

Councilmember _____ introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #12-06-___

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE MN DNR FOR COMMUNITY FOREST BONDING GRANT MONIES TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL TREES WITHIN NORTH COMMONS

WHEREAS, parks, trails, and treed recreation areas, are essential to the quality of life, health and welfare of the city of Ramsey and the state's residents; and

WHEREAS, trees especially are an increasingly vital resource in Minnesota and enrich our lives by purifying air, soil and water; and

WHEREAS, trees provide beautiful recreational settings and promote personal, community and ecosystem health; and

WHEREAS, planting indigenous species of trees creates a more sustainable community forest by limiting the amount of inputs, such as water and fertilizers, which may otherwise be necessary to ensure long-term survival of the plantings; and

WHEREAS, through these functions as well as many other favorable attributes of trees, a healthy community forest contributes to a greater quality of life for the community; and

WHEREAS, North Commons is currently an undeveloped park within The COR, a pedestrian and transit orientated master-planned community, and both the City and residents have expressed a desire to see certain improvements implemented, including the installation of trees; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Policy Board's, City Council approved work plan includes implementing a demonstration project such as a 'mini arboretum' to showcase the various tree species that perform well in the Anoka Sand Plain; and

WHEREAS, this project within North Commons will serve this goal and be available as an educational resource

WHEREAS, through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (MN DNR) Community Forest Bonding Grant cycle, funding is available to off-set costs associated with native tree planting efforts on public land and parks to create a more diverse and resilient community forest; and

WHEREAS, all trees purchased with the use of the grant monies must be on the Approved Native Trees List provided by the MN DNR; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2012, the City Council authorized City Staff to apply for Community Forest Bonding Grant monies to landscape North Commons; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2012, the City received notice that its application for funding was approved in full by the MN DNR; and

WHEREAS, required components of the grant agreement are: (1) executing a Declaration of Bond-Financed Property to use General Obligation bond proceeds to improve public property; (2) adopting an EAB Community Preparedness Plan; (3) an annual maintenance plan for public trees; and (4) updated community forest or shade tree ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:

- 1) That the Ramsey City Council hereby authorizes entering into a grant agreement with the MN DNR for use of Community Forest Bonding Grant monies to purchase and install natives trees in North Commons.
- 2) That the Ramsey City Council hereby authorizes executing the Declaration of Bond-Financed Property.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember _____, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

and the following abstained:

and the following were absent:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 26th day of June, 2012.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk