

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

On Monday, September 10, 2012, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Rum River Conference Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Max
 Board Member Bob Bentz
 Board Member Michael Hiatt
 Board Member Larry Lewis (arrived at 6:37 p.m.)
 Board Member Michael Valentine

Members Absent: Board Member John Enstrom
 Board Member Thomas Stodola

Also Present: Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Max called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Hiatt, Valentine, and Bentz.
Voting No: None. Absent: Board Members Enstrom, Lewis and Stodola.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated August 6, 2012

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Hiatt to approve the regular meeting minutes dated August 6, 2012.

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

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Review and Consider Potential Icons or Symbols to Brand Environmental Information

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report. He provided his input on each of the options, noting that he would not prefer the brown oak leaf as he believed that would make people think of oak wilt. He stated that he likes the magnifying glass but expressed concern that the picture would not be clear when reduced down.

Board Member Lewis arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Chairperson Max commented that he likes the R symbol included in the packet.

Board Member Lewis provided some conceptual ideas that a friend of his drafted for the Board, which would work well in small or large scale. He stated that these ideas are simply concepts and would like to give his friend more time to draft some more ideas for the Board to review. He stated that while he liked the ideas brought forward from staff, he did not believe the symbols would translate well to different forms of media or handouts.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he would not be opposed to that idea and noted that while he would like the symbol to be chosen prior to the next issue of the newsletter; the new symbol could also be used in the first newsletter of 2013.

Board Member Bentz commented that the symbol should not need an explanation and should translate well into black and white, as he believed that would be the form used most often.

Chairperson Max questioned if any other Boards have their own symbol or identification.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson confirmed that there is not another Board with a symbol or identifier. He explained that he thought the purpose of the logo or icon was not to identify the Board but to identify environmental items in things such as the newsletter.

Board Member Lewis commented that he did not believe there is anything problematic with the Board developing a symbol such as this to identify things the Board is involved in, such as the tree sale.

Board Member Hiatt suggested that the symbol focus more on the "E", for environment, with the "PB", for Policy Board, much smaller.

Board Member Lewis confirmed that the logo would include the "PB", whereas the icon would focus solely on the "E". He confirmed that the "E" would stand out, as to not confuse people into thinking the "E" is the start letter for a paragraph. He confirmed that the Board does not object to giving his friend some additional time to further work on the icon/logo for the Board. He noted that his friend is donating his time, as a designer, which is a significant cost savings.

5.02: Article and Space Filler Discussion

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report. He advised that the draft article requested by the LRRWMO was drafted by Board Member Stodola. Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson also noted that at last month's meeting there was a request for everyone to develop some "space fillers" for use in the newsletter and that he has provided a half dozen or so for review by the Board.

Board Member Lewis commented that he was able to find some interesting environmental facts on the internet.

Chairperson Max believed that it is good for these "space fillers" to be available to the editor, as open space in the newsletter could then easily be filled with environmental information.

Board Member Lewis noted that the article could be highlighted by the icon, once developed, which would easily mark the item as environmental information.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson further discussed the recycling article and the recycling goals set by Anoka County each year.

Board Member Lewis stated that it might be beneficial to highlight the reimbursement, which the City receives from the County by meeting those goals. He explained that residents might be willing to put more effort into recycling if they knew that the City is able to receive funding from the County for reaching those recycling goals.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson commented that approximately 90 percent of residents are recycling to some extent. He stated that the greater gain would be to focus on those who are already recycling and educate them on additional items that can be recycled, rather than trying to recruit those who do not recycle.

Board Member Bentz advised that some residents on his block have downgraded to a smaller garbage can because of the amount they are recycling, which is a tangible benefit of recycling. He noted that his neighbors would really like the City to contract with one hauler for garbage services to avoid the number of different garbage trucks running through the neighborhoods.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he did not believe that is likely to happen. He commented that he would incorporate some of the items discussed tonight into the articles and questioned if the Board feels that any other issues should be spotlighted in the upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Chairperson Max commented that he believed it would be beneficial to have a standalone article that focuses on holiday recycling. He also noted that it could be beneficial to have an article, which focuses on the many items that can be recycled, and some of the creative local re-uses for those materials.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson confirmed that the November/December article would focus on holiday recycling. He confirmed that the Board would meet again prior to the deadline for the January/February newsletter.

Board Member Lewis commented that it would be beneficial to have a few articles stockpiled to use.

Chairperson Max confirmed that because the next EPB article for the Ramsey newsletter will focus on holiday recycling, another community within the LRRWMO could print the article before Ramsey does.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he would be comfortable drafting the holiday recycling article, as he is proficient in the knowledge of the City program. He noted that the Board may not be able to review the article prior to the deadline for the article but advised that the Board would be able to review the article at the next meeting, prior to resident receipt.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Community Parks Map**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson advised that he was asked to draft a map, which identifies the larger community parks and has done so and distributed a copy to each Board Member.

- **Fall Recycling Day**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson reported that the Fall Recycling Day will take place on September 29th. He noted that mattresses and box springs will be accepted for a charge of \$15 each, but advised that no other furniture will be accepted. He noted that the day of the event they will also be taking in used motor oil and antifreeze.

- **Shoreland Ordinance Amendment**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson advised of an overlap in regulations, which identified the Mississippi River along Ramsey's border as part of both the Wild and Scenic and Critical Area Overlay Districts. He advised that there were legislative changes this year that exempts the Mississippi River from the Wild and Scenic regulations. He explained that the ordinance amendment would bring all the shoreland regulations into one spot within the City Code, as well as make it clear that the Wild and Scenic regulations would apply to the Rum River while the Critical River regulations would apply to the Mississippi River. He referenced a State Supreme Court ruling which stated that the DNR had overstepped their boundaries in regard to certification of variances and other land use applications and so the amendment will also clarify that the DNR only has certification authority for ordinance amendments. He provided further clarification and noted that once staff clarifies additional information within the ordinance to address these changes, he would be happy to draft something to update residents of the changes. He reviewed the timeline for these changes and hoped to bring this item forward at the October meeting of the Planning Commission.

- **Rain Garden Demonstration Project**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson advised of a possible site for a rain garden demonstration project, noting that possible cost-share funds may be available for the project.

- **Other**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that with the reorganization of staff, about 90 percent of his time has been focused on planning activities rather than environmental duties. He apologized for the small agenda and asked if any Board Members would like to review the Work Plan to focus priorities, or even review items in Subcommittee format. Due to a lack of available staff time, he asked that the Board assist in prioritizing the Work Plan. He stated that it would be beneficial if an interested Board Member wanted to focus their attention on a Work Plan item and gather background information.

Chairperson Max suggested that the October Board meeting focus on prioritizing the Work Plan and discussing this in more detail.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson confirmed that the Board would still like to focus on the demonstration projects.

Chairperson Max commented that October would be a good time to make the decision on the tree sale for the spring, and to line up vendors.

Board Member Lewis believed that the Board could do some “housecleaning” and could possibly develop the agendas in the future.

The Board also discussed the possibility of transferring the Environmental Expo from the usual date to take place in conjunction with the Happy Days event. Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson explained that this would allow the event to take advantage of the high level of foot traffic from the Happy Days events.

Board Member Valentine stated that when he joined the Board, his expectation was that the members would most likely handle much of the planning and research items. He thought that the Board Members could begin to take a more active role in those actions.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.