



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, January 15, 2013

7:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

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

2. Roll Call

ALSO PRESENT: Betn Bostrom, Recording Secretary

Absent: Staff Liaison, Jim Hafner

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

Absent: 1 - Kustermann

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Boardmember Rafferty, seconded by Boardmember Truchon to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2012 Board Meeting as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chairman McKinley explained that under other business she has informational items to cover.

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Gunter to approve the January 15, 2013 Board Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

6. New Business

6.a Update of Aquatore Park trail creation

Chairman McKinley stated that at the November meeting they discussed clearing out invasive vegetation at Aquatore Park and creating a woodchip trail. She noted that this was to be a co-project with the parks department. She reminded the Board that if Parks would not contribute the NRCB would approve funding all of the project. She read a letter of management describing what would need to be done to improve the woods. She noted that the trail would be created at the southwest corner of the woods looping back. She relayed that they would use woodchips created from the downed trees for the trail. She read that the cost to create the trail is \$12,500. She read that the Parks would not contribute due to large projects in their budget. She stated that Council approved the trail project. She relayed that just before December 17 the contractor began working on it and the trail has been completed. She noted that the city will add additional woodchips to the trail as needed. Prairie Restorations completed the project.

Boardmember Castillo asked about the price being discounted. Chairman McKinley confirmed that it is. She reviewed that she has not seen the trail yet but plans to.

6.b Potential Eagle Scout project

Chairman McKinley explained that there is a possible Eagle Scout project to create kiosks. She invited the scout to give a presentation. Josh Bostrom of Boy Scout Troop 522 explained that he is interested in putting kiosks in parks or open spaces. He offered to work with the Board to accomplish this. He asked the Board what they would like to have done.

Chairman McKinley asked how many kiosks would be built. Mr. Bostrom explained that if it is a large structure he would build one but if it is a smaller type structure it would be four to five. He provided sample pictures of kiosks for discussion.

Boardmember Castillo asked if he will do the project by himself. Mr. Bostrom explained that he will have the assistance of up to 10 other scouts.

Boardmember Schrunk asked about the cost of the project. Mr. Bostrom stated that he has seen a completed one online for \$3,000.

Boardmember Truchon asked what materials he would like to use. Mr. Bostrom stated that it would possibly have metal legs to make sure it would last.

Boardmember Castillo suggested that the kiosk have underground concrete to stabilize the footings.

Chairman McKinley read from staff their previous decision to forgo kiosks and have information boxes. She stated that they could make a decision on whether to go forward with having a kiosk project. She stated that they are directed to decide on kiosk styles.

Boardmember Castillo reviewed that he would like to move forward with this idea as they have discussed it for years in the past. He commented that he preferred the Plexiglas style with a locked area and a shingled roof. He asked if materials and labor will be part of the cost. Mr. Bostrom explained that there will be a materials cost only.

Boardmember Gunter concurred with using metal legs. She suggested using concrete to hold the legs.

Boardmember Schrunk suggested getting donated materials from area businesses. Boardmember Gunter stated that clubs can make contributions and may want their name on the kiosk.

Motion by Boardmember Truchon to request a kiosk with a metal roof and metal legs but have the center part be Plexiglas.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Boardmember Rafferty suggested making the kiosk less appealing to vandals.

Chairman McKinley stated that she is hearing of two options of metal or wooden legs and a request to bring back pricing next month.

Boardmember Truchon recommended that a kiosk be located by the East Lake Park trailhead as it is in the Lakes Development. She suggested that this would be at the trail, which has four to five houses looking down on it, or having it at the park itself. Chairman McKinley recommended having a kiosk at Laddie Lake due to the restoration, which is going on there.

Boardmember Castillo stated that they could continue discussing the location in the future. He recommended going to Lowes and Menards to obtain estimates for the project. He suggested comparing pricing for a wood versus metal roof; wood or metal legs and a locked Plexiglas midsection. He explained that they would probably like two kiosks.

Mr. Bostrom asked what size of kiosk they would like. The Board discussed various

sizes to consider.

BOARD CONSENSUS was to create a kiosk with a four-foot wide by three-foot tall display area that is on legs and has a roof. This would possibly be seven feet tall at the top of the roof.

Chairman McKinley stated that they will request two kiosks, and would like two kiosk ideas presented to them. She commented that they will see him next month with pricing options.

6.c Discussion on Information Boxes and Signs

Chairman McKinley explained that the information boxes will be easy. Boardmember Truchon stated that the boxes should go anywhere in the open spaces they decide need them. She stated that they could be put in shelters. Boardmember Castillo stated that they will not put information boxes in parks where kiosks will be placed.

Boardmember Truchon recommended forming a committee to work on information to put in the boxes. Chairman McKinley stated that Boardmembers can choose a topic idea and put the information together. She explained that their management plan has a lot of information to use for this.

Boardmember Gunter suggested that each Boardmember use the park they did a presentation on last year.

Chairman McKinley asked what should be put in the boxes. Boardmember Castillo suggested putting pictures and a summary of what is pictured. He recommended colored pictures.

Boardmember Truchon stated that they should bring ideas for a handout to put in the information boxes. She reviewed that open space preserves habitat and native species. She suggested showing types of birds.

Chairman McKinley asked that Boardmember write up information from their area covered in last summer's presentations. She requested that they bring this to next month's meeting.

6.d Report on benches

Chairman McKinley provided information from staff reviewing that the Board discussed adding a line item to the CIP for adding benches in open space areas. She stated that a bench design is provided. She read that the Board should discuss bench design.

Boardmember Castillo stated that they may need to decide between benches and kiosks in their budget. Chairman McKinley suggested that the Boy Scout may do fundraising to purchase the kiosk materials so the Board would not have to fund this.

Boardmember Castillo stated that they have spent \$12,500 on the Aquatore Park trail, which is not in the CIP. He stated that Aquatore Park is listed on the CIP but without a dollar amount. He explained that they may be exceeding their available funding already and need to be aware of this.

Boardmember Gunter provided some details on benches, which she researched. She reviewed that for a six-foot in-ground mount the bench cost is \$400. She reviewed that without the back the amount is \$247. She explained for an 8-foot back the amount is \$420 and without the back, it is \$257. She stated that another company had competitive pricing. She commented that the benches used by the city cost \$462 a piece. She described that these have a protective thermoplastic coating.

Boardmember Schrunk recommended moving the benches that are facing trees at Little League North so they are more usable.

Chairman McKinley offered to wait on this decision and get more input from staff. She commented that the trails need benches. Boardmember Rafferty expressed interest in definitely adding benches.

6.e Approve 2013 CIP

Chairman McKinley stated that staff has not had an opportunity to present the 2013 CIP to Council. She recommended reviewing it. She suggested including the information on Aquatore Park.

Boardmember Castillo asked if October is on 2012 or 2013. Chairman McKinley stated that there are two parts to the Aquatore Park project, which include buckthorn management. She stated that their fund is going down but good things are getting accomplished. She read that the CIP will be approved by Council in February.

Boardmember Castillo recommended increasing the budget to \$7,000 and adding wording to include kiosks.

Motion by Boardmember Castillo, seconded by Boardmember Gunter to double the CIP amount of \$3,500 to 7,000 for benches, information boxes and kiosks.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McKinley offered to see how the Aquatore Park money was distributed. She explained that staff is directing them to approve the CIP.

Motion by Boardmember Castillo, seconded by Boardmember Truchon to accept the 2013 CIP with the noted revisions.

Motion carried unanimously.

6.f Review 2012 goals

Chairman McKinley reviewed general goals, which were to have each Boardmember visit an open space during the year. She commented that all Boardmembers did an excellent job.

Boardmember Castillo stated that he has spoken to three Councilmembers who have not seen their reports. He recommended uploading them on a PDF file so they could review them. He explained that he has heard the Councilmembers and Mayor do not read the NRCB minutes or look at their website. He explained that he had a discussion with them regarding Pioneer Park and his report from a year ago.

Chairman McKinley offered to address the distribution of reports to Council. She thanked the Board for the work on their reports, which will be used in preparing their information boxes. She added that they will be asked to repeat this project this year. She asked that they do additional work beyond their monthly meetings. She commented that Mada worked on the website and some Boardmembers worked on additional information. She explained that staff was helpful. Boardmember Truchon added that articles were sent to the newsletter.

Chairman McKinley stated that they had presentations at the Blazin' 4th, Earth Day, Home and Garden Show and participates in other events.

Boardmember Truchon stated that at her interview the Mayor asked to see video of the open spaces on the NRCB website. Chairman McKinley stated that she has five hours of trail video. She explained that she is unsure of how to edit the tapes. She offered the tapes to anyone who would like to work on them. She explained that the intent was to make a cable TV show of their open spaces.

6.g Update on foreclosed property

Chairman McKinley stated that at the November meeting they discussed a property on the tax foreclosure list. They were offered an opportunity to withhold the property from public sale. She stated that Council took action at their December meeting asking Anoka County to withhold the property from public sale. She reviewed that the property will be withheld from sale for six months. She explained that the city is waiting for the paperwork from the county to pursue this. She commented that staff will keep the NRCB informed. She confirmed that no price has been identified yet.

Boardmember Truchon reviewed that this property connects their open space areas and gives additional access.

7. Other Business

Chairman McKinley suggested having a workshop with Council later this year. She explained that this would happen after April. She offered to discuss the environmental policy and maintenance costs for parks and open spaces on which the NRCB cannot spend money. She mentioned that the North Metro Home and Garden Show will be in February. She added that she puts out a resource board at the Parks table for this event. She reviewed that if the NRCB had their own table it would need to be staffed and she is already busy elsewhere upstairs. She asked if anyone could man the table, which would be from 9:00am to 3:00pm. She offered to provide the resource display board. She reviewed that last summer the city sent out a survey. She noted that they got responses from residents that people want opportunities to volunteer and help the city. She explained that due to this the Council will hold a volunteer event in March. She explained that representation from each Commission and Board are being asked to attend to give a presentation. She noted that this would be to discuss areas where residents could volunteer. She asked what areas could be promoted for volunteering for the open spaces and trails. She suggested Adopt-A-Trail. She asked for more ideas.

Boardmember Castillo suggested installation of a bench. Boardmember Truchon suggested asking for a volunteer to put flyers in the information boxes.

Chairman McKinley asked the Board to continue thinking on this. She noted that her final item is that Jason will be doing a presentation in February on native plants and is inviting the Board to come.

Boardmember Truchon shared that at her interview the Mayor was very happy with the NRCB. She reported that the Mayor is pleased with their addition of trails and sees people using them. She commented that open spaces encourage wildlife.

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Boardmember Castillo, seconded by Boardmember Gunter to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.