

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

On Monday, June 6, 2011, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Mississippi River Conference Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Max
 Board Member Trent Hassett
 Board Member Jennifer Carlson
 Board Member John Enstrom
 Board Member Bob Bentz
 Board Member Thomas Stodola

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Max called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Board Member Hassett and seconded by Board Member Carlson to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Carlson, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Enstrom. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Bentz to approve the regular meeting minutes dated May 3, 2011.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Enstrom, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Carlson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

Case #1: Review and Consider 2011-2012 Work Plan

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Hassett stated that he'd like to add reviewing green building practices that could be incorporated or encouraged in The COR area and possibly ways to incentive them. He also stated that it may be helpful to research the return on investment with these practices.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that Low Impact Development practices could also be reviewed.

Board Member Bentz stated that he'd like to include better visibility on the website. Maybe a section entitled 'How green is Ramsey' or something along those lines.

Discussion ensued regarding how the website could be better utilized and other considerations for the work plan.

Consensus of the Board was to incorporate green building principles/low impact development concepts as well as enhanced website visibility on the draft work plan.

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Bentz to direct Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson update the draft work plan accordingly and forward to City Council for consideration at the June 14, 2011 Council meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Enstrom, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Carlson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

Case #2: Environmental Expo Survey

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he worked at the Elk River Home Depot last weekend at the 'kids' workshop' and there were lots of very neat hands on activities for the kids to do. He suggested that it may be worthwhile to contact Home Depot to see about involvement with the expo event.

Chairperson Max stated that the minutes from last month's meeting mentioned the possibility of a regional type of expo event and asked if that was something in the works.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that that was just something that he and some fellow Anoka County municipal recycling coordinators had tossed around once or twice but nothing beyond that.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he did speak with two of the three tree sale vendors and they did confirm that the 2011 event was their last. Both of them are

nearing retirement and don't have the assistance they used to have to move the product back and forth and thought that now was simply the right time to move away from the event.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that this obviously will trigger the need to tweak/revamp the tree sale component.

Chairperson Max stated that he thought it would be good to have a speaker in to talk about green practices/concepts.

Board Member Carlson suggested having someone in to speak about native landscaping concepts.

Board Member Bentz suggested having a speaker from either the U of MN or the Arboretum in to speak about grass types.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he knows somebody at Specialty Seeds out of Albany, MN that could be contacted or possibly Mark Stennes with S & S Tree Specialists as a possible speaker.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that these all sound like good ideas but cautioned that without a well known name, they likely will not draw people in, at least based on past events. He went on to say that this would be a perfect task for an expo subcommittee should the Board choose to form one.

Motion by Board Member Hassett and seconded by Board Member Bentz to form a three person subcommittee to work on expo related tasks that will report back to the Board during regular monthly meetings with any pertinent updates.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Enstrom, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Carlson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

Chairperson Max and Board Members Carlson and Bentz volunteered to serve on the expo subcommittee.

Board Member Enstrom suggested that it may be good to invite either a City Council member, an EDA member or some other advisory board member to also serve on the subcommittee.

BOARD/STAFF INPUT

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he and Parks Supervisor Riverblood discussed options for the tree planting activity in Rhinestone Commons Park and thought it may work well to conduct the planting on June 23, starting around 4:30 or 5:00pm and wrapping up just before 7:00pm. Not only will the Farmers Market be occurring that afternoon but it also will be the kick off of another summer of concerts in the amphitheater, so there should be a lot of action providing the Board with a lot of visibility for the planting activity. The Board still expressed an interest in participating in the planting activity.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that the regularly scheduled July meeting falls on the 4th and city offices are closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday so it either needs to be rescheduled or cancelled.

Motion by Board Member Enstrom and seconded by Board Member Stodola to cancel the July meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Enstrom, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Carlson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

Board Member Hassett announced he is resigning from the Board because he and his family are moving to Maryland. He stated that he has enjoyed his time on the Board and hopes that it continues to serve the community.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that over the weekend Board Member Riley-Daniels submitted her resignation as she has relocated to Minnetonka.

Board Member Enstrom stated that on Flag Day he will be hosting a flag retirement ceremony at his property and that June 19-24 he will be hosting the national remote control battle conference at his property as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Hassett to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator