



City of Blaine Anoka County, Minnesota Minutes

Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Sq Dr NE
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, November 16, 2021

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call - Chair Perkins, Boardmembers Genet, Panning, Rafferty, Truchon, Vedi.

Absent - Boardmember Filipi, McKinley, Trippler.

Others Present: Recreation Manager Nate Monahan, Stormwater Coordinator Megan Hedstrom, and Adjunct Members Drew Brown.

Present: 6 - Rafferty, Chair Perkins, Truchon, Genet, Vedi, and Panning

Absent: 3 - Vice Chair McKinley, Trippler, and Filipi

3. Approval of Minutes

3.-1

Approval of the October 19, 2021 NRCB Minutes

Attachments: [10-19-21 nrcb](#)

Boardmember Genet stated under Item 6 Ms. should be changed to Mr. when referring to Recreation Manager Monahan.

MOVED by Boardmember Rafferty, seconded by Boardmember Genet, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 Board Meeting as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 6 - Rafferty, Chair Perkins, Truchon, Genet, Vedi, and Panning

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

No one appeared to address the NRCB.

5. New Business

5.-1 Recommendation of the 2022 - 2026 Open Space Capital Improvement Plan

Attachments: [Open Space CIP 2022 - 2026](#)

Mr. Monahan stated a panel of City Staff including the City Manager, Finance staff, Public Works and Engineering staff, and Parks and Recreation staff have reviewed the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the City's Open Space Fund and is recommending the 2022 components. Staff provided the Board with a summary of the recommendations and requested a recommendation on the 2022-2026 CIP.

Ms. Hedstrom updated the Board on the wetland credit sales that have occurred in 2021 and discussed how the wetland credit sales impacted the Open Space budget and CIP. She commented on the expense to remove the invasive and non-native trees within Pioneer Park.

Boardmember Truchon questioned when the potential tree removal project at Pioneer Park would begin. Ms. Hedstrom stated at the earliest this project would begin in the fall of 2022. She reported a lot of outreach would have to be done before this project could begin.

Boardmember Rafferty asked if the park board had reviewed the plans for Pioneer Park. Mr. Monahan explained these plans had not been reviewed by the park board, but noted this group understands there were a lot of dead trees that have to be managed. He indicated staff believes this park should be managed by the NRCB due to the amount of open space and wetlands versus the park board.

Boardmember Truchon recommended the BWS shelter

accommodate school groups.

Boardmember Genet recommended the city continue conversations with Anoka County in order to pursue a safe connection from the BWS to the Lexington Athletic Complex.

Boardmember Vedi suggested pavers be considered in order to provide additional parking at the BWS.

Boardmember Truchon questioned how many miles of trails the city had currently. Mr. Monahan reported the city had just over 70 miles of trails.

Boardmember Rafferty asked what the current formula was for park dedication fees. Mr. Monahan discussed the residential and commercial formula with the Board.

Boardmember Panning inquired how park dedication fees can be used by the city. Mr. Monahan explained park dedication fees can be used for the development of new open space.

Boardmember Truchon questioned how the southern portion of the BWS would be funded. Ms. Hedstrom stated the majority of this work was being funded by a grant.

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Genet, to recommend the City Council approve the 2022-2026 Open Space Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 6 - Rafferty, Chair Perkins, Truchon, Genet, Vedi, and Panning

5.-2

NRCB Updates

Attachments: [Wetland Sancturay Monuement B 10.20.21](#)

Mr. Monahan provided the board with an update on the following projects:

Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Monument Sign - Construction will begin the week of November 15.

Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Pavilion and Restroom - City Council still needs to approve the contract from WSB on November 15. If this happens, staff will bring options for the board to review and recommended once the feasibility study is completed and the consultant has a better idea of what the site can accommodate for the Pavilion and Restroom facilities. Board Member Troughon

recommended any additional parking stalls need to avoid impacting wetland.

Chair Perkins questioned if the Board would like to hold the December meeting.

Boardmember Panning questioned when the BWS southern trail development process could begin. Mr. Monahan stated staff would like to get this side of the trail started. He reported this could not begin until the project was approved and sent out for bid by the council. The proposed phases for the southern portion trails of the BWS was further reviewed with the Board.

Boardmember Genet explained her students will have their wildlife monitoring project completed by December and would have a presentation for the Board.

Boardmember Truchon reported she attended the Anoka County Conservation Board District meeting last night where the rare plant rescue program was discussed. She indicated she would like to have this presentation made to the Board.

Boardmember Panning supported this recommendation and suggested a birder be brought in as well to make a presentation to the Board at a future meeting.

Chair Perkins suggested this items be addressed in January and February of 2022.

MOVED by Boardmember Panning, seconded by Boardmember Genet, to cancel the December NRCB meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 6 - Rafferty, Chair Perkins, Truchon, Genet, Vedi, and Panning

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.