



City of Blaine

Anoka County, Minnesota

Minutes - Final

10801 Town Square Dr.
Blaine MN 55449

Nat'l Resources Conservation Board

The Natural Resource Conservation Board is an advisory body to the City Council. The Board is charged with recommending acquisition of lands for open space and developing a Natural Resource Plan which includes environmental policy and guidelines for the maintenance and preservation of Blaine's existing and future open spaces and trail corridors. One of the Board's functions is to hold public meetings and make recommendations to the City Council. For each item, the Board will receive reports prepared by City staff, provide the opportunity for public response, conduct Board discussions and make recommendations. The City Council, however, makes all final decisions on these matters.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

7:30 PM

1. Call To Order

1. *The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m*

2. Roll Call

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaison, Jim Hafner; and Recording Secretary, Beth Bostrom.

Present: 7 - Chair McKinley, Kustermann, Schrunk, Castillo, Truchon, Garner, and Ochocki

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Boardmember Castillo, seconded by Boardmember Garner to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2011 Board Meeting as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman McKinley requested to add Approval of the Agenda. She requested to change the order of items 5c and 5b around. She suggested this so there will be sufficient time to discuss the website.

MOVED by Boardmember Ochocki, seconded by Boardmember Castillo to approve the January 17, 2012 Board Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Chairman McKinley asked tonight's guests to introduce themselves.

Diana Nguyen of Circle Pines and Alyssa Prokott of Blaine introduced themselves. They explained that they are here observing for a government class assignment which requires that they attend a local government meeting.

5. New Business

5a Financial Report

Chairman McKinley explained that there is a discrepancy in the state of the funds. She asked for a report.

The Staff Liaison stated that he has found that there is no discrepancy. He explained that there is a new format and system for the city financial records. He explained that he misread the format. He reviewed that the Open Space Management Fund Statement showed the 2010 expenses and revenues and the beginning balances for 2011. He reviewed that the expenditures and fund balance for 2011 are included. He added that the Radisson Road trail project was delayed for lack of an easement and around \$55,000 is to be spent for additional projects. He reviewed that Pioneer Park improvements are proposed for 2012. He commented that the 2013-2015 CIP total is \$107,800. He reviewed that there are unencumbered monies in the fund. He reviewed that there are funds for surveying and engineering for the Radisson Road project.

Boardmember Kustermann asked if revenue is anticipated this year.

The Staff Liaison stated that the Finn Farm area north of the Woodland Development may begin in 2012. He commented that if this happens 35 percent of the park dedication fees paid will go to the Open Space fund. He explained that \$25,000 was earned this year from interest and park dedication funds. He suggested that there may be other developments but this is the most likely one to develop. He reviewed that Council is considering increasing the park dedication fees by 5 percent which is about \$40 per unit more than the current NRCB share.

Boardmember Kustermann asked about potential revenue from the East Lake Park development by Hans Hagen.

The Staff Liaison stated that some of these park dedication fees may have already been paid.

Boardmember Ochocki asked if all of the 2011 projects are complete.

The Staff Liaison stated that the Laddie Lake project is still being completed with work going on this week. He reviewed that the ground is sandy and work was delayed until the ground froze so the heavy equipment would not sink in. He explained that the controlled burns will be completed in the spring. He noted that Sites 8, 9, 10 and 11 will have controlled burns.

5c 2012 Goals and Vision

Chairman McKinley stated that her goals include utilizing the Open Space Management Plan for guidance and setting priorities. She requested that ideas be explored for enhancing public awareness and use of open spaces and trails. She requested that each Boardmember choose an open space or trail area to visit and report on to the Board. She asked each Boardmember to choose a goal to be involved with beyond the NRCB meetings. She explained that ideas for additional goals include upgrading the NRCB website, or attending a City Council workshop which would possibly be in April. She explained that an idea was to have a joint

meeting with the Park Board and an agenda for this meeting needs to be prepared. She stated that another goal could be to pursue the idea of geocaching. She reviewed that there is a Parks Department triathlon in May. She stated that another goal could be to address concerns with illegal dumping, and vandalism. She stated that a kite flying event could be considered.

Boardmember Castillo suggested considering a kite flying event in February which could be held on a frozen lake so there is a wide open space.

Chairman McKinley stated that she will be involved with Earth Day in April and would like to be involved in Blazin' Fourth. She offered to do a display board at the Home and Garden show next month.

Boardmember Truchon suggested participating in the Music and Art Festival sponsored by the Parks Department in June. She stated that because of the burning and restoration work she would like a tour to view the completed work.

Chairman McKinley agreed that this would be a good idea and recommended it for later spring or early summer.

Boardmember Castillo suggested that they are missing out on using social media to communicate with the community. He recommended that this be a goal. He stated that Facebook could be used to have people become friends with the NRCB. He reviewed that items of interest by the NRCB Board could be posted. He stated that they could announce events.

Boardmember Truchon stated that she was at a meeting and a Blaine resident came up and explained that they are never aware of what the NRCB is doing. She explained that there is a Lakes Facebook page where people were communicating about a concern that there would be new development in a wetland area.

5b Discussion on Possible Web Site Revisions

Chairman McKinley stated that there are ideas for the website.

Boardmember Ochocki stated that the NRCB does not have authority to control the postings as it is a city website.

The Staff Liaison stated that the city website staff could be requested to create an updated NRCB page but someone on the Board would have to monitor the site.

Chairman McKinley stated that this could be discussed at the meeting they attend with City Council which is being proposed for April. She asked that Boardmember Castillo attend this meeting.

Boardmember Castillo asked the Staff Liaison to find out Blaine's rules for being on Facebook so they can move forward with social media.

The Staff Liaison pulled up the Park and Recreation Department's city webpage and followed the connection to their Facebook page for review.

Chairman McKinley stated that her goal is to put information about Open Spaces and Trails, and display pictures. She asked if staff has talked with the city's webmaster.

The Staff Liaison offered to talk with her and find out the guidelines for social media.

Boardmember Castillo suggested devoting an entire meeting to setting up social media. He recommended using Facebook to accept applications for future NRBC Boardmembers.

Boardmember Truchon stated that a photographer, Peter Dziuk, donated 50,000 pictures to Blaine which are of native plants. These pictures can be used on the website or for the NRBC's purposes. She suggested using social media to put information on encroaching on open space and illegal dumping.

Chairman McKinley mentioned that for the 2012 CIP it was discussed to have funds set aside for three to four kiosks this year which is not shown on the official list.

The Staff Liaison stated that he needs to have three bids for estimates. He added that he does not know what the cost will be for the budget. He stated that Boardmember Garner has a connection and requested the information from him.

Chairman McKinley requested that the 2012 CIP include funding for the kiosks.

The Staff Liaison stated that under \$10,000 can be approved administratively without going through Council.

Chairman McKinley reviewed that for next month the Staff Liaison will check on and report back on Facebook and website guidelines which will be discussed at this meeting.

Boardmember Ochocki commented that the website would include verbiage, Boardmembers names and information but a Facebook page has more glitz.

Chairman McKinley agreed and supported considering both website updates and a Facebook page.

Other

The Staff Liaison noted that the Park Board Director suggested March or April for a meeting with the NRCB. He stated that it was suggested that the NRCB have an agenda which would be listed as items on the Park Board's meeting.

Boardmember Ochocki suggested having pictures of Boardmembers taken to put on the NRCB website. He recommended that Boardmember Schrunk bring her camera for next month.

The Staff Liaison stated that there may be a policy against posting Boardmember pictures and offered to check on this.

Chairman McKinley suggested taking a group picture. She confirmed that Boardmembers would like a joint meeting with the Park Board in March. She added that next month they will come up with questions or discussion topics for this meeting.

Boardmember Ochocki confirmed that after 12 years on the NRCB his last meeting will be in March.

6. Old Business

None.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Boardmember Kustermann, seconded by Boardmember Schrunk to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.