



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, March 19, 2013

7:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

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

2. Roll Call

Others Present: Staff Liaison, Jim Hafner, Recording Secretary Kathy Altman, Deputy City Clerk Cathy Ekstrand and Dan Truchon, photographer.

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair McKinley requested the following changes: Page 1 under Roll Call - Remove Chairman McKinley called the roll call and insert "Staff Liaison called the roll call". Add Boardmember Rafferty to the roll call. Page 3, under item 6.b the second sentence should read: "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". The last sentence on Page 3 should read: "Boardmember Castillo visited Hidden Ponds and provided a report showing pictures and location of the area, and suggested having feedback to the brochures". On Page 5 under 6.e third paragraph, remove the word "King" and insert the word "Kane".

Boardmember Schrunk requested the following change: Page 4, under item 6.c, fourth paragraph remove the following sentence: "Boardmember Schrunk stated she would like a bench facing Laddie Lake".

MOVED by Boardmember Rafferty, seconded by Boardmember Schrunk to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2013 Board Meeting as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. 2012-2013 Natural Resources Conservation Board Adjourns Sine Die

Chair McKinley adjourned the 2012/2013 Natural Resource Conservation Board Sine Die to complete the Oath of office at 7:37 p.m.

MOVED by Boardmember Rafferty, seconded by Boardmember Truchon to adjourn the 2012-2013 Natural Resources Conservation Board Sine Die.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. Administration of Oath of Offices

The Oath of Office was administered by Deputy City Clerk Cathy Ekstrand.

Those sworn in were:

Dottie McKinley, Chair-at-large

Mary Jo Truchon, reappointed

Sam Villella, newly appointed

Chris Perkins, newly appointed

Tony Castillo, boardmember-at-large

Chair McKinley called the 2013-2014 Natural Resource Conservation Board to order at 7:48 p.m.

6. Meeting Resumes: Role Call 2013-2014 NRCB

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

7. Approval of the Agenda

Boardmember Truchon stated she had something to say under other items.

Boardmember Schrunk stated she had a question under other items also.

MOVED by Boardmember Gunter, seconded by Boardmember Truchon to approve the March 19, 2013 Board Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Open Forum for Citizen Input

None.

9. New Business

9.a Eagle Scout Project Report

Chair McKinley stated they have not heard from the Eagle Scout about his project so this would be postponed to the next meeting.

9.b Update on Information Boxes

Chair McKinley stated there were many great idea that came out of last month's discussion regarding the information boxes. She asked if anyone was ready to put together something for the information boxes. She asked Boardmember Truchon if she would help with the tri-fold brochures.

Boardmember Truchon asked if the City had any resources they could use to put the brochures together once the wording had been finalized. Staff Liaison responded it could be finalized on his computer.

Chair McKinley stated she would like some type of a label on the box inviting people to take a brochure, but if they do not want it to return the brochure and to not litter.

Boardmember Truchon stated she would like to have an invite to the public to join the Friends of Open Space on the brochure also.

Boardmember Castillo stated they could also use social media to publicize joining the Friends of Open Space. He asked if this needed to be done through the City, or could the Board do this on their own.

Staff Liaison stated City social media sites were already established, so if there were certain messages the Board wanted conveyed, to let him know.

Boardmember Castillo stated now any social media messages could be vague but around Earth Day social media messages should be put out weekly and then daily. He stated he would send an email to the staff liaison tomorrow with some social media suggestions that could go out right away.

Chair McKinley stated they were hoping to get kiosks at Pioneer Park and Laddie Lake also.

Boardmember Schrunk asked for addresses where the other parks were and maybe they could have a small map on the back of the brochure showing where the parks were located. She presented pictures of the parks to the Board for consideration.

She stated she wanted something for people to look at and she wanted the addresses of the parks incorporated as well as a map of the parks. She believed it was important for people to know where the other parks were located.

Chair McKinley stated her only concern would be the maps might be too small to read.

Boardmember Gunter suggested maps also be put on the kiosks. Staff Liaison stated the open space map on the website could be enlarged and put on the kiosks.

Chair McKinley stated this topic would be brought back next month for further discussion.

9.c Volunteer Opportunities Open House

Chair McKinley stated the Open House was set for Saturday March 30 from 9:00 a.m. - noon at the City Hall. She had requested a table for the Board to be represented. She stated she did want to promote the idea of Adopt a Trail, Open Space, and Stormwater Pond which was all based on the Adopt a Park. She stated they would also be promoting Friends of Open Space at the same time. She indicated based on a survey of last year, the most common comment was that the public wanted to volunteer to help the City and the City Council set the Open House date for a time where groups, individuals, and organizations could come and find out what volunteer opportunities there were in the City. She invited all of the Boardmembers to the Open House. She asked the Board if they had any ideas of how they could get public and neighborhoods involved.

Boardmember Castillo stated social media could help with this. He suggested the following wording: "Whose interested in volunteering to better the City? Come to the open house at City Hall on March 30, 9:00 a.m. - noon".

Staff Liaison stated this event was on the City website and he believed it was also on the social media sites. Boardmember Castillo stated the social media needed to be pushed and needed to be repeated many times in order for people to remember.

Staff Liaison stated the Coon Creek Watershed District had a group that approached them if they needed any help with ditch clean up and he had been asked if the City had any need for this service group. He recommended the Board come up with a list of services a group or individual could perform that could be handed out when inquiries were made.

Boardmember Perkins asked if there were any maintenance opportunities. Staff Liaison responded at the present time, there was not a need for this, but within the next year or two there would be. He stated though that a list should be prepared with specific tasks for these types of services, but that the services would need to be

fairly simple and very specific.

Boardmember Perkins stated volunteers could also spread wood chips on the trails.

Boardmember Shrunken stated there were also problems of brush growing up along the lakes and not being able to see the lakes. Staff Liaison stated those types of things would need to be coordinated with the Public Works Department.

Boardmember Shrunken stated she would take pictures of problem areas this summer. Staff Liaison stated tree removal would need to be done by the Public Works Department.

Boardmember Gunter suggested if there was an area that was a "dumping ground" for trash, they could organize a bi-monthly cleanup of certain areas also.

Boardmember Truchon stated in the future it might be a good idea to train people on how to collect native seeds.

Boardmember Perkins asked if there were any wildlife promotions within the City such as bird watching, etc.

Boardmember Truchon stated they could have bird watching walks or native plant walks and these types of things could be done by volunteers. She stated whenever they had an Earth Day clean up, they could have a nature walk also.

Boardmember Perkins stated they could also have a walk to identify and discuss the trees.

Chair McKinley asked the Boardmembers to write down any other ideas they had.

9.d Discussion on 2013 Earth Day Activity

Chair McKinley stated Earth Day was Saturday, April 20 at Kane Meadows. She stated right now they were planning on the typical litter pick up and tree planting. She was hoping they would be able to cut down the willow trees in front of the viewing dock so people would be able to see and enjoy the lake again.

Boardmember Shrunken suggested directions or a map be put on the flyers to direct people to the location of the park.

Boardmember Perkins suggested keeping a list of the volunteers so they could be contacted easily in the future.

9.e 2013 NRCB Goals Discussion

Chair McKinley handed out the 2013 NRCB goals. She asked each member to choose a Special Use Park/Open Space to visit during the year and to prepare a report to share with the other members. She asked the members to come to the next meeting with what park/open space they were choosing. She also asked the members to choose a personal goal that would involve an NRCB issue, concern, or activity beyond the monthly meetings. She stated this would be brought back for discussion at next month's meeting.

Staff Liaison recommended the Oaks Savannah be separated from the Wetland Complex as there were now eight Boardmembers.

10. Other Items for Discussion

Boardmember Truchon noted Jason from Critical Connections would be making a presentation at next month's meeting. She indicated it would be nice if some members of the public would attend this presentation.

MOVED by Boardmember Castillo, seconded by Boardmember Gunter to change next month's meeting time to 7:00 p.m.

Staff Liaison stated changing the time of the meeting would be difficult.

Chair McKinley noted the presentation would be an hour.

Boardmember Truchon stated she believed it was a bad idea to change the time.

Chair McKinley agreed that this was not a good idea as she had told Jason to show up at 7:30 and he would be the first item on the agenda.

Boardmember Castillo stated they could address some of their pending business prior to 7:30 and Jason could still come at 7:30 for his presentation. He indicated this would allow the meeting to be done at a decent time.

Motion carried 5-3 (Chair McKinley, Boardmembers Truchon and Schrunk).

Boardmember Truchon recommended the new Boardmembers look through the Management Plan pages 17-25 regarding the goals and recommendations.

Boardmember Schrunk asked where Fillmore Park was located. Staff Liaison responded it was a smaller park, but he was not sure of the exact location.

Boardmember Castillo stated Fillmore Park was west of 65, south of 109th.

Chair McKinley thanked Jim and Tom Scott for the Home and Garden Show table so she could present some information about the NRCB.

11. Adjournment

MOVED by Boardmember Castillo, seconded by Boardmember Truchon to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.