

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

On Monday, August 1, 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 Jennifer Carlson
 Board Member Bob Bentz
 Board Member Thomas Stodola

Members Absent: Board Member John Enstrom

Also Present: Councilmember Randy Backous
 Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Max called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Bentz to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Board Member Carlson and seconded by Board Member Stodola to approve the regular meeting minutes dated June 6, 2011.

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

POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

Case #1: Existing Recycling Opportunities in Public Buildings and Potential Enhancements

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Chairperson Max inquired whether the recycling containers are placed next to garbage cans.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that yes, typically recycling containers are placed next to garbage cans. That provides the most visibility to potentially divert materials from the waste stream to the recycling stream.

Board Member Bentz stated that during Super Soccer Saturday, he thought there could have been additional garbage containers brought in to help contain the garbage.

Discussion ensued about possible enhancements to recycling in public places.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson asked what the Board thought about the City possibly participating in the Recycle Your Holidays program as a collection site for old holiday lights.

Discussion ensued and there was general consensus that this was a great opportunity and that there was support in exploring further.

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Bentz to encourage the City to look into and pursue participating in the Recycle Your Holidays program offered by the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM).

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

Further discussion: Chairperson Max stated that the state surplus store has lots of recycling containers available for purchase and that might be something worth looking into.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he would report back to the Board in September if there is any update regarding the Recycle Your Holidays program.

Case #2: Review Low Impact Development Concepts

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report and power point presentation about the basic elements of Low Impact Development (LID).

General discussion ensued about various techniques that could be explored.

Councilmember Backous stated that it would be good to also look at what potential costs/fees could be reduced should a development incorporate certain LID principles into their project.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson concurred and stated that incentivizing these techniques rather than making them a requirement may be a better approach. He stated that this obviously would entail a discussion about 'give and take' and what may be the most effective means to encourage this type of development.

BOARD/STAFF INPUT

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that there is a Meet & Greet the Candidates scheduled for Monday, August 8, 2011 starting at 5:30pm at Ramsey Elementary School for the Ward 4 special election candidates.

Chairperson Max stated that he'd like to commend former Board Members Kathleen Riley-Daniels and Trent Hassett for their contributions to this Board.

Board Member Stodola stated that with Mr. Hassett resigning, another member will need to be appointed as Vice Chair.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that the next meeting will include appointment of both Chair and Vice Chair through June 30, 2012, which coincides with the timeframe of the work plan.

Board Member Bentz stated that the search function on the website may need to be looked at. When he did a search for 'tree' nothing relating to the Tree Book came up.

Board Member Bentz asked if there may be a chance to look at what kind of paper is used for the production of the newsletter and whether there may be a more environmentally friendly option (less bleach, containing post-consumer recycled content, etc).

Discussion ensued about how the newsletter could be improved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator