for public input and engagement, and represents the interests of voters rather than politicians.** Nick Harper, LWVMN Civic Engagement Director, is monitoring activity in the legislature for opportunities to engage and educate legislators, and for potential opportunities for member action beyond what has been identified to this point. You can stay current with what's going on at the legislature by subscribing to Nick's Capital Letter on the LWVMN website.

Submitted by Ellen Wiss

## Voter Services Committee Submitted by Mary Faulkner



The LWVMN Voter Services Task Force continues to gather information on 2020 activities including voter registration efforts and candidate forums.

The Task Force will also review and offer recommendations for revisions to the Voter Services Handbook. Task Force members will review the Handbook to increase user-friendliness and accuracy and to identify any missing content.

## Voter Suppression is Not an Abstract Concept

We don't have to look to other states to see legislation which can be identified as Voter Suppression. Here are two bills currently working their way through the Minnesota Legislature. Take every opportunity you can to stay informed about and be alert to these challenges to our democracy. We have divided government in Minnesota and there are some guardrails in place to keep these efforts from succeeding, but we can never be complacent in the face of concerted efforts to challenge every citizen's right to vote.

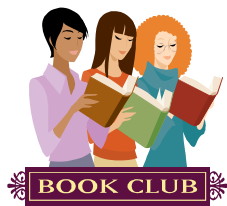
### House Omnibus (HF1952) Elections and Voting

- Automatically appropriates money received from the Federal government into the Help America Vote Act fund to the Secretary of State for use and redistribution to local governments in accordance with Federal requirements. This ensures that the legislature does not delay the appropriation of money, as has happened recently.
- Requires postsecondary institutions to assist students to provide proof of residence for voter registration.
- Restores the right to vote to individuals with felony convictions who are not incarcerated and living in their community.
- Establishes automatic voter registration.
- Provides technical and grammatical corrections to clarify existing law.
- Authorizes a school board to provide high school students credit for serving as an election judge or election judge trainee.
- Prohibits intimidation, interference, and deceptive practices in the elections process, including creating a specific crime for intimidating any election official or person assisting others in the voting process, including during voter registration. Establishes criminal penalties for those actions.

### Senate Omnibus (SF1831) Elections and Voting

- Ends existing appropriations of Help America Vote Act funds and redirects them into new appropriations not previously authorized.
- Removes same day registration by implementing provisional ballots, a costly process that burdens local election officials and disenfranchises eligible voters.
- Makes certain private voter information public.
- Removes the ability of local governments to have "pop-up" voting centers.
- Requires private election judge information to be distributed to political parties, who may then republish that information publicly.

Submitted by Ellen Wiss



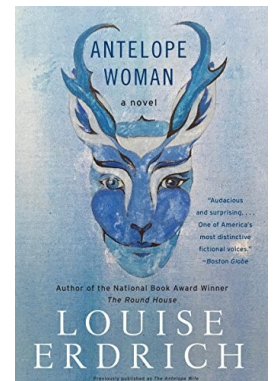
## LWV Duluth "The Sisters" Book Club Thursday, May 27 6:30 pm via Zoom

Questions: Gay Trachsel  
218-728-5478  
**Zoom link will be sent**

Book: "Antelope Woman"  
by Louis Erdrich

It illuminates how history affects contemporary descendants who are products of two cultures, Ojibwa and white.

Discussion leader:  
Barb Huberty



FYI: April City Read is Colin Whitehead's "Nickel Boys"—based on true story of the Dozier Reform School in Florida.

**Opportunities to Make a Difference; Become Involved in a LWV Duluth Committee**  
**Check website at [www.lwvduluth.org](http://www.lwvduluth.org) or E-News emails for updates.**

Committee	Contact	Next Meeting Date
Voter Service: Registration & New Citizens	Ellen Wiss mewiss62@gmail.com Candy Winkler: candywinkler49@gmail.com	Meets with whole Voter Service Committee on as needed basis
Voter Service: Forums	Mary Faulkner: faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com Pat Castellano Castellanop4@gmail.com	As needed
International Relations	Liz Taylor 393-0703 (cell)	As needed
Membership	Theresa O’Gara 724-4821 (home) Barb Johnson 218-879-1890	Meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 10:00 am
Citizens in Action, January 29, 2022	Rosie Loeffler-Kemp 341-2014 Ellen Wiss 612-310-9797	Contact Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Natural Resources	Sally Munger 728-0711 (home) Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	May 19 event with Izaak Walton League on Invasive Species being planned/ watch for E-News
Newsletter Mailing	Sally Munger 218-728-0711 Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678	Generally last Wednesday of the month @ place TBD. Call Sally for information
Observer Corps	Sue Henke 218-340-9383	Depends on Board or Commission
Cross Cultural	Janet Kennedy 218-349-8057 Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678	Monthly meeting on Zoom, second Saturday, 10 - noon . Contact Gail (gail4duluth@gmail.com) for Zoom link
Book Club	Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	Thursday, May 27 6:30 pm via Zoom. “Antelope” by Louise Erdrich Discussion Leader: Barb Huberty
Plant & Book Sale, Saturday June 12 Noon - 4:00 pm	Zandy Zwiebel 218-341-6099 zzwiebelgmail.com	Email Zandy with intent to donate plants or books and/or to volunteer day of the sale
Communications	Julie Seidelmann 348-1209 (cell) Gwen Thorson 624-4756 (home)	As needed
Equali-TEA Possibly Spring 2021	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women of Influence</li> <li>• Holiday Social</li> <li>• Annual Meeting</li> </ul>	Sandy Grandmaison, 348-7589 srgrandmaison@gmail.com	Annual Meeting, May 6 RSVP as soon as possible

## **Observer Opportunity City of Duluth Indigenous Commission**

The Indigenous Commission (previously known as the American Indian Commission) works to ensure that the views of the Indigenous Community are incorporated in the decision-making, future planning, and stewardship of the city of Duluth; it also works to increase understanding and acceptance of the Indigenous Community and culture. The Commission meets at 5:30 PM on the third Monday of the month. Meetings are virtual at this time. Liz Taylor has served as an observer for this Commission and is willing to act as a sub if needed. Please contact Liz (218-393-0703) with questions about the Commission.

Contact Sue Henke (218-340-9383) for details on how to get started.

## **Observers' Reports**

### **African Heritage Commission - March 10, 2021**

Commissioners Present: Antonio Carter, Bernice Pepper, Jebbeh Edmonds, John Staine, Susie Green, Verna Thornton  
City Staff Present: Mollie Hinderaker, Suzanne Kelley

City staff shared a summary of demographic data, requested by the Commission, with a specific focus on Duluth's Black and African Heritage community. Data Source: 2015-19 American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year estimates. The ACS 5 year estimates are an average of 5 years' worth of surveys conducted on a random sampling of the population. Duluth's population is 85,915. About 2% of the population, or 1959 people, selected "Black or African American" as their only racial identity. The report goes on to include the following data: BIPOC Racial Composition of Duluth, patterns of segregation in Duluth neighborhoods based on neighborhood racial composition, information about housing ownership, educational attainment, poverty, income, and employment for Duluth's total population and Duluth's Black population, and the percentage of all Duluthians and of Black Duluthians employed in 7 different occupational categories. For a copy of the full report, contact Gail at [gail4duluth@gmail.com](mailto:gail4duluth@gmail.com).

The Commissioners asked for additional data including number of African Heritage people employed in the trades, health and human services, education, etc. Suzanne Kelley, city staff, will write a summary of the Commissioners' request and share at the April 14 meeting.

The Commissioners voted and elected John Staine as Chair and Susie Green as Vice Chair.

Daniel Hakes, Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission spoke. He stated that racism is a public health issue and asked for help from the Commissioners to be part of a subcommittee with the Human Rights and Indigenous Commissions to draft a statement to this effect. John Staine, Jebbeh Edmonds, and Susie Greene volunteered to be a part of this subcommittee.

Plans for the Waabizheshikana Trail (formerly the Martin Trail) were discussed in terms of how African Heritage Historic Preservation can be applied to the development of the trail. Commissioner Staine suggested that a statue of George Bonga be placed at the head of the trail. George Bonga (1802-1880) was a Black Indigenous fur trader, one of the first people of African descent born in the part of the Northwest Territory that became the state of Minnesota. Commissioners Staine and Edmonds will follow up.

The next meeting will be held virtually on April 14 at 5:30 PM.

Submitted by Gail Schoenfelder

## Observers' Reports

(Continued from page 7)

### **Duluth City Council – April 12, 2021**

The Duluth City Council passed (21-0256R) RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN DULUTH, MN. This resolution calls for the development of a Climate Action Plan. Sponsors of this resolution were councilors Sipress, Randorf, Anderson, and Forsman. The City Council voted 8-0 approval with at large councilor Medved absent. Several community residents spoke in favor of the resolution. Councilor Forsman noted that the resolution doesn't increase taxes or lead to business mandates. He stated "Rather the Climate Action Plan really sets up a framework and an opportunity for more collaboration across the public sector, so we can all do better."

The Duluth City Council requests that the city administration develop a Climate Action Work Plan to be presented to council no later than December 31, 2021, that identifies targeted strategies for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and for becoming more resilient in preparation for a changing climate for both city government operations and in the wider community.

Submitted Jackie Johnson

### **Duluth Indigenous Commission - March 15, 2021**

Discussion on what the Commission would like in their relationship-building with the Duluth Police Department, included:

- Regular representation at Commission meetings.
- Having Indigenous representation on juries.
- More attention by the Duluth Police Department for social services.
- Training of police officers in mental health crisis.
- Working with/partnering with community mental health services to avoid further criminalizing.
- Communicating more with the opioid response team.

There was discussion on the Duluth Public Schools' plan to provide curriculum on Native Cultures, including Outdoor Native Education classes, representing eleven nations.

This winter yurts are being built on private properties to help the homeless. AIM (American Indian Movement) and City Councilor Van Nett are working to have some on public property, perhaps even a yurt village.

The Rights of Nature group will be invited to a Commission meeting to look further into Sacred Sites around Lake Superior and waterways that flow into Lake Superior.

Discussion on an Indigenous Commission calendar brought forward the need to include Chief Buffalo's activities.

Submitted by Liz Taylor

### **Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission - April 14, 2021**

The Commission meeting was held on WEBEX. The April meeting, as in the past, focused on accomplishments and future plans of the Parks and Recreation department.

The meeting started with introductions and welcomes to new Commissioner Kala Pederson and three new staff Recreation Specialists: Jarod Meyer, Abigail Proulx, and Bret Odegard. Parks and Recreation Manager Jess Peterson noted that the staffing was now up to 13 of 14 authorized positions.

Manager Peterson reviewed the 2020 Annual Report, commenting on how staff dealt with COVID 19 restrictions that impacted programs and facilities. In general, while many indoor events were curtailed or cancelled, demand for the outdoor facilities, especially trails, increased dramatically. Commissioner David Demmer commented that the numbers for youth participation seemed especially low. Jess Peterson responded that many summer youth programs had to be cancelled. The 2020 annual report is available at: <https://duluthmn.gov/media/11286/2020-annual-report-final-combined.pdf>

**Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission - April 14, 2021** (Continued on page 9)



## Observers' Reports (Continued from page 8)

### **Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission - April 14, 2021 (Continued)**

Clark Christianson, City Forester, described the city's Forest Revitalization Project. The aim of the project is to plan and implement ways to restore and perpetuate healthy, naturally sustainable forest land. A total of 108 acres has been selected for this demonstration project, including parcels in Hawk Ridge, Hartley Park, Enger Park, and Spirit Mountain. Activities will include thinning plantations, removal of invasives (e.g. buckthorn), seeding and planting, and generally restoring a "native mix" of trees. Christianson said that up to half of the city forest land could ultimately benefit from revitalization. Staff Planner Jim Shoberg added that signage and other forms of public information will be used as the project progresses.

Staff Planner Cliff Knettel presented information on progress for the Lakewalk, Canal Park and Baywalk. Planning and design will commence soon on the Baywalk, from the Irvin museum ship to Bayfront Park. This will include improvements to the seawalls and walkways, as well as facilities for passenger boarding for expected cruise ships, which will be funded by the US Economic Development Administration. Public involvement opportunities are expected this summer.

The Canal Park perimeter paths are 90% done and will be completed by Grandma's Marathon. Further work on the Lakewalk will include dealing with problem erosion areas and replacing "social trails" leading down to beach areas with intentional, sustainable access paths. Consultants on this project have been selected and will be starting soon. Public involvement activities are also expected this summer.

Jim Shoberg described an asset inventory that is underway as part of capital improvement planning for the parks. The city is assessing the needs among some 144 park facilities, to include buildings, trails, playgrounds, etc. The inventory is expected to be completed in a year or so. It will include agreements where local non-profits (e.g. COGGS, DXC) share cost/operations for some parks facilities.

Submitted by Lane Palmer, Ron Regal, Tom Burns

### **Duluth Public Library Board meeting - March 23, 2021**

There was a question from the community concerning book donations to the library. The library is not accepting donations at this time.

The Manager's Report included:

- Hiring update: Interviews for the Librarian II position to oversee Technical Services were completed and an offer has been made. Forms have been submitted seeking approval to fill vacant Library Technician positions.
- Current services: Curbside pickup remains robust with an average of 178 people per day using the service. About 15 to 20 people per day use the computer center.
- Long overdues: Final notices were mailed to library patrons with long overdue items. This is the third notice, and the point at which the patron is billed for replacement cost of the item(s). About 2000 long overdue items have been returned since the letters went out.
- Digitization project: arrangements have been made for the University of Minnesota to digitize the library's old, fragile microfilm copies of the Minnesotian, which was Duluth's first newspaper.
- Every Child Ready Duluth (ECRD): The ECRD team has added five Play & Learn early literacy kits to the collection. These are appropriate for ages birth to kindergarten, and include a themed collection of books and activities with tips for using the materials.
- Mt. Royal Art Project: The Mt. Royal Branch has been selected for a Legacy Amendment art project funded by the Arrowhead Library System. ALS will provide up to \$3000 for a piece of artwork for the branch, and the Duluth Public Arts Commission has offered a match. The art selected will celebrate Duluth's key artistic, cultural and /or historical attributes.
- Library opening: a version of "grab & go" is tentatively scheduled to begin sometime in April at the branch libraries only. In Duluth, this service will be called "Library Express."

In other business: New board officers were elected. Advocacy with the city will remain focused on ECRD and will include lots of gratitude for support of library services. Working toward implementation of the strategic plan remains a primary issue.

Submitted by Debbi Rasmussen

## Observers' Reports

(Continued from page 9)

### Natural Resources Commission - April 7, 2021

After last month's concern about Commissioners' access to full comments from the public meeting regarding the City's **Forest Revitalization Project** (<https://duluthmn.gov/media/WebSubscriptions/196/20210204-196-12464.pdf>), Commissioners were sent complete unedited comments, and this will be standard procedure for all future meetings.

Discussion related to FRP comments concerned:

- Goal (forest sustainability rather than profit), and making that clear to the public
- Preservation of riparian habitats
- Possible private group management of stands by the zoo
- Relationship of this project to the new Natural Resource Management Plan re: process, messaging, staffing, and funding

Commissioners reaffirmed last month's **unanimous approval**, with the caveats that the work be carefully observed, and that penalties for failure to meet standards be built into the contract.

Natural Resources Coordinator Diane Desotelle reported on:

- Amendments to the **Hunting Deer by Bow Ordinance**: changing setback from an occupied dwelling or active commercial structure from 400 to 250 ft, and expediting "hotspot" determination to better react to changes in deer patterns and problems.
  - Concern was expressed about homeowner liability; Diane will look into this.
- Grant Applications related to **data gaps** for Brewer-Piedmont Native Plant Community and other Natural Resource Management Plan Program (NRMPP) areas, and development of bird conservation plans for the estuary and woodlands.
- A **timeline for NRMPP development**, including current work with the EPA on a ranking system for city and partner projects. Two Community engagement workshops are planned for July and August.

City Forester Clark Christenson reported on:

- Amazing new **Treeplogger Inventory** software which can pull up plantable space and individual trees in 25,000 sites across Duluth. Data entry is proceeding and could include Emerald Ash Borer info. Eventually this could be shared with the public.
- **Ash removals** continue; calls are at least a month ahead due to weather and COVID.
- **Planting** will begin as trees arrive.
- With Commissioner Sprague's expertise, **EAB outreach education** to homeowners is getting out the message that decisions to remove vs. inject trees must be made as soon as possible, so that brittle diseased trees do not become hazardous.

Director Jim Williams reports that the City and County are negotiating **two tax-forfeited land projects**. Agreement on parcels along the St. Louis River is expected this spring, and those along Mission Creek, Lester-Amity, Hartley, and Piedmont are in process.

Submitted by Barb Akre

**Observers' Reports Continued on page 11.**



Observers' Reports for all boards, councils and commissions are found on LWV Duluth website under the Local Committees/Reports Tab.

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

## Observers' Reports

(Continued from page 10)

### St. Louis County Board—April 6, 2021

The following comments are a summary of observations at the St. Louis County Board Meeting on April 6, 2021.

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

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

7 out of 7 commissioners were present (Commissioners Jewell and Grimm participated virtually.)

Commissioner Patrick Boyle acknowledged “National Public Health Week” and the efforts of county personnel in managing the COVID pandemic—especially, testing and vaccination efforts. He stated that 24,000 doses of vaccine have been administered, so far. St. Louis County Director of Public Health, Amy Westbrook, stated that “public health” is a broad area and acknowledged the many partners involved (e.g. social services, safety, etc.)

No citizens addressed the Board on any issue not on the agenda.

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

There was one item on the Regular Agenda presented by the Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee: a resolution declaring a continued State of Local Emergency and rescind all previously adopted related resolutions and policies. (Note: Only “a couple” of things were removed from the original authorization. This was an update of status.) Resolution passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.

Submitted by Gwen Thorson

### St. Louis County Board—April 13, 2021

The following comments are a summary of observations at the St. Louis County Board Meeting on April 13, 2021.

The Regular Meeting began at 9:30 am.

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

6 out of 7 commissioners were present (Commissioner Jewel and Grimm participated virtually. Commissioner Musolf was absent)

Commissioner Mike Jugovich announced “National Telecommunicators Week,” April 11-17, 2021. He acknowledged the efforts of county personnel in responding to over 212,000 calls for help in 2020 and the work of the county to link 180 public safety agencies in responding to those calls. Jason Lukovsky, coordinator of the Sheriff’s Department 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Division, also addressed the Board.

No citizens addressed the Board on any issue not on the agenda.

A PUBLIC HEARING was held to consider the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to Minno-ette Inc. dba Minno-ette, Inc., Fredenberg Township. The resolution passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

There was one item on the Regular Agenda presented by the Environment & Natural Resources Committee: a resolution regarding the conveyance of state tax forfeited land to the City of Hermantown for road right-of-way purposes. Resolution passed unanimously. (Note: This will allow the City of Hermantown to insure future access to Stebner Road.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 am.

Submitted by Gwen Thorson

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

**Return Service Requested**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM/RENEWAL FORM**  
*Membership Renewals due by Sept. 30*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (Check one)

- Individual \$65
- Student/Limited Income \$20
- Full Scholarship \$0
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

- Additional support: \$20 \$40 \$60 \$100 Other Amount: \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to donate \$20 to sponsor a limited income member.

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**All members with an e-mail address will receive the Voter newsletter by e-mail. Do you also wish to receive a print copy of the Voter newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no**

**Make check payable to LWV Duluth & mail to:  
Nancy Palmer, 444 Hartley Pl., Duluth, MN 55803  
OR**

**To pay online, go to our website: [lwvduluth.org](http://lwvduluth.org)**