

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

On Monday, August 6, 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  
                          Board Member John Enstrom  
                          Board Member Michael Hiatt  
                          Board Member Larry Lewis  
                          Board Member Thomas Stodola (arrived at 6:39 p.m.)  
                          Board Member Michael Valentine

Members Absent:     Board Member Bob Bentz

Also Present:         Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Max called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**2.     CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.     APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Valentine to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated July 2, 2012**

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Lewis to approve the regular meeting minutes dated July 2, 2012.

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

## **5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Consider Date for 2013 Environmental Expo Event**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Hiatt stated that he thought the Environmental Expo and Business Expo could still be held simultaneously but with improved coordination.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he had a conversation with the Management Analyst and the option of wrapping the Environmental Expo into Happy Days was suggested.

Chairperson Max was supportive of that idea as it would most certainly increase the amount of foot traffic for the expo event.

Board Member Stodola stated that it may even be preferable by the vendors due to the larger potential audience.

Board Member Lewis stated that he felt the tree sale could be coupled with the Business Expo in the spring and the Environmental Expo could be coupled with Happy Days in the fall.

Chairperson Max and Board Members Lewis and Hiatt all stated that they preferred to see the tree sale continue.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson clarified that the discussion regarding whether the tree sale should continue relates more to the declining sales than anything else.

Chairperson Max stated that historically families often would purchase multiple trees because they were in a new development and had no trees at all in their yards whereas now, they may purchase just one.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that one possible option might be to consider a gravel bed nursery in which the city could purchase bareroot tree stock from a wholesaler in the spring, line them out in a gravel bed over the summer where they can develop a more fibrous root system, and then pull them in the fall with very little, if any, root loss due to the gravel bed, and be available for pick up and/or be planted. This could allow the city to capitalize on the less expensive bareroot stock and provide residents a tree with a greater root mass, giving the trees a better chance of survival. He also stated that this would have some additional costs to the city because the trees would need to be handled at least twice and would require watering throughout the summer.

Board Member Valentine stated that he too would like to see the tree sale continue but that he thought it was a good point about diminishing sales and if that trend continues, the tree sale event should be reevaluated.

Discussion ensued about the benefits of hosting the Environmental Expo as a part of Happy Days. General consensus was that this would be a good move for the expo event and that it would add an educational component to Happy Days as well.

Motion by Board Member Lewis and seconded by Board Member Hiatt to tie the tree sale event with the Business Expo and the Environmental Expo with Happy Days.

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

Further discussion: The Board continued discussing some possibilities about the expo event in the fall and that it may provide an opportunity to highlight topics such as preparing a yard for winter. The Board in general also discussed how this new format would provide more concentrated marketing for the tree sale and the expo event and by splitting the two, also may provide the Board a bit more time to focus on the two demonstration projects on their work plan.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson did state that it might be nice to somehow tie in the picking up of trees from the tree sale with the spring recycling event since city staff would already be here for that event.

The Board really liked that idea and wanted to explore it more not only for the efficiencies of staff but also because people would already be coming to the event with trailers and after they dropped their stuff off at the recycling event, they could get their trees and be on their way.

## **5.02: Review Article for Ramsey Resident Newsletter**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Lewis suggested that for the recycling component, that the funding of the program be mentioned.

Board Member Stodola stated that for him, that may lead to more questions about how that funding is utilized.

Consensus of the Board was that the inaugural article should simply be the introduction to the EPB and that the recycling article should be a separate column in a future newsletter.

Chairperson Max stated that he ran into Councilmember Strommen and she had mentioned that at the last WMO meeting, there was a request made that the EPB draft an article on water conservation that was generic enough that any of the four member communities could use in their newsletter.

General discussion ensued about a potential logo or icon that could be used in conjunction with this new column.

Board Member Lewis suggested that a number of space fillers be developed that could be inserted throughout the newsletter along with the logo or icon to indicate that the tidbit has to do

with the environment. The space fillers could just be little factoids about anything related to the environment.

Chairperson Max stated that he was fine with all of the edits that had been made but in the second paragraph he would like some sort of statement to inform the public that the EPB is made up of everyday people and not necessarily a bunch of 'environmentalists'.

Board Member Stodola volunteered to try and draft an article on water conservation.

## **6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT**

- September Meeting Date

Consensus of the Board was to reschedule the September meeting to September 10, 2012 due to the Labor Day holiday.

- Web Updates

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson informed the Board that he has been working on updates to the website and requested that the Board take a look at it in their spare time and let him know if there are other additions they'd like to see made.

- Updates on the Monarch Station/Prairie Creation Project

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson provided a handout showing a possible location for this demonstration project. He stated he chose this site because of two factors, it is a public park and it has a GRE transmission line running through it. However, the Board may want to consider another location that would likely benefit from much greater foot traffic. Consensus of the Board was that visibility is more critical than having a transmission line overhead. Wherever the project goes, there could be a kiosk explaining the purpose and illustrating how this type of project would be ideal under power lines.

Board Member Lewis requested a map of all community parks plus smaller maps of all the parks that are no longer being routinely maintained.

- Board Member Enstrom stated that at the last WMO meeting, there was discussion about a new federal agency that is reviewing the connection between a rise in E. Coli, West Nile Virus and rain gardens.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator

ATTEST:

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JoAnn Shaw  
Community Development Secretary