

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Environmental Policy Board (EPB)
Monday June 4, 2012
6:30 pm
Mississippi River Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Citizen Input**
3. **Approve Agenda**
4. **Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve Meeting Minutes Dated May 7, 2012
5. **Policy Board Business**
 1. Consider 2012/2013 Work Plan
6. **Board/Staff Input**
 - Used Motor Oil Collection
 - July Meeting (July 2, 2012)
7. **Adjournment**

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 06/04/2012

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Title:

Approve Meeting Minutes Dated May 7, 2012

Attachments

Draft Meeting Minutes Dated May 7, 2012

Form Review

Inbox
Chris Anderson (Originator)

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Reviewed By
Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 05/30/2012

Date
05/30/2012 09:32 AM
Started On: 05/30/2012 09:31 AM

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

On Monday, May 7, 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 Thomas Stodola
 Board Member Bob Bentz
 Board Member John Enstrom
 Board Member Michael Hiatt
 Board Member Larry Lewis
 Board Member Michael Valentine

Also Present: Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

CALL TO ORDER

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

CITIZEN INPUT

Bob Bentz stated that he has heard a lot of clamoring from people wanted to raise chickens, goats and honeybees.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that there is a case on the May 8, 2012 City Council agenda to introduce an ordinance allowing for the keeping of four (4) chickens on parcels 0.25 acres or larger. The ordinance also addresses beekeeping with the issuance of a conditional use permit. The intent was to have this topic discussed with City Council at a work session before formulating the ordinance amendments but Staff then was directed to forego the work session and present it at this upcoming regular City Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD MINUTES

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

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

POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

Case #1: Recap of Environmental Expo Event

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Members Stodola and Lewis stepped out of the meeting to be sworn in at 6:45pm.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he is opposed to having any type of tree sale if it does not include having trees on site so that people can see them before buying them. He would never buy a tree without seeing it first.

Board Members Stodola and Lewis returned to the meeting at 6:50pm.

Chairperson Max stated that he doesn't see it as a real problem; in fact, he has bought trees online previously and would not hesitate to do so again.

Board Member Lewis suggested that maybe vendors could use coupons instead of bringing all their material to the event. They could sell coupons that customers could then redeem at their site and have the ability to pick their tree out themselves.

Board Member Lewis stated that after having been a part of the Environmental Expo event, he sees a tremendous opportunity and benefit if this event were combined with the Business Expo.

Board Member Lewis stated that he believes there should be more commitment from the Board to assist with this event in the future.

Chairperson Max stated he thought there was a very good turnout, although, he thought there may have been fewer young children at this year's event than past years.

Board Member Valentine stated that he thought there was a lot of energy and interaction with the exhibitors but did think that a keynote speaker would have been beneficial.

Board Member Stodola stated that he was pleasantly surprised by the turnout; it seemed like a better turnout than last year when there was a keynote speaker.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he believed the good turnout was simply due to the bad weather.

Chairperson Max stated that he thought that may have helped keep people at the event for an extended period of time, but they still had to come to the event so he wouldn't attribute the good attendance just to the weather.

Case #2: 2012-2013 Work Plan

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator stated that he knows the Board has sought more direct feedback/direction from the City Council and offered up for discussion purposes the possibility of presenting an open work plan and requesting that City Council specify topics that would be most useful for them for the Board to pursue and/or research.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he felt it was best to develop a draft plan and ask City Council for further direction.

Board Member Valentine stated that he believed the Board should develop a work plan and filter through Councilmember Backous as the Council liaison to this Board.

Board Member Hiatt echoed that same sentiment.

Chairperson Max suggested that the Board take this opportunity to brainstorm ideas for the next work plan. He stated that he agreed with maybe looking at the tree preservation regulations as it pertains to replacement standards.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he heard from a credible source that Connexus Energy owns Carr's Tree Service and therefore has no incentive to retain any trees within their easement areas.

Chairperson Max stated that he believes demonstration projects are always good as it gives the community an example of some rather simple projects they could implement, such as rain gardens.

Board Member Hiatt inquired if there are other model ordinances related to tree preservation that could be reviewed.

Board Member Bentz stated that he thought the DNR had authority over shorelands; at least that is the case in Wisconsin.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson explained that along the two rivers, the DNR has jurisdiction below the OHW and that the City would have jurisdiction above the OHW. So, while the vegetation management standards are specified through state standards, enforcement typically falls to the City since the trees generally are above the OHW.

Board Member Lewis inquired whether the City is subject to the same type of tree preservation standards. He continued by stating that this may be something that the Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission could explore jointly.

Chairperson Max stated that he'd like the Board to have more of a voice on development that occurs. This could help the City lead by example.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he has a friend that is rather upset with the trail improvement project that was completed adjacent to his property. There are several red pines planted and one white pine and they all appeared to be salvaged or wild trees that were not aesthetically pleasing at all.

General discussion ensued about the quality of trees that the City may install.

Board Member Hiatt stated that he believes the City's communication directly with residents could be improved. He stated that many residents came up to the Board's booth at the expo with questions about recycling, such as the new plastics that can now be accepted.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that that is why he suggested the display board for the Board's booth. It always seems to attract people. He explained that he does write articles for the newsletter; typically near the beginning of each year one that reviews all acceptable recyclable materials and the current issue of the newsletter has information about the new plastics that can be recycled.

Board Member Lewis stated he'd like the Board to review or establish public space improvement standards. He then distributed a study that was conducted by the City of New York related to environmental initiatives.

Board Member Lewis stated that the expo may be an opportunity for some sort of eco challenge with high school students or vocational students.

Board Member Bentz suggested some sort of reuse challenge.

Chairperson Max said he'd like the Board to be more involved. For instance, the Board should have been the first stop for discussion on any updates to the animal ordinance.

Board Member Valentine stated that the Board should look for ways to improve communication on natural resources, such as wildlife, trees, plants, foot/paw prints, scat, soils etc.

Board Member Bentz stated that the City did complete a Natural Resources Inventory that could be used to develop some of that information.

Board Member Hiatt suggested that an independent mailer to each household is very effective. He said that the postcard he received for the expo events really caught his attention.

Board Member Valentine inquired about whether there's any direction on communications that the City develops.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that there is not a communications coordinator or any specific outline that is to be followed. Generally, the staff person responsible for certain topics puts together articles for inclusion in the newsletter.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson reviewed the items that had been discussed thus far: Community Awareness (e.g. natural resources info on trees, wildlife, soils etc), Demonstration Projects, Tree Preservation/Tree Replacement Standards, Improving Communication (e.g. a standing Did You Know column in the Ramsey Resident newsletter), Public Space Improvement Standards, Eco Challenge, and Participation in the Environmental Expo event.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he would try to incorporate this into a draft work plan for discussion at the June meeting.

BOARD/STAFF INPUT

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson provided a brief recap of the Spring Recycling event, which he said was very successful with just shy of 350 vehicles passing through.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

5. 1.

Meeting Date: 06/04/2012

By: Chris Anderson, Community Development

Title:

Consider 2012/2013 Work Plan

Background:

At the May meeting, the Board discussed and considered various topics for the 2012/2013 Work Plan. The Work Plan will begin July 1 and run through June 30, 2013, assuming City Council approves it prior to July 1. If not, it would be effective as soon as it receives City Council approval. Attached is a draft work plan that incorporates the topics that were discussed at last month's meeting.

Recommendation:

Typically, the work plan would reflect/address any pertinent strategic goals of the City Council. However, in reviewing the City Council's 2012 Strategic Goals, which are attached, it does not appear to include anything directly related to the role/function of the Board. The Board should be prepared to review and discuss the draft work plan, make any necessary revisions, and direct Staff to forward to City Council for consideration.

EPB Action:

Motion to approve 2012/2013 Work Plan and direct Staff to schedule for a City Council Work Session topic.

Attachments

Draft Work Plan

City Council 2012 Strategic Goals

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Chris Anderson (Originator)	Chris Anderson	05/31/2012 09:41 AM
Form Started By: Chris Anderson		Started On: 05/29/2012 04:27 PM
	Final Approval Date: 05/31/2012	

Environmental Policy Board 2012-2013 Proposed Work Plan

As outlined in City Code, the primary objective of the Environmental Policy Board is to review, consider, initiate and recommend to the City Council such policies, plans or projects which will enhance and preserve the natural environment of the City. The Board's scope shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, matters of the preservation of the community forest, water quality, wetland preservation, ground water protection, control of soil erosion and air, noise and light pollution.

The Environmental Policy Board will focus its efforts on the following tasks for the 2012-2013 Work Plan:

- Community Awareness
 - Encourage citizen awareness and education on environmental stewardship through the Environmental Expo & Tree Sale.
 - Incorporate natural resources information related to trees, wildlife, soils etc into the website for easy public access.
 - Develop shade tree disease and pest information (oak wilt, emerald ash borer, pine bark beetles, etc) for both website and newsletter.
- Demonstration Project(s)
 - Rain Garden within a parking lot to demonstrate storm water infiltration techniques.
- Improve Communication with the Public
 - Implement an ongoing 'Did You Know' column in the Ramsey Resident newsletter.
- Develop Public Space Improvement Standards
- Consider/Develop an Eco Challenge Program
- Consider/Develop Tree Replacement Standards for Inclusion in Tree Preservation Ordinance

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING

MARKETING

1. Increase effort to garner positive media/positive public relations efforts
2. City-wide marketing plan—existing and new resident and business, define story and objectives, review existing efforts and effectiveness of efforts from an outcome perspective
3. Identify stakeholders in the image and success of Ramsey

DEVELOPMENT

4. Review strategy for the sale of land in The COR
5. Pursue change to Met Council policy regarding RALF lease revenue—that it be shared with the City or the City gets to keep it if there is no plan to improve US10 or figure out a plan to convert those dollars to support funding Armstrong Interchange
6. Review Economic Development effort for business recruitment, expansion, retention-assess value of efforts (evaluate smoke stack chasing and grow your own)
7. Review City facilitation efforts to help businesses grown—assistance with identifying lending, funding, help through the process of expanding or developing a new business
8. Facilitate review of costs of operating a business: example provide information about how to reduce assessed value of a property, other operational expenses of businesses
9. Consider additional commercial nodes (167/47 and Armstrong/181)

TRANSPORTATION

10. Sunwood realignment project
11. Look for ways to increase capacity and improve traffic flow on 47 (review timing of lights at key intersections, lane stripping)
12. Road reconstruction initiative
13. Review signing and striping at US10/Armstrong and Bunker/Armstrong
14. Highway 47 alignment through Anoka
15. Review US10 median cuts/turning movements
16. Identify high priority trail connections to improve connectivity throughout the community
17. Review private street west of Hwy 47/Bunker—behind SA
18. Pedestrian overpass over US10—pursue funding for design and construction

HOUSING

19. Resident roundtable to understand concerns of mature neighborhoods for maintenance of housing stock, re-investment, stability, any neighborhood concerns
20. Recent increase rental properties for group/treatment living

BUDGET/FINANCE

21. Refinance RMC debt
22. Franchise fee for road reconstruction initiative
23. Explore business subsidy programs for development/investment (CMDC—tied new markets type program)
24. Comprehensive management review of services and cost of providing services to determine budget
25. Consider options for contracting services/functions
26. Reduce HRA and EDA levies
27. Review capital purchases to determine if they can be delayed and CIP for projects that we would move forward
28. Explore opportunities for additional revenue by renting out equipment, contracting staff
29. Continuous improvement to look for efficiencies, ways to reduce costs

POLICIES/PROGRAMS/SERVICES

30. Continue to review rate and fee schedule to consider reductions
31. Single line of accountability and quality control on public improvement/street projects
32. Review permits for siding windows, roofing—do we need to have them. Can we eliminate (smaller permits)?
33. Sustainability of programs and services
34. Consider use of recreational vehicle use on City streets/trails