



# 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, September 18, 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

Also Present: Recording Secretary Beth Bostrom

**Present:** 7 - Chair McKinley, Kustermann, Rafferty, Schrunk, Castillo, Truchon, and Gunter

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Schrunk, seconded by Rafferty, that the minutes of August 21, 2012 be Approved. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

### 4. Approval of Agenda

Chairman McKinley requested to add two topics under Other Business. The topics are tours of restoration projects and suggestions for the Wetland Complex in the future.

Moved by Gunter, seconded by Schrunk, that the AGENDA of September 18, 2012 be Approved. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

### 5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

There was none.

**6. New Business**

**6.a Discussion on Open Space buffer encroachment**

Chairman McKinley explained that last month there was a discussion on neighbors encroaching on the Wetland Complex. She reported that along with Boardmember Truchon they visited the Wetland Complex and found areas that were mowed down. She informed Jim Hafner, Stormwater Manager, who visited the property. She read a report from Mr. Hafner. In the report, he walked the loop at East Lake Park where two homeowners seem to be encroaching on the open space property. The report noted that fill was placed in order to create a pathway. Another pathway was found in the area of 120th. Mr. Hafner contacted Jim Kappelhoff, Park and Recreation Director, about this. He indicated that some of the mowing is approved and recommended sending another letter out to residents about encroachment on open space. She read that Mr. Hafner does not have an issue with mowing to the trail. There is a policy in place that addresses encroachment on open space. She noted that the letter from Mr. Hafner found an area along the trail where someone created a shortcut versus keeping on the path. She commented that his note acknowledges that if people are invited into the open space this type of thing will take place. She reviewed that Mr. Hafner objects to having many posted signs. She read that some of the paths may be deer runs. She reported that Mr. Hafner plans to work with Mr. Kappelhoff regarding standards and to address the concerns over the two homeowners' properties.

Boardmember Truchon arrived at 7:37 p.m.

Chairman McKinley offered to followup with staff regarding the write up. She reiterated that there is a policy already in place. She reviewed that as it is near the end of the season the mowing will not be addressed at this time but will be handled next year if it continues. Boardmember Truchon thanked staff for their time in working on this and for following up on it.

Chairman McKinley commented that they did not find any dumping of bricks. She reported that there were a lot of boards stacked up at the edge where a resident's property and open space meet. She thanked Boardmember Truchon for taking a tour with her. She handed out the encroachment policy.

**6.b Open Space Fund Update**

Chairman McKinley reviewed that papers were passed out last month on the Open Space Fund. She noted that it appears some park dedication fees and interest were added in for \$25,000. The expenditures total \$77,000. She reviewed that there are encumbered funds for \$193,000. She reviewed the

remaining balance.

#### **6.c Discussion on Potential CIP Projects for 2013**

Chairman McKinley asked for suggestions to consider for planning next year. She suggested that kiosks or informational signage be added to the CIP.

Boardmember Rafferty asked if that is proper use of the funds. Boardmember Truchon commented that it is considered education. She passed along an idea of using a literature distribution box for Hidden Ponds, which can have papers inserted and changed out in it.

Boardmember Castillo suggested having a see through area so you can tell something is displayed in the box. Boardmember Gunter commented that the DNR uses distribution boxes to put flyers in and they work to keep them full. She reviewed that it is plastic and see through, has a lid and only costs \$2.50. She offered to stop by Lowes to learn more about the boxes.

Chairman McKinley requested that the Pioneer Park restoration should continue.

Boardmember Gunter asked about benches.

Chairman McKinley commented that she is not sure benches will qualify but will write the idea down. She asked if there are ideas for adding trails.

Boardmember Castillo suggested adding a trail from Cloud Drive to Malmberg's entrance so people can get across 242 to Pioneer Park. He questioned if this would be a project for the county. He suggested continuing the existing trail from Northpoint Elementary by the ball fields and extending it through the neighborhood on to the intersection by Dixie Blue.

Boardmember Truchon suggested having a trail on Harpers Street as there are a lot of trees but no trail. She commented that people come from Harpers Street, cross 242 and go to The Lakes trails. She explained that this neighborhood does not have any connections into the community. Boardmember Castillo asked about connecting the Harpers Street neighborhood to Pioneer Park by trail.

Chairman McKinley reviewed that their trail criteria is to get to and into open spaces, and have safe access.

Boardmember Truchon asked if there is an area for bikers to go from the mobile home park on Naples to 95th Ave. safely. Chairman McKinley commented that there is wetland on the other side and options are limited.

Boardmember Castillo commented that there is a new path by the Park and Ride, which was put in last week. Chairman McKinley suggested that this may have come from the SHIP grant.

**7. Other Business**

6.a Chairman McKinley reviewed that Boardmember Truchon has asked for tours of the restoration projects. She explained that staff is unsure how to coordinate this so that all Boardmembers can attend. She was instructed that it would cost money for them to review the restoration projects. She commented that in the past staff did a presentation, which can be updated and done again next month. It will include a review of what restoration work has been done, why it is being done and what the expected results are. She reported that staff will request a report from Jason Husveth as well. She clarified that staff has offered to take Boardmembers on a tour but does not think it is likely everyone will be available at the same time. Some areas the tour will cover will be Laddie Lake, Hidden Ponds, Kane Meadows and the rain gardens.

6.b. Chairman McKinley reviewed that staff has provided a map to use in creating a list of suggestions and a wish list for planning the future of the Wetland Complex. She reminded the Board that they are two years into the restoration phase of the weir and area with three years of restoration remaining. She reviewed the conceptual plan handout. Boardmember Truchon asked that additional groups like Prairie Restorations weigh in on decisions, including trail placement.

Chairman McKinley asked if the management plan has trails proposed. Boardmember Truchon mentioned the possibility of having an interpretive center at some point along with parking.

Chairman McKinley suggested having a wildlife viewing area also at the Lexington property. Boardmember Truchon suggested if there is a viewing area, they should not have trails all over as this disturbs the wildlife.

Chairman McKinley referred to an aerial map. She commented that there is a boundary of the wetland restoration project with the drainage ditch. She pointed out East Lake Park and the wetlands. She asked that Boardmembers think of additional suggestions to cover next month. Boardmember Truchon requested information on whose concept the plan is.

6.c Chairman McKinley reviewed a new item from staff regarding buckthorn spraying at Aquatone Park. She explained that Prairie Restorations will be completing the work. She added that there are estimates for two buckthorn

overspray this fall to be done at Laddie Lake and Aquatore Park. The cost for Aquatore Park is \$1,700 plus tax, which will be split with the Park Department. She reviewed that their agreement was on the removal of buckthorn. She explained that the NRCB will pay \$850 from their funds for Aquatore Park. She stated that there is an estimate for Laddie Lake Park followup spraying for \$4,200. She noted that this is already included in their plan. She explained that the entire cost for Laddie Lake Park will be paid by the NRCB.

MOVED by Chairman McKinley, seconded by Boardmember Truchon to support the buckthorn follow-up work by Prairie Restorations based on the CIP amount listed under the encumbered for Aquatore Park and Laddie Lake.

Boardmember Castillo asked about the difference in costs for Laddie Lake. He reviewed that the CIP lists \$4,700 and the letter from staff shows \$4,200.

Boardmember Truchon asked that clarification be made on the cost differences for Laddie Lake.

MOVED by Boardmember Gunter, seconded by Chairman McKinley to amend the motion to include a request to obtain clarification on the cost for Laddie Lake.

Discussion by the Board took place around the differences in these amounts. Speculation was made that this is due to tax.

Boardmember Gunter WITHDREW HER AMENDED MOTION.

Chairman McKinley took a vote on the original motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Boardmember Schrunk commented that there is a big thistle on Hidden Ponds, which she cut down. She commented that staff does not have resources to deal with this. She added that thistles will grow more abundantly if not treated.

## **8. Adjournment**

**Moved by Truchon, seconded by Castillo, that this meeting be Adjourned. The Motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.**