

The consensus of the City Council was to direct staff to advertise and formulate a meeting process, invite Mayor Strommen, Planning Commission Chairperson Levine, and EPB Chairperson Max to the initial meeting of the DNR related to the Critical Area rulemaking, and to report back following that meeting on the policy implications.

#### **2.04: Receive Update on Rum River Shores, a Proposed 44-Lot Single Family Development on the Rum River in the City of Anoka**

Development Services Manager Gladhill provided an update on Rum River Shores, a proposed 44-lot single-family development on 22.5 acres along the Rum River, north of Bunker Lake Boulevard, in the City of Anoka. He explained the project received approval from the Anoka City Council on August 5, 2013, and there are two general topics of feedback from Ramsey residents who live on the Rum River relating to bank stabilization, its compliance with Wild and Scenic Rivers standards, and the public dock. It was noted the City Council had reviewed the public notification and did not object to the proposed development but had requested the two communities work together to solve regional transportation issues as growth occurs.

Development Services Manager Gladhill displayed a site plan of the subject development and explained the difficulty in stabilizing the riverbank. He stated this project has been approved by the Anoka Conservation District (ACD), reviewed by the DNR, and approved by the City of Anoka under its current ordinances. He displayed pictures of the style of homes to be constructed, noting the location of the trail, vegetative restoration plan, and photos of the existing conditions of erosion necessitating bank stabilization. Development Services Manager Gladhill explained that it may take up to ten years for the riverbank to be visually restored after the bank stabilization project.

Mayor Pro tem Backous stated it seems there is only one Ramsey home in view of this project.

Development Services Manager Gladhill pointed out the location of Ramsey's Rivers Bend Park that is in view of this project. He explained that the buckthorn removal project was conducted by the ACD under a conservation easement, which is being confused with this project. He indicated this project will not impact the flow of the River. Development Services Manager Gladhill stated staff checked with the ACD and DNR to assure Anoka is following proper procedures.

Mayor Pro tem Backous congratulated the City of Anoka on a beautiful plan.

Informational; no action required.

#### **2.05: Review Draft Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson described the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an exotic invasive insect that has been discovered in areas of St. Paul and Minneapolis but not yet in Ramsey. He stated the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) has developed a draft Management Plan outlining steps that the City can take to manage the inevitable discovery of this pest. Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the EAB Management Plan, as detailed in the staff report. It was noted the intent is not to prevent or

eliminate EAB, which is impractical based on results in other States, but to spread the potential cost of management over multiple budget cycles. Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the projected budget impact. He requested that the City Council provide feedback on the draft EAB Management Plan, noting it satisfies a requirement of the Community Forest Bonding Grant that was awarded to the City in 2012 to complete the landscaping in North Commons.

Councilmember Riley stated he supports the approach of not treating and replacing, as necessary, however, a recent *StarTribune* article was contrary to that recommendation.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated the City of Burnsville is looking at regularly treating trees instead of removal/replacement. He stated he is making a recommendation of removal/replacement due to the age of Ramsey's street trees, which are smaller (6-8 inches) and not as large as longer established communities that have trees 20 inches in width.

Councilmember Tossey asked if builders are being asked to no longer plant Ash Trees in boulevards.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson answered in the affirmative and stated the City no longer allows, on public property, the planting of Ash Trees and also discourages, when asked, on private property.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson is a Certified Arborist so the City is ahead of the curve on this threat by removing diseased trees and addressing preemptive actions. He stated if a private property owner has a large Ash Tree they want to save, the City would provide information on how it can be treated.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated a tree inventory will be conducted as time and budgets permit. He explained having that information will allow the City to determine the level of threat from EAB. He noted that when Dutch Elm was a threat, many communities replanted with Ash Trees.

Mayor Pro tem Backous asked if the City should prohibit planting Ash Trees on private properties to protect the rest of the City's trees.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that is a policy decision for the City Council but over time, there may be a treatment that is successful. He explained that in other impacted States, it has been found that once the initial wave of EAB gets through, treatment of remaining Ash Trees can be scaled back.

Councilmember Tossey stated he would object to the City telling private property owners what kind of tree they can plant; however, he does support the City not planting Ash Trees on public property.

Mayor Pro tem Backous stated he also supports private property rights but the City has rules about conserving water and quality of top soil and if Ash Trees threaten the City's tree inventory, he would consider such an option.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated if you force a specific species to be planted that the property owner does not like, they may be less inclined to care for that tree. From that perspective, if someone has their heart set on some cultivar of an Ash Tree, the City would be hard pressed to prohibit it.

Mayor Pro tem Backous stated it would be effective to educate the public about the threat of EAB.

Councilmember Riley supported education and also to discourage planting of Ash Trees.

The consensus of the City Council was to support the draft EAB Management Plan and direct staff to place it on a future City Council agenda for formal action.

### **3. FUTURE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Noted.

### **4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT**

Acting City Administrator Lund read an email from Elwyn Tinklenberg, Tinklenberg Group, providing an update on Mn/DOT's consideration of innovative funding options for the Armstrong Boulevard interchange.

Councilmember Kuzma stated he will attend the August 15, 2013, LRRWMO meeting.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood indicated that City Council Agenda Item 7.04, Adopt Resolution #13-08-136 Approving the Joint Powers Agreement and Accepting Bids for the Mississippi River Trail, will be pulled from tonight's agenda because the funding relationship and JPA disbursements are not accurate. It will be rescheduled for consideration at the City Council meeting of September 10, 2013.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to adjourn the Work Session meeting.

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,