



# 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, June 19, 2012

7:30 PM

Council Chambers

---

1.a NRCB group photo

1.b Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Also 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 a correction on page 2, under 4c, second sentence:

"...distributed a ~~handwritten policy~~ copies of statements that ~~was~~ were prepared by Boardmember Gunter and herself."

Chair McKinley requested a correction on page 3, last paragraph, second to last

sentence: "... asked for ~~an item~~ items to be written up for the next ~~Board~~ subcommittee meeting."

**Moved by Boardmember Rafferty, seconded by Boardmember Gunter to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2012 Board Meeting as amended.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Open Forum for Citizen Input**

The Staff Liaison commented that there is not a place for approval of the agenda. Chairman McKinley stated that approval of the agenda has not been included since the new format was used.

**5. New Business**

**5.a Web site update - new feature**

Chairman McKinley thanked Mada Tautges for her work as a member of the community who contributed information to the NRCB website. She thanked the Staff Liaison for his work on the website. She commented that Boardmember Rafferty offered to write up the history of this Board.

The Staff Liaison reviewed the city website. He navigated to contact information for Boardmembers, which is found under Park and Recreation, and then under Natural Resources Conservation Board. He commented that a picture is needed to go below the text in the middle of the page. He noted that on the NRCB page under the Open Space and Trails link is the new location of examples of High Quality Open Space. He reviewed the new selection tool that was added. He reviewed the links for each open space along with the amenities of each area. There is a link for a map with legend. He reviewed the option to view Open Space Amenities, which links to the appropriate location. He explained that the city webmaster is suggesting that more pictures be added. He recommended obtaining digital photos. Boardmember Schrunk offered her pictures of Lochness Park and Hidden Ponds Park.

The Staff Liaison commented on an NRCB article started by Boardmember Truchon to which he added some details. It will run on the front page of July's City newsletter. He suggested that discussion take place at the July, NRCB meeting regarding the featured open spaces for September and October.

Boardmember Truchon expressed appreciation to the Staff Liaison for his work on the city website. She expressed appreciation for the history information in the newsletter article.

Chairman McKinley expressed that on the website under Charge of the Board the statement is not accurate. The Staff Liaison commented that the wording for this came up in the Council Workshop last week and he researched it. He stated it was written in 2001, revised again in 2002 and 2003. He provided this background information and wrote an updated copy as a proposal. He read this to the Board. He reviewed that this version of the Charge of the Board will go to Council for review.

Chairman McKinley expressed appreciation to the Staff Liaison on this and asked for feedback on the results.

**Discussed**

**5.b Environmental policy committee report**

Chairman McKinley stated that all four members met. She stated that she was told the NRCB is charged to develop an environmental policy for the city. She commented that Boardmember Truchon found information on the internet that was helpful for this. She reported calling a Councilmember who served on the original Environmental Policy Committee. She reported that Council will provide direction on creating a policy following a workshop discussion on this topic. It was suggested that they hold off until more direction is given.

Boardmember Truchon reviewed the internet information she found. She researched state law to see the environmental policy that is covered by the state. She reviewed that another website provided a draft copy of an environmental policy, which she provided to the Board for review. She suggested that the city would save money by instituting these policies. She recommended that the policy be kept open like the example statements show. She gave an example of an energy policy that says they "endeavor to reduce their use". She commented that it gives the suggestion but does not list enforcements. She stated that it provides protection for water, air, trails, and open spaces. She asked staff for feedback. The Staff Liaison recommended removing the climate change statement.

Boardmember Truchon stated that Blaine and Ramsey may have a water shortage by 2030 so there is time to initiate policies to impact this for the future. She noted that the example policy she found includes items she had not thought of such as green cleaning.

Chairman McKinley asked if the subcommittee wants to meet again while they are waiting for direction from Council. She offered to

contact the Council-member to meet with them. Boardmember Truchon suggested meeting on a Monday but not on the third Monday.

**Discussed**

**5.c Laddie Lake trillium**

Chairman McKinley reviewed that last month she reported visiting the Laddie Lake area and found it brown, barren and chopped up under the power lines. She found weak trillium emerging. She asked former NRCB Boardmember Ochocki to mark the area so they can find the trillium late in the season. She commented that she revisited the area and found considerable vegetation growing, enough that some flags are not visible. She suggested that a small group of people work on this to avoid getting hurt. She stated that she visited the area Sunday night and found the trillium were easy to dig up as they have shallow roots. She reported that around 25 clumps were dug out and moved by a volunteer and herself. She explained that this will be a tough job and dedicated people are needed to participate. She reviewed that to her knowledge the nodding trillium are not rare or endangered. She reviewed that many are growing in the nearby woods. She commented that by moving them they will be out of the way of future herbicide treatments. She asked for a group of volunteers to come together next week and work on this.

**Discussed**

**5.d Report on SHIP Grant meeting**

Chairman McKinley stated that she was invited to a May 30th meeting with city staff and representatives from SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program). She reviewed that the SHIP grant is funded by the Minnesota Department of Health. The purpose of the grant is to reduce tobacco use, obesity from lack of physical activity and poor nutrition. She stated that they look for cities that have ideas. She commented that this is what funded the 70 trail maps in the city. She commented that this year the grant for Blaine is \$18,000. She noted that the grant can only be used to encourage walking or biking to an area within a mile radius of where residents live. She commented that city staff is looking at an area that is residential and near shopping. She asked for ideas on using the grant.

Boardmember Truchon asked if a bike rack would be an option. Chairman McKinley stated that bike racks would be helpful to encourage people to ride their bikes. She asked that ideas be presented

to Tom Godfrey soon. Boardmember Truchon suggested geocaching.

Boardmember Truchon asked if money can be used to clear paths in the winter. Chairman McKinley stated that she does not think this would be an option. She commented that the bike rack and safe crossing signs are uses. She noted that the grant would be good for two years.

Boardmember Truchon suggested giving out awards for people using biking or healthy transportation. She suggested having a passport program where a park or open space visitor gets a stamp for participating. She noted that elementary schools are having a walking club that meets one night a week.

**Discussed**

**6. Other Business**

**6.a Reminder: Blaine Blazin' Festival**

Chairman McKinley stated that she will have a booth at the Blaine festival again. She commented that she will be at the booth on Saturday morning at 9 AM. She suggested staffing the booth to visit with people as they come by. She will be providing information about the website. Boardmember Truchon suggested plugging the open space of the month.

Chairman McKinley stated that the booth will include an open spaces game and information on buckthorn busting. She reported that she is creating a new trail systems display. She noted that she will be promoting the website and will have a suggestion box to engage the public. She asked Boardmembers to participate Saturday until 5:00 and Sunday from 10:00 to 2:00.

**Discussed**

**6.b Reminder: Board members visit assigned Open Spaces**

Chairman McKinley asked Boardmembers to remember to visit their assigned open spaces and do a presentation beginning next month. She asked for a written report with copies to share for other Boardmembers. She suggested keeping a file on these reports to reference in the future.

Chairman McKinley noted that Boardmember Kustermann needs to step down from the NRCB due to his work and family schedule.

Chairman McKinley asked for items for next month's agenda although none were suggested.

**Discussed**

**7. Adjournment**

**Moved by Schrunk, seconded by Castillo, that this meeting be Adjourned. The Motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.**