



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 opens 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, November 15, 2011

7:30 PM

City Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

1. *The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.*

2. Roll Call

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

Present: 4 - Chair McKinley, Kustermann, Truchon, and Garner

Absent: 3 - Schrunk, Castillo, and Ochocki

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Kustermann to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2011 Board Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**4 Approval of the Agenda
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The Staff Liaison asked to add information about the City of Blaine website under Other Topics.

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Garner to approve the November 15, 2011 Board Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

6 New Business

6a TMP 11-0203

The Staff Liaison stated that last month a proposal outline was handed out for production of a video. The video would provide public education concerning the illegal dumping of yard waste. He reported that he worked with Roark Haver, City Communication Technician, to shoot a little footage of illegal dumping. In the spring they will add shots of lawn mowing and complete the video. The video will be shown to the Board upon completion. They will attempt to get some leaf raking video in this year yet. He added that Boardmember Truchon reported some dumping of grass and concrete by a resident which he followed up on with the resident by mail. He explained that he heard back from the resident right away. He reported that the resident claims he was told by the realtor that he could dump in this outlying area. He apologized to staff and cleaned up the area right away. This quick attention was appreciated by staff.

Boardmember Truchon stated that some training was previously done for real estate agents on another topic and she asked to provide training to realtors on open space management, trails and illegal dumping. She reviewed that they could cover the city plans for specific areas.

The Staff Liaison agreed that it would be good to provide realtor education.

Boardmember Truchon stated that her neighborhood actively uses yard waste containers.

Discussed

6b TMP 11-0204

The Staff Liaison prepared a PowerPoint of a concept from Rice Creek Watershed for Area 7 in the Open Space Wetland Plan. He reviewed that this is around Lateral 3 of ditch 53-62. He stated that it was recommended to block off this area and restore the wetland to its previous condition. This would result in obtaining wetland credits for future development needs. He stated that this restoration area is known as Branch 3 and a weir was constructed across the lateral. He reviewed where the conservation area is also known as the restoration project. This has been surveyed and marked as a conservation area. There are about 25 signs up around the perimeter of the area. He added that Critical Connections Ecological Services participated by submitting a plan which was accepted. He provided a review of how the weir can be adjusted based on the flow of water. He reviewed that the water was up to the top of the weir this spring but the area is currently dry. He added that the vegetation management part of the project was begun last year which is a 5 year plan. This plan is for the removal of woody trees that are nuisance vegetation like buckthorn. He stated that management of the area was effective in killing off the nonnative vegetation. He noted that the work was signed off on by the agency that regulates this project. He reviewed that there were some burn breaks cut to prepare for a controlled burn. He noted that Jason Husveth updated them on the seed bank which is exceeding expectations. He reviewed that on 117th Lane heading out of the Lakes to East Lake Park there is a looping trail. This comes to the northwest corner of the restoration. He stated that the burn was done last week daily. He noted that the area was moist and a bit muddy but dry of water. He provided pictures which showed the progress of the burn. He provided aerial pictures of the area which were taken today. He concluded that this is the second year of the project and there are four more years of the project in total. He explained that Jason Husveth will complete a report and file it with BWSR. He indicated that the goal is to earn 50+ acres of

wetland credit. He reviewed an early concept plan of potential trails in the area. He explained where access is to the new property on Lexington. He recommended putting an interpretive center on the Lexington property as a future goal.

Boardmember Truchon asked to have an interpretive center and a bird watching platform in the concept plan.

The Staff Liaison stated that this holds the potential for creating a significant nature center for the area.

Chairman McKinley asked to have a joint workshop with Council next year like was done this past April to discuss their plans. She asked to have a copy of the Wetland Restoration Concept Plan for the Boardmembers NRBC books. She suggested putting this in the management plan.

The Staff Liaison stated that this area could be visited in the spring to watch for vegetation in bloom.

Discussed

6c TMP 11-0205

Chairman McKinley reviewed that a handout was given last month in consideration of tonight's meeting. She asked for a recap.

The Staff Liaison reviewed the 2012 Capital Improvements spreadsheet of all the sites. This incorporates CIP projects from 2009, 2010 and 2011 including projects that were completed this fall. The fall projects were removal of buckthorn and other woody invasive species. He added that the 2011 CIP includes Laddie Lake and some restoration at the other sites that were cleaned out over the last couple of years. This work will begin in the spring. He noted that the spring 2012 work was approved this past year. He added that work at Lochness Park will potentially be in 2013. He noted that Site 5 has been delayed until the development is completed to the south of it. He stated for 2012, Laddie Lake replanting and restoration of the Hidden Ponds area where part of the 2012 CIP that had been scheduled for next year. This \$12,000 is already considered spent. The projected cost for Pioneer Park is not known yet. He stated that \$201,000 is spent or encumbered to be spent. He reviewed that costs to 2013 are estimates and the work has not been added to a plan at this point. This work for the Open Space Management Plan is considered medium or low priority. He reported that the Open Space planning document breaks up individual projects which have been updated. The old Radisson Road trail project has an easement issue so it is delayed until 2012. This is why it was not completed on the 2011 CIP. He reviewed that current contracts and work are noted. He stated that these are actual dollars which have been spent or were approved in the current CIP plan. He added that all approved projects have been completed or are in motion.

Chairman McKinley asked if \$30,000 is an estimate for Pioneer Park in 2012.

The Staff Liaison stated that this is a place holder amount and is an estimate.

Chairman McKinley stated that she previously requested funding for kiosks to get them put into some open spaces and special use parks. She recommended three for a start; East Lake Park where you can see the wetland area, the Kane Meadows open space area and Pioneer Park. She formally proposed this for the 2012 CIP. She suggested \$15,000 for the budget.

MOVED by Boardmember McKinley, seconded by Boardmember Truchon, to advise the City Council that the 2012 CIP include \$15,000 for three proposed kiosks. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McKinley stated that some trail signs have gone up. She confirmed that they were paid for with the SHIP grant. She suggested adding more signs like this to additional trails.

Boardmember Truchon asked where these signs went in.

The Staff Liaison stated that there were about 60 signs put in parks around the city.

Chairman McKinley asked if the signs were put in at Kane Meadows and in Pioneer Park.

The Staff Liaison offered to provide a list that would be obtained from the Park Department. He stated that all trails have a sign. The signs say "You Are Here" and give approximate distances. He stated that a few signs are attracting vandals who are putting graffiti on them.

Chairman McKinley asked what the cost is for these signs. She suggested considering more signs and requested to see a list for the ones that have gone in. She asked if the Kane Meadows Open Space trails have signs up.

The Staff Liaison stated that he was consulted on sign placement and reviewed the trails to provide recommendations. He offered to do a report on the signs.

Boardmember Truchon stated that the signs are much appreciated.

Chairman McKinley added that signs would be appreciated in all open spaces and special use parks.

Chairman McKinley asked about the budget for the trail video.

The Staff Liaison stated that State statute specifies how the Open Space funds can be used. The yard waste video will be paid for by the stormwater fund.

Boardmember Truchon suggesting putting kiosks in next year and asked to look at benches in the future.

Boardmember Kustermann asked what the net worth balance is.

The Staff Liaison explained that there was a discrepancy. He explained that with the encumbered CIP amount with the current contract and next year's work the 2015 projected amount shows available funds of \$390,000. He stated that the Finance Department shows a bit less than this and he is working on having a sit down meeting with them as they show just under \$300,000. He reviewed that he has documentation of the reports and summaries from the beginning of 2010 to rectify the amount. He added that he feels confident in the number he shows. He stated that this would be settled by January. He explained that a new financial system has been in place from earlier in the year.

Boardmember Kustermann stated that this is a substantial difference. He reviewed that based on annual expenditures there is funding available through 2015 lasting until January of 2016.

The Staff Liaison stated that he has a record of every expenditure. He indicated that there is projected revenue of \$65,000 for next year pending final approvals of a new project.

MOVED by Boardmember Kustermann, seconded by Boardmember Garner, to advise the City Council that the 2012 CIP is accepted with the addition of kiosks in addition to the other items listed. Motion carried unanimously.

6d TMP 11-0206

Chairman McKinley stated that the meeting schedule had been reviewed and it was agreed to not hold a December meeting. She reviewed that the Park Board does not meet in December. She asked the Board what they would like to do for December.

Boardmember Kustermann recommended not meeting in December.

Chairman McKinley reviewed that if there are fewer meetings the attendance may have been better and Council had asked that they meet regularly.

Chairman McKinley reviewed that the next meeting will be in January. She stated that no meeting was fully attended in 2011. She asked that more attention be given to full meeting attendance.

Boardmember Truchon stated that she has a conflict with another Board for the January and February meetings. She noted that she will still attend these two NRBC meetings but will be late.

Chairman McKinley asked for Boardmembers to call her or staff liaison if they cannot attend the meeting so they can review the agenda and discuss it. She indicated that in January they will be setting goals. She explained that this year's goals have been met. She reviewed her 3 goals which were to make CIP recommendations, increased use of the NRCB manual and individual Boardmember tours with report back on an area. She asked that each Boardmember come to the January meeting with a goal to share. She requested to review the balance figure in January also.

MOVED by Boardmember Kustermann, seconded by Boardmember Garner, to advise the City Council that the NRCB will not hold a December meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

7 Other Business

The Staff Liaison stated statistics were requested previously on use of the city website. He reviewed that the figures go back to June, 2010 when the website was updated. He reported that 27,774 page titles were viewed, a total of 696,902 hits on the city web page; and 12 page titles and a total of 298 hits for the Natural Resources Conservation Board site. He reviewed that the most use was in the spring and during May, June and July. He reviewed that the NRCB site is linked from the Park Board site.

Chairman McKinley asked what is on the site for the NRCB.

The Staff Liaison explained that the environmental policy and guidelines are on the website, and some general information about the NRBC itself. He offered to add the website to a future agenda for review and recommendations.

Boardmember Truchon stated that yard waste and stormwater can be mentioned on

the site. She suggested trails could be listed.

The Staff Liaison brought up a display of the website and noted that the NRCB meeting details need to be updated. He added that environmental policy and guidelines could be added to the website. He reviewed the resolution that established the Board in 2001. He reviewed that Friends of Open Space is mentioned, the Greenway Corridors Concept Plan is mentioned, the Open Space Management Plan is listed and the regional parks are listed but need to be updated. He showed the maps of the Open Spaces.

Boardmember Truchon suggested attending a Park Advisory Board meeting next year.

8 Adjournment

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Kustermann to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.