



City of Blaine

Natural Resource Conservation Board

September 19, 2023 | 7:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

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.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1.** 2023-421 Approval of NRCB Minutes for July 18 and August 15, 2023
Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator
- 4. Open Forum for Citizen Input**
- 5. New Business**
 - 5.1.** 2023-422 NRCB Updates
Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator
 - 5.2.** 2023-424 Open Space Inspection Reports
Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator
- 6. Adjournment**



City of Blaine

Natural Resource Conservation Board

July 18, 2023 | 7:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present – Chair Rafferty, Boardmembers Anderson, Panning, Truchon.

Absent – Boardmembers Genet and McKinley.

Others Present: Recreation Manager Nate Monahan.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.1. 2023-301 Approval of NRCB Minutes
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

MOVED by Boardmember Panning, seconded by Boardmember Truchon, to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 board meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

No one appeared to address the NRCB.

5. New Business

- 5.1. 2023-302 Trail Connection to Legacy Woods Open Space

Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Monahan presented on a trail connection that was made to the Legacy Woods Open Space. He reviewed a trail map noting the location of the new woodchip trail. He stated if time allow he would like the Board to visit this trail during the Open Space Inspection.

Boardmember Anderson questioned how wide the woodchip trail was. Mr. Monahan noted woodchip trails are generally eight feet wide.

5.2. 2023-304 Update on RFP for the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Trail System and Wetland Bank

Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

Mr. Monahan provided the board with an update on the RFP's for the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary trail system and wetland bank. He explained staff was reviewing the results, noting Stantec had bid on the project. He hoped to have further information for the board regarding the RFP's in August. He indicated the board would be holding a joint meeting with the Park Board in August.

Boardmember Panning questioned if the board would be able to review the RFP responses. Mr. Monahan stated he would check with engineering staff and would report back to the board on this. He anticipated he would be able to email the information to the board.

Mr. Monahan reported staff had a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers so the city can become compliant with the wetland bank. He noted the city would be meeting with BWSR as well to ensure the wetland bank was compliant.

Boardmember Truchon asked if the new consultant would be assisting staff with bringing the wetland bank into compliance. Mr. Monahan reported this was the case.

Boardmember Truchon inquired if the dewatering has had an impact on the Site 7 wetland bank. Mr. Monahan stated he would have to look into this and could report back to the board.

5.3. 2023-303 Open Space Inspection of Pioneer Park

Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

Mr. Monahan explained the board would be completing an open space inspection of Pioneer Park at the conclusion of this meeting.

Further discussion ensued regarding the park checklist form and the board recommended this document be placed on the website for the public to view/use.

6. Adjournment

Chair Rafferty adjourned the meeting at 7:28PM.



City of Blaine

Natural Resource Conservation Board

August 15, 2023 | 7:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

NRCB Members Present – Chair Rafferty, Boardmembers Anderson, Genet, Panning, Truchon.

Park Members Present – Boardmembers Lizakowski, Paulseth and VanBuren.

Absent – NRCB Boardmember McKinley. Park Boardmembers Ford, Keraka, Neubert, and Chair Lester.

Others Present: Senior Recreation Manager Jerome Krieger and Recreation Manager Nate Monahan.

3. Open Forum for Citizen Input

No one appeared to address the NRCB or Park Board.

4. New Business

- 4.1.** 2023-359 Review of Parks Capital Budgets
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Monahan provided the group with an updated report of the proposed five-year Park Development CIP and the Parks and Trails budgets. It was noted the city may need more ballfields if the airport fields are lost to new development in the next three to five years. This would require the city to buy a larger parcel for new fields. He commented further on how valuable trails were to Blaine residents, noting the improvements that would

be made in the next five years.

Boardmember Paulseth asked how staff came up with the estimates. Mr. Monahan described how staff prepared estimates with inflation for the budget.

Boardmember Anderson questioned what the revenue stream was for trail improvements. Mr. Monahan stated trails are funded by park dedication fees.

4.2. 2023-360 Review of Open Space Capital Budget
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

Mr. Monahan reviewed the proposed five-year Open Space capital budget.

Boardmember Truchon commented on the proposed trails within the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary (BWS) and noted most of these would be completed in the southern end of the BWS. Mr. Monahan reported this was the case. It was noted the proceeds from the sale of all wetland credits were set aside for BWS improvements.

Boardmember Truchon explained the remaining eight acres of the EDA's wetland bank credits have been made available. She asked if the city had credits available anywhere else in the city. Mr. Monahan stated there were only wetland credits available on these two sites (BWS and Site 7).

Boardmember Truchon indicated the BWS nature center was still a high priority to her and the NRCB. She was interested in moving this figure two years earlier. She commented on how a nature center could be utilized by the entire community and hoped the remainder of the NRCB would support this recommendation. Mr. Monahan agreed there was a need for a gathering space or structure at the BWS. He noted this budget was fluid and items could be moved as priorities change.

Boardmember Lizakowski questioned why the boardwalk trails were so expensive. Mr. Monahan explained the boardwalk trail work can only be done in the winter months, which left little time for mobilization and actual work. He indicated the price for materials was also quite high.

Boardmember Genet asked if the city was working to meet performance standards in order to free up more wetland credits. Mr. Monahan stated the city was working towards this with a consultant and the Army Corp of Engineers.

4.3. 2023-361 Park Updates
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Mr. Monahan provided the Board with an update on the following matters:

- Aquatore Bandshell - Staff commented on the work that has begun on the bandshell and noted lighting in the park would be updated.

- Sunrise Pond Park/Trail - Staff provided an update on the playground equipment that had been installed at this park.
- Oak Creek Park Playground - Staff reviewed photos of this park and noted swing will also be installed at this park.
- Jim Peterson Sports Field Lighting
- Lochness Disc Golf Improvement - Staff commented on the improvements that were made to the Lochness 9-hole disc golf course.
- Lexington Athletic Complex Hockey Rink Expansion
- Trail Improvements

4.4. 2023-362 Open Space Updates

Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

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

- Blaine Wetland Sanctuary (BWS) Trails and Wetland Bank - Staff commented on the three consultants that submitted bids to assist the city of Blaine with the management of the BWS. It was noted a clearing event was scheduled for the southern portion of BWS on September 8. The Board requested staff consider how to address motorized vehicles that are using the boardwalks.
- Open Space Inspections - Staff explained Hidden Ponds, Oak Savannah, Laddie Lake, and Kane Meadows North and South still need to be inspected for 2023.
- Lexington Athletic Complex North Trail Connection
- Laddie Lake Park Shelter and Building Removal - Staff reported two of the rundown buildings at Laddie Lake Park would be removed this fall.

5. Adjournment

Chair Rafferty adjourned the meeting at 8:03PM.



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2023-422

Agenda Date

September 19, 2023

Status

In Control

Natural Resources Conservation
Board

File Type

Report

New Business -

Agenda Item # 5.1

NRCB Updates

Background

Staff will provide information on the following topics:

Rare Grass Signage at Lochness Park

Laddie Lake Pollinator updated and building and north shelter removals

RFP for Blaine Wetland Sanctuary

Volunteer Opportunities

BWS Walkthrough - September 20 - 9:30am - Noon

Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Southern - 20 native shrubs and spread native understory seed

Recommendation

Attachment List

None



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2023-424

Agenda Date	Status
September 19, 2023	
In Control	File Type
Natural Resources Conservation Board	Report

New Business -

Agenda Item # 5.2

Open Space Inspection Reports

Background

Staff and Board Members will provide reports from inspections of Open Spaces. Staff will create work orders based on the findings of each inspection.

Kane Meadows South: Nate Monahan

Kane Meadows North: Ken Anderson

Sunrise Ponds: Ken Anderson

Oak Savanna: Kristen Genet

Laddie Lake: Gene Rafferty

Hidden Ponds: Megan Hedstrom

Recommendation

Informational

Attachment List

None

