



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, February 19, 2013

7:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Others Present: Staff Liaison, Jim Hafner and Recording Secretary, Debbie Wolfe.

Chairman McKinley welcomed new NRCB members Chris Perkins and Sam Villella and indicated they will join the Board at the March meeting.

Present: 5 - Chair McKinley, Rafferty, Schrunk, Castillo, and Truchon

Absent: 1 - Gunter

3. Approval of Minutes

Boardmember Schrunk noted page 5, paragraph 3, and requested this sentence be deleted: "Boardmember Schrunk suggested choosing the least expensive bench option."

MOVED by Boardmember Schrunk, seconded by Boardmember Rafferty, to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2012 Board Meeting as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

Boardmember Truchon arrived at 7:40 p.m.

MOVED by Boardmember Rafferty, seconded by Boardmember Schrunk, to approve the February 19, 2013 Board Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

None.

6. New Business

6.a Eagle Scout Project - Josh Bostrom

Josh Bostrom appeared before the Board and stated he received a price estimate from Home Depot, which he felt was on the higher end for the kiosks. He did a quote on his own and came up with \$695 for a shingled roof. He asked the Board for locations where they would like the kiosks constructed.

McKinley asked if the Home Depot quote was for one or two kiosks. Mr. Bostrom indicated the quote of \$695 was for two kiosks. Boardmember Schrunk asked if Josh had seen the kiosk at Springbrook and suggested he go and see it. Mr. Bostrom provided pictures of the kiosks.

Chairman McKinley explained Josh Bostrom of Boy Scout Troop 522 is interested in putting kiosks in parks or open spaces.

Boardmember Schrunk suggested he contact Siwek Lumber.

Mr. Bostrom asked the Board for ideas on locations. Boardmember Castillo asked how much was budgeted for the kiosks and benches and Chairman McKinley stated \$7,000. Staff Liaison Hafner stated there were two locations discussed (Pioneer Park, Laddie Lake). Mr. Bostrom asked where in the park and the Board responded near the parking lot by the trail.

Mr. Bostrom asked if there was a timeline. Boardmember Castillo said the footings cannot be done until May and asked if the projects could be completed by May 21st before the meeting. Mr. Bostrom stated he spoke with his Troop Leader and he will come back to the March meeting with a full proposal along with an exact price quote.

Mr. Bostrom stated he did some research on funding and found there is a chance for a scholarship from Home Depot or Lowe's. Boardmember Castillo asked that he obtain one more quote. Chairman McKinley commended Josh on his efforts. Mr. Bostrom stated he will do what he can to get the best price for the materials.

There was discussion about the locations and Boardmember Schrunk stated she thinks it should be at a more visited park than Laddie Lake, as she does not know where that is. Boardmember Schrunk suggested Loch Ness Park. Chairman McKinley stated there is not much to interpret there.

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Rafferty, to place the kiosks at Pioneer Park and Laddie Lake.

Voting in Favor: Boardmembers Castillo, Chairman McKinley, Rafferty, and Truchon. Voting Against: Boardmember Schrunk. Motion carried.

Mr. Bostrom asked the Board whether they preferred metal or shingle roofing or metal or wood legs. Boardmember Castillo stated metal would be more durable. Mr. Bostrom stated metal is more expensive and more difficult to install.

Boardmember Schrunk asked Josh if his Scoutmaster had a preference and Mr. Bostrom stated his leader suggested shingles. Chairman McKinley stated she would prefer shingles.

MOVED by Chairman McKinley, seconded by Boardmember Schrunk, to use shingles and wood posts for the kiosks.

Voting in Favor: Chairman McKinley, Boardmembers Rafferty, Schrunk, and Truchon. Voting Against: Boardmember Castillo. Motion carried.

Boardmember Castillo asked where the work would be done. Mr. Bostrom stated most would be on site with possibly some pre-work done at a neighbor's house.

Boardmember Rafferty asked what the timeframe is for getting the funds. Staff Liaison Hafner stated the money can be available rather quickly as it can be approved administratively by the City Manager and does not need to go to the City Council.

Boardmember Truchon left the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Staff Liaison Hafner stated Josh needs to go before a Scout Board with his proposal and write-up of the project, which is why he needed direction this evening.

Boardmember Castillo asked when the presentation was before the Scout Board and Josh stated he is in the process of writing the proposal.

Boardmember Truchon returned to the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Boardmember Schrunk asked if a plaque could be added recognizing Josh for his efforts on the kiosks. The Board consensus was to support this idea.

6.b Discussion on Information Boxes and Content

Chairman McKinley stated the members were asked what they would like to see in the information boxes of the areas visited. She stated she visited the Wetland Area, which would be a good place for a kiosk someday, but Oaks Savannah would be a perfect place for an information box. There has been a lot of buckthorn removed and plantings done. Chairman McKinley indicated she plans to get a list and print pictures and descriptions of each planting and would like some history on what an Oaks Savannah is.

Boardmember Castillo visited Hidden Ponds and provided a report showing pictures and location of the area, and suggested adding a request for feedback in the brochures.

Boardmember Rafferty visited Kane Meadows and indicated there is a trail that surrounds the north parcel. The trails around the open space are in good repair. He stated there is every type of wetland represented in the area. Boardmember Truchon asked if he could do a drawing of the trail system.

Boardmember Truchon visited Laddie Lake Park and suggested creating a small brochure that can be carried including the history of this Park. Also included would be a list of the restorations and a map of the trails, photos of the restoration, and a listing of plants that could be seen in the area. On the back of the brochure would be a listing of birds that could be seen.

Chairman McKinley suggested one page would be the maximum size (could be printed on two sides).

Boardmember Schrunk visited Loch Ness Park stated she has not had the opportunity to walk around the area. She would like to visit and will write a report after her visit.

Staff Liaison Hafner provided a written report on Pioneer Park from Boardmember Gunter.

Boardmember Castillo suggested the native species also be identified in each area. Boardmember Truchon suggested types of wetlands be identified as well as what is unique to that area.

BOARD CONSENSUS was to discuss this again at the March meeting.

6.c Discussion on Benches - where, how many, design

Chairman McKinley stated a decision needs to be made as to how many benches and where they will be located, so the information can be presented to the Council as part of the CIP.

Boardmember Truchon asked if there would be one bench in each park. Chairman McKinley stated the bench in Pioneer Park needs to be replaced. Boardmember Truchon stated at Laddie Lake there were two areas that did not have benches.

Boardmember Rafferty stated he only saw one bench in Kane Meadows.

Chairman McKinley stated the \$7,000 included benches, kiosks, and information boxes. Boardmember Castillo stated there would be approximately \$5,700 left for benches. Chairman McKinley stated the current bench used cost \$462 plus tax and delivery. The cost per bench could be \$525, meaning ten benches could be purchased.

Boardmember Castillo stated Hidden Ponds really does not need any benches.

Bench Needs:

- 1 in Pioneer Park
- 2 in Kane Meadows

Boardmember Castillo suggested purchasing five and storing two until next year to save shipping costs. Boardmember Truchon suggested the park professionals help determine locations.

MOVED by Boardmember Castillo, seconded Boardmember McKinley, to purchase five benches putting one bench in Pioneer Park, two benches in Kane Meadows, and placing the other two benches in storage.

Boardmember Schrunck stated that is too many benches, thinking three would be enough

Voting in favor were Boardmembers, Castillo, Chairman McKinley, Rafferty, and Truchon. Voting against was Boardmember Schrunck. Motion carried.

6.d 2013 Goals Review

Chairman McKinley suggested tabling the goals discussion until next month

when the new members are sworn in. She stated they will be the same as last year and she hopes each member will choose a personal goal that could be completed for the Board.

6.e Announcements

Chairman McKinley announced the North Suburban Home and Garden Show is this weekend at the National Sports Center and she will have a display at the Parks Table.

Chairman McKinley stated she is still thinking about the trillium recovery project.

It was noted that Earth Day will be held at Kane Meadows this year and the Board will be represented there.

Jason Husveth will give a presentation to the Board at the April meeting.

Chairman McKinley stated she has not heard any more on the Volunteer event that was brought up by the Council

7. Other Business

Boardmember Schrunk asked about the drug problem in Amelia park. She had heard something at the Council Meeting and questioned if this may be going on in other parks.

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Boardmember Castillo, seconded by Boardmember Truchon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.