



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, August 21, 2012

7:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

Also Present: Recording Secretary, Beth Bostrom.

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: 1 - Gunter

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairman McKinley requested the following corrections:

Page 3:

Item 6.b, third paragraph, first sentence: "...on Earth Day and at the booth she promoted ~~Open Space~~ an expanded Adopt-A-Park program."

Item 6.c, second paragraph, last sentence: "...sign is private property but the power line angles back to the west and the trilliums are located some distance up to the north."

Item 6.d, first paragraph, third sentence: "...feedback from the meeting

~~and that~~
~~additional~~ trails and sidewalks are being ~~added~~ studied between
Highway 65 and
University Avenue. ~~She commented so~~ that maps ~~are being~~ could be
developed
for residents of the mobile home parks."

Page 6

Item 6.g, first paragraph, first sentence: "...no parking is available.

She
commented that this area is not used much by the general public but is
used a lot
by the neighborhood. She reviewed that a few years..."

Item 6.g, third paragraph, second sentence: "~~She commented that this~~
~~area is not~~
~~used much by the general public but is used a lot by the~~
~~neighborhood."~~

Item 6.g, fourth paragraph, first sentence: "...goes by a slope in East
Lake Park, is
a very wet area. She ~~stated~~ suggested that this would be a good
location..."

Page 8

Item 6.g, page 8, second sentence: "...trail as there is private property
on both
sides and the trail continues on out to Lincoln Street."

Page 9

Item 7, second paragraph: "Boardmember ~~Ochocki~~ Castillo
commented
that a resident asked him why the woodchip trails..."

Boardmember Schrunk requested a correction on page 7, top
paragraph: "She
went on June 13 and there were ~~no~~ 20 cars in the lot."

**MOVED by Boardmember Schrunk, seconded by Boardmember Truchon to
approve the minutes of the August 21, 2012 Board Meeting as amended. The
motion carried unanimously.**

4. Approve Agenda

Chairman McKinley requested to add items under Other Business.

Boardmember Truchon asked to add an item under Other Business.

MOVED by Boardmember Castillo, seconded by Boardmember Schrunk to approve the August 21, 2012 Board Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously

5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

There was none.

6. New Business

6.a Review of reports from Board Members

Chairman McKinley provided copies of the reports presented by Boardmembers previously. She asked that they review them. She inquired about number one on the reports. Boardmember Truchon asked for a future report on restoration under the management plan for Laddie Lake.

Chairman McKinley commented that Laddie Lake has three access points, one of which is Lincoln Street. She asked about number two on the reports. She explained that she divided up management and maintenance. She offered to forward the completed list to public works.

Boardmember Truchon questioned if items mentioned previously could be added to the list.

Boardmember Castillo asked about bricks at an area of the wetland complex. Boardmember Truchon commented that a second and third resident are now leaving debris. She commented that at the end of the loop where it is paved there is a widened path, which she and her husband walked. She commented that this goes to the back yard of a resident. She noted that the path is well maintained. She added that this is in the wetland complex. She pointed out that the conservation easement sign is right in this area. The concrete blocks are closer to the park. She commented that native plants in this area are being encroached upon. She indicated that a kids viewing structure was constructed in this area but there is no fence line to show whose property it is on. She noted that the neighbor has a fence though. She recommended that someone talk to the residents in this area. She offered to take Chairman McKinley on a tour to see this location.

Chairman McKinley added that a resident's yard has a noise emitting from it. Boardmember Truchon suggested this could be a sound

intended to chase away moles.

Chairman McKinley reviewed page three of the report she distributed. She explained that this is a listing from the Management Manual and some items are completed. She referred to the suggestions, which were made that included introducing a turtle species.

6.b Report on CIP work completed or in progress

Chairman McKinley stated that staff had provided forms to review at tonight's meeting. She noted that the prescribed burn may not be until spring. She reviewed that lists are from 2009, 2010 and forward. She commented that the next form is for the Open Space trail fund.

Boardmember Castillo noted that \$692,000 is the total spending and suggested that 2009 be dropped off the list. He added that the old Radisson Road trail could be pushed to 2013. Chairman McKinley stated that the easement for the trail has been an issue.

Boardmember Truchon commented that Radisson Trail is very well used.

Chairman McKinley noted that she is seeing expense figures in the handouts and needs more information.

Boardmember Truchon asked if more funding will be available for trails. Chairman McKinley confirmed that there will be an increase. She agreed to ask staff to provide additional CIP information for next month's meeting. She reported asking staff late for information for tonight's meeting.

Boardmember Castillo reported that Blaine is number one in new housing starts. Boardmember Truchon suggested looking for good locations for new trails that could be considered in the CIP. She asked that trails be named for open space areas to increase the public's awareness of them.

Boardmember Schrunk commented that she has noticed a reduction in park use at Hidden Ponds.

Chairman McKinley reported on the last page of the handouts, which are updates from 2012 with management work listed in red. She noted that these things have been done. She requested again that if Boardmembers notice a trail connection that is needed to a development or elsewhere that they take note and report it for their

planning. She specified that this would include trails to The Lakes.

Boardmember Castillo asked who is responsible for putting in crosswalks, specifically for The Lakes. Chairman McKinley suggested asking staff as it varies depending on the area.

Boardmember Truchon suggested calling the association for The Lakes to ask.

7. Other Business

Chairman McKinley explained that there was a recent newspaper article on Blaine's proactive approach in dealing with the emerald ash borer. She noted that Saturday, September 15 is World Fest and requested volunteers to help with the Open Space display as she is not available to help this time. The event is from one to five o'clock. She reported that she had a call from a resident, which she directed to staff, but she was impressed that the website was being used. Boardmember Truchon reported that she had received a call some years back from a resident about a river otter.

Chairman McKinley explained that Boardmember Truchon prepared two newsletter articles and only the one regarding Laddie Lake will be used. She explained that newsletter space is limited due to the election. She commented that staff informed her today that a resident reported a water spout on Pleasure Creek Lake. She confirmed that Boardmember Rafferty and Boardmember Gunter are in need of a new Open Space manual.

Boardmember Truchon asked if policies should be made about areas like East Lake Park and dumping or infringement on open space. She asked to enact public notification. She requested input on which Open Space to write about next for the newsletter. She inquired about Hidden Ponds or Kane Meadows. She offered to speak to staff to help with the decision. She reported that Jason Husveth has informed her that he will come before the Board to provide a report. She asked for an educational tour that would focus on items in the management plan. She explained that the tour could be led by staff. She suggested that rain gardens be included in the educational tour. Chairman McKinley pointed out that the rain gardens are not on open space property. She offered to speak with staff regarding the tour suggestion.

Boardmember Schrunk commented that she went on the garden tour that she promoted last month and was disappointed by the lack of flowers. She reported that the Blaine Citizen Academy is looking for

additional people to participate. She encouraged everyone to be involved in this.

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Boardmember Castillo, seconded by Boardmember Schrunk to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.