



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, January 18, 2022

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, Rafferty, Trippler, and Truchon.

Absent - Boardmembers Filipi, McKinley, Panning and Vedi.

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

Present: 5 - Rafferty, Chair Perkins, Truchon, Genet, and Trippler

Absent: 4 - Vice Chair McKinley, Vedi, Panning, and Filipi

3. Approval of Minutes

3.-1

Approval of the November 16, 2021 NRCB Minutes

Attachments: [11-16-21 nrcb](#)

Boardmember Truchon recalled the parking lot at the new shelter was discussed and noted the Board did not want to see any wetland lost for additional parking spaces. Mr. Monahan reported this information was passed along to the consultant.

Boardmember Truchon asked that her statement, along with the fact the water treatment plant could be used for overflow parking be added to the minutes.

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Genet, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2021 Board Meeting as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 5 - Rafferty, Chair Perkins, Truchon, Genet, and Trippler

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Jason Husveth, property owner in Blaine, discussed the plans he has for two areas within the city. He reported the Lexington Cove wetland outlot and features within Loch Ness Park were two critical natural areas in the community. He encouraged the city to make these areas a priority. He reviewed aerial photographs and commented on the work that has been done to the Lexington Cove wetland over the past 20 years. He reported there were six endangered or biodiversity species within one cleared area of this wetland. He estimated the size of this wetland to be three or four acres and encouraged the city to protect this unique wetland. Further comment ensued regarding how the site was being degraded and was in need of preservation in order to protect the unique plant species on the site. He encouraged the city to make a plan to continue to hay this site in order to protect the endangered species.

Boardmember Truchon asked how many wetlands were in need of being connected in this area. Mr. Husveth estimated this to be six to eight.

Boardmember Truchon thanked Mr. Husveth for bringing this information to the boards attention. She stated she was excited to see what the city can do with this land, especially because it was already owned by the city.

Chair Perkins requested staff report back to the board on how more open space can be added to the city.

Mr. Husveth commented on an endangered native grass that was located only in five locations in the state of Minnesota and each of these were within Blaine. He encouraged the city of Blaine to

protect the grass within Loch Ness because it was unique only to Blaine.

Boardmember Truchon thanked Mr. Husveth for bringing this matter before the board. She appreciated the fact that the city already owned this park land and would be able to protect this plant species. Mr. Husveth commented further on how the city could work to protect this habitat and still provide frisbee golf at this park.

Chair Perkins requested staff investigate how the city can adjust its plans to figure out how to manage the preservation of this endangered species within Loch Ness Park.

5. New Business

5.-1 NRCB Updates

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

Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Entrance Sign

Work continues on the entrance sign and it should be completed very soon.

Pioneer Park Tree Project

Staff brought the Pioneer Park Preservation Project to the January 3rd workshop to open up discussion with Council on the potential tree preservation project, currently proposed in the 2022 Open Space Fund budget. The project, as proposed, would include the removal of 1,314 ash trees from the wetland located on the southwest side of Pioneer Park. An additional 572 dead trees along the trail system in the park are proposed for removal as well. Staff also recommends removing 740 non-native invasive trees from the wetland area. These tree species, mostly quaking aspen and boxelder, are invasive to the wetland area. They are less tolerant to drought or temperature extremes and have a much shorter lifespan than the native species in the area, like American elm, red oak, or black cherry trees. They also compete very aggressively with the native species and would spread quickly to the areas where the ash trees would be removed in the wetland. Further discussions with Council will happen at a later date.

2022 - 2026 Open Space CIP

The city council will be reviewing the budget on Wednesday, January 19.

Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Pavilion and Restroom

WSB and Associates has begun feasibility planning for restroom and pavilion structures. Staff is working with WSB and the Rice Creek Water Shed District for this initial portion of the project. The architect for the project hopes to share a few concepts for review with City Council and the NRCB in February.

Amendment of the BWS Wetland Bank Permits

Staff is waiting for final review from state agencies on amending the wetland bank permits for Branch 3 and Site 7 to allow for future trails through the sites. Once wetland banks are amended staff will look to hire a consultant to update the future trail plan throughout the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary. Once trail concepts are reviewed by City Council and NRCB, staff will look to hold public meetings to gather input from residents.

Speaker Series

Staff will look to begin the speaker series in February with Carrie Taylor from Anoka Conservation District.

Boardmember Genet asked if the speakers would be speaking at board meetings or separate events. Mr. Monahan stated it was his understanding the speakers would be speaking at upcoming board meetings.

Boardmember Genet suggested the city also consider holding a speaker series in order to assist in drawing the public in for these events. Mr. Monahan commented he could look into this.

Boardmember Truchon stated if public meetings are being held, a good sound system should be considered for each event.

Chair Perkins suggested this item be further discussed and voted on at the February or March meeting.

Boardmember Genet discussed the posters her students completed from the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary work they did last fall.

Chair Perkins recommended these be further discussed at the April board meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Perkins adjourned the meeting at 8:06PM.

