



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.