



# 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.*

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Tuesday, April 17, 2012

7:30 PM

Council Chambers

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### 1. Call To Order

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

### 2. Roll Call

*Others Present: Staff Liaison, Jim Hafner; Recording Secretary, Beth Bostrom*

**Present:** 6 - Chair McKinley, Rafferty, Schrunck, Castillo, Truchon, and Gunter

**Absent:** 1 - Kustermann

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Chairman McKinley requested to start with approval of the joint meeting minutes.

She requested the following corrections:

Page 2, the third paragraph under Kiosks: "Commissioner Markle ~~asked if suggested that solar lighting would be put in on trails at Hidden Ponds could be added to the kiosks.~~"

Page 5, for items i & j the title for this section should be changed to: "Lexington Avenue Open Space and Transplant Trillium Plants at Laddie Lake." Also, in the first paragraph of this section, the 14th sentence should read: "...native seed ~~back~~ bank..."

**Moved by Truchon, seconded by Gunter, that the Minutes of the March 13, 2012 Joint Meeting with the Park Board be Approved as amended. The Motion**

was adopted unanimously.

Chairman McKinley requested approval of the March 20 Board meeting. She requested the following change:

Page 4, Item 5.c, second sentence: "...all items ~~except for one were on the agenda~~  
on the agenda except for one were discussed.

Boardmember Schrunk requested a clarification:

Page 2, last paragraph: "...suggested that the photo ~~be of an acre of land so~~  
have  
an identifying anchor so they can name the location."

**Moved by Schrunk, seconded by Truchon, that the Minutes of March 20, 2012 be Approved as amended. The Motion was adopted unanimously.**

**4. Open Forum for Citizen Input**

There was none.

**5. New Business**

**5a Update on trillium recovery project**

Chairman McKinley stated that she contacted Great River Greening and was told there are three state agencies that deal with overseeing this type of project. This includes MNDOT, DNR and Agriculture. The NRCB is under Agriculture and a permit is not needed for their purposes. She reported that it was suggested to ask the power company what they do to clean below the power lines. She stated that she contacted the appropriate party at the power company who explained they did routine maintenance every five years in the area with the most recent maintenance completed two years ago. He reported to her that they clean out the underbrush and may use chemicals. She stated that the NRCB has this year and next year to do the trillium recovery. She reported that the DNR recommends waiting to transplant the trillium until they have flowered and withered. She relayed that she received a note from former Boardmember Ochocki who walked the area and found over 30 trillium clumps to transplant. He offered his participation in the project.

**5b Report on presentation of awards**

Chairman McKinley stated that on April 5 she and Boardmember Schrunk attended a meeting for the outgoing Boardmembers, which was nice. She reported that the Patriot Award was presented to the Staff Liaison, Jim Hafner. She stated that this was unexpected. The Staff Liaison stated that four years ago the engineering department had an intern who was also in the National Guard. He explained that after completing the internship, this person obtained his Masters degree while waiting for a training opportunity in the National Guard. After completing the training he spent a year of active duty in Iraq. Upon returning to civilian life he contacted Mr. Hafner searching for work. Hafner aided the service man by sending around his resume and helping him find work. He stated that this man recommended him for an award from ESGR (Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve), which recognizes employers who help service men find work.

**5c Earth Day - this Saturday, April 21 at Hidden Ponds Park, 10:00AM to Noon**

Chairman McKinley stated that there will be cleanup of litter in the park and some tree plantings. She reported that she will have a display regarding yard waste disposal. She reported that Veolia has a program. She asked if compost bins will be provided this year. The Staff Liaison stated that they will not.

Chairman McKinley stated that she checked with Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff about promoting the trail adoption project, which has already been addressed under the Parks policy. She asked if Hidden Ponds is a stormwater pond. The Staff Liaison stated that he believes it is.

Chairman McKinley stated that Tom Godfrey has been promoting the Earth Day project in the neighborhood groups and she hopes there is as much participation as possible.

**5d Report from web site committee**

The Staff Liaison stated that he received an email from Mada with an agenda to discuss. He stated that she has plans to put a to do list together for him. He reported on items to be addressed. This includes adding a photograph to the main page. He reported that he has pictures of the Natural Resource Inventory from 2001 and several of those photos have been reviewed. He stated that this will be worked on. He stated that Mada recommended adding a current photo of all the Boardmembers and suggested doing it outside by an open

space. He asked to set a time and date for the picture. He noted that the city has a copy of the 2001 Natural Resources Inventory, which can be uploaded with information about the timeframe it was done in. He stated that the history of the original Natural Resource Board will be collected for listing on the web site. He mentioned the idea of creating an accomplishments tab, which would show projects that are completed, in progress and are being considered. He added that other tasks already completed were to create a link to the Natural Plant Society and to add links to the trail map.

Boardmember Truchon stated that this list sounds accurate. She stated that 10 years has gone by and they considered looking at their missions statement and policies. She suggested addressing this at a workshop or one of their regular meetings. The Staff Liaison asked if they had considered having the web site committee work on the missions statement and policies, which could then be presented for discussion at a future Board meeting.

Boardmember Truchon stated that she received an idea from Boardmember Gunter, which is new mission statement wording. She passed this around for consideration. She suggested the committee meet again in a few weeks to work on the statements. She stated that Mada has been helpful and brings much enthusiasm to their meetings.

Boardmember Castillo asked if they could use the local jail cell and take a picture of someone illegally dumping items and going to jail for it. He stated that this would be a humorous way to bring attention to this issue.

Chairman McKinley asked about the environmental policy attempt that was previously made in 2002. She asked if some of the items would be best addressed by staff. She asked about creating an environmental policy committee. She asked if this will be a separate committee or part of the web site committee.

Boardmember Truchon stated that she found out a few weeks ago from staff that other cities call and ask for Blaine's environmental policy. She stated that they should make an attempt to address this. She asked who would like to participate. Chairman McKinley stated that she will participate along with staff.

Boardmember Truchon reviewed the items that are being addressed by the web site committee. Boardmember Castillo suggested addressing one item at a time as there is a long list.

Boardmember Truchon stated that many items have been addressed already. The Staff Liaison stated that he has posted many of the items to the web site. He added that the photos or accomplishments would not be difficult to do.

Boardmember Castillo asked if there are comments from people outside of the Board. He asked if these could be posted on the NRCB page. The Staff Liaison stated that this could be done.

Boardmember Castillo recommended challenging the policy that says the NRCB cannot have its own Facebook page. The Staff Liaison stated that the policy is from only two years ago. He stated that twitter and social media are all interlinked. He stated that the monitoring is an issue. He suggested bringing this idea before City Council.

Boardmember Schrunk asked how many hits the web page gets for the NRCB. He reported that in the first 3 months of the year there was a significant increase.

Boardmember Castillo stated that he has not been on the web site. He asked that the policy be changed to include Facebook so it is accessible to people.

Boardmember Truchon suggested that ideas presented will improve their visibility. Boardmember Castillo stated that changes need to be made so that people can find the information in a medium they use.

Chairman McKinley thanked the committee for their work on the web site and with the improvements the NRCB web page is better than it was before.

Boardmember Schrunk asked if the NRCB is covered in the newsletter. Chairman McKinley stated that it is not. An article needs to be written before it is printed there. She reviewed that a new environmental policy committee is being formed. She reviewed that Boardmembers Truchon, Rafferty, Gunter and herself will be on this committee. She confirmed that Monday, April 30 at 6:30PM will be when they meet.

The Staff Liaison suggested that social media and the newsletter are useful when promoting an activity. He suggested promoting an activity each month. Boardmember Truchon suggested creating a calendar item for each month and working actively to promote it. She asked if there is money to host a bird walk for \$30.

The Staff Liaison stated that this would need to come out of the Park Department funds. He stated that he will speak to Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff about this. He recommended hosting a fall bird walk and advertising it in the August newsletter. He commented that this would appear on the social media sites.

Boardmember Truchon suggested hosting a photography walk through an

open space. The Staff Liaison stated that later July would be a good time frame for a photography walk as a lot of wild flowers are in bloom then. He recommended putting this in the newsletter also.

Boardmember Schrunk suggested using these opportunities to remind people about open space and get the word out about it. Boardmember Castillo recommended doing a walk at East Lake Park and Oaks Savannah Park. He explained that following the event people can comment on it and share on twitter and other social medias.

Chairman McKinley asked who will write this up.

Boardmember Truchon suggested events in the following locations. May will focus on a walk in the Oaks Savannah, June will be at Lochness Park, July will be a photo walk in Pioneer Park, August will be at East Lake Park, and in September there will be a bird walk at Kane Meadows.

Chairman McKinley reviewed that the environmental policy committee will meet on April 30. She stated that an open space of the month has been established. She confirmed that Boardmember Truchon will write up the information for staff to put on social media.

Boardmember Castillo suggested planning the next few months so if funding needs approval there is time to get it on the Park Boards agenda. He suggested that June would be the photo walk at Lochness Park with Boardmember Schrunk. He asked that she come next month with a date in mind.

The Staff Liaison stated that the newsletter will not come out in August but will be out September 1st.

## **6. Other Business**

Chairman McKinley stated that last month a trail dedication sign had been damaged. She called Public Works who looked at the sign. She reported that city staff called her back after about 2 hours and explained they had straightened up the sign. She commented that staff reported that it appeared the sign was hit and bent by a large truck.

Boardmember Truchon stated that the Arts women asked if there is still a need for an NRCB logo. She stated that Jane Daniels asked about this. Chairman McKinley stated that several pictures were submitted before and the logo is not currently needed.

**7. Adjournment**

**Moved by Schrunk, seconded by Truchon, that this meeting be Adjourned. The Motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.**