

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

On Monday, March 5, 2012, 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
 Vice Chairperson Thomas Stodola
 Board Member Bob Bentz
 Board Member John Enstrom

Members Absent: None

Also Present: 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 Bentz and seconded by Board Member Stodola to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Stodola, Bentz 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 February 6, 2012.

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

POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

Case #1: Environmental Expo Event

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he has been discussing the coloring contest with Ramsey Elementary School and more specifically the awards presentation. He said that he asked the school if they thought the students might enjoy it more to receive their award during school with all their classmates present rather than the morning of the expo event. The principal responded by suggesting that the awards be presented during their Monday morning news show.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he opposed having the awards presentation at the school rather than at the expo event. He said that the event is incorporating kids' activities now and if the awards presentation is done off-site, that will just reduce the number of attendees and he just doesn't see the purpose then in offering the event.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that typically for the awards presentation, it is just himself, maybe a few board members, and the winning students and their families that are able to attend the event. He did not see how this would decrease the overall attendance of the event as there are typically plenty of kids and families attending regardless of the coloring contest. He also stated that he didn't see how this was any different than the bird walk(s) that Board Member Enstrom is working to coordinate, as they will all be offered off-site. In his opinion, that may have more of an impact on reducing the overall number of attendees than shifting the awards presentation to the school.

Chairperson Max stated that maybe both could be done.

Board Member Bentz suggested that QCTV should film the awards and that could be used as a brief filler.

Board Member Stodola stated that he has several different interactive templates similar to a couple different game shows that could be used to engage the public.

Consensus of the Board was to offer some sort of interactive game that would entice the public to stop at their booth.

Board Member Enstrom inquired about the status of applicants to serve on the Board.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he didn't have any additional update beyond last month, which was that there were two applicants that indicated a desire, albeit it not necessarily their first choice, to serve on the EPB. The interviews will be conducted tomorrow night with City Council.

Board Member Stodola stated that he has not gotten a response from Lowe's and therefore he informed Mr. Anderson to remove that info from the newsletter.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he left in more vague language about kids activities because he was hopeful that Lowe's may still participate in some

capacity but regardless, the 4-H Cheerful Chuggers group has responded that they will participate and that they are working on some hands on activities for the event.

Board Member Bentz stated that maybe Home Depot would have an interest in participating.

Board Member Enstrom stated that Mike Freiburg, the birding expert that was going to lead the bird walks, will no longer be able to attend the event. He was booked for an L.L. Bean event in Maine that same weekend. He did offer to gather up some photos that he could put into a slide show that could be cycled through throughout the event.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that that was really unfortunate but thanked Board Member Enstrom for all his efforts to try and coordinate this.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he would possibly try to contact Lyle Bradley, who used to lead the bird walk at the elementary school, to see if there's any interest and/or willingness to lead a bird walk again this year.

Board Member Bentz suggested contacting former board member Kathleen Riley-Daniels, since she is involved with bird seed and other products.

Chairperson Max stated that another former member, Erika Sitz, might have some ideas for people that could lead a bird walk also.

Board Member Enstrom stated that if a person is found to lead the bird walks, they could still do it at his property. He also reviewed various other events he intends to host this summer.

Board Member Bentz suggested contacting the extension office about having a booth about septic system maintenance, similar to the classes that are offered periodically.

BOARD/STAFF INPUT

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that the North Suburban Home Improvement Show, which is hosted by Ramsey, Andover, Anoka and Coon Rapids, is on March 24 at the Andover YMCA. He will be staffing both a recycling booth as well as a forestry booth throughout the day.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson reminded the Board about the joint community EAB workshop that will be held on Thursday, March 29 at the Andover City Hall.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson informed the Board that Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Heidi Nelson has accepted the position of City Manager with the City of Wayzata and her last day with Ramsey will be sometime in early April.

Board Member Bentz stated that he heard on the radio a discussion about how clean water shortages across the globe are impacting where large corporations will site new facilities.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he heard from Carr's Tree Service that they've removed 10,000 trees associated with the transmission line easement clearing work.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator