

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

On Monday, December 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 John Enstrom  
                          Board Member Michael Hiatt (arrived at 6:48 p.m.)  
                          Board Member Michael Valentine

Members Absent:     Board Member Larry Lewis  
                          Board Member Thomas Stodola

Also Present:         Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Max called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**2.     CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.     APPROVE AGENDA**

No Changes

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

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01:   Approve Meeting Minutes Dated November 5, 2012**

Motion by Board Member Bentz and seconded by Board Member Valentine to approve the regular meeting minutes dated November 5, 2012.

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

## **5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Tree Sale Discussion**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report and asked for the Board's thoughts on the Tree Sale Program and whether to include offering shrubs as they are available through Bailey Nurseries.

Chairperson Max asked how many people respond to the information in the newspaper versus online.

Mr. Anderson stated that online submission is not available so residents needed to either use the order form from the newsletter or print it out from the website send it in with payment.

Chairperson Max asked why they are putting it in the newsletter and wasting space.

Mr. Anderson stated approximately a third of the people who came brought the cutout from the newsletter. He noted this year they will be accepting credit cards so it will be interesting to see what the percentage will be.

Board Member Hiatt arrived at 6:48 p.m.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated he will be making a selection of approximately 10 tree species and some shrubs to sell.

Board Member Bentz asked if the smaller size trees would be better to sell because of the ease of care.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated as long as the root tips are kept moist it does not matter what size the tree is.

Chairperson Max wondered if the burning bush was invasive.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson noted it is not on the invasive species list in Minnesota.

Chairperson Max indicated he liked the native understory species.

Board Member Bentz wondered if there was a way to link the name to a hyperlink on the website to show residents what the tree looks like.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated what goes up on the website will have hyperlinks and will show pictures of the trees. He noted the tree book online does not have hyperlinks yet but he was hoping in the future it will.

Chairperson Max noted they needed to be careful about linking to copyright information.

Board Member Bentz thought a different article every month featuring a different bush or tree might be nice to put in the newsletter.

Chairperson Max wondered if there was any greater success of survival of a smaller tree versus a larger tree because of the root system.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated the smaller tree will have less shock going into the ground than larger trees but after a couple years, the smaller trees likely will 'catch up' in size to the larger trees.

Board Member Valentine thought it was more convenient for people to handle a smaller tree and bring it home.

Board Member Bentz asked if they could offer a soil additive for sale.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated they could offer that but he thought it was more important for residents understand the importance of keeping the roots moist and proper planting techniques.

Chairperson Max wondered if they could work out a program where they go to the recycle event and receive a coupon or something for a tree.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated he received two quotes from Baileys, one was for bare root and one was for containerized stock and that may work for container stock because that could be left there to see in its full form but bare root needs to be brought in and sold within the same day.

Chairperson Max noted this could be something they could consider for a fall tree sale.

Board Member Enstrom thought they should come up with a planting guide on how to plant the bare root tree.

Chairperson Max noted that would be a great idea to supply.

Board Member Bentz indicated this could be something added to the website.

Chairperson Max wondered if there could be chips available for people to take if they have a trailer for the tree.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated they should be able to make that happen. He noted that at the January meeting he will bring a list of trees and shrubs that the Board could review and indicate what they would want.

Board Member Valentine indicated he would defer that to staff.

It was the consensus of the Environmental Policy Board to have some evergreen species available at the sale.

Board Member Enstrom wondered if they will have red pine or white pine by the hundreds to purchase.

Chairperson Max stated those quantities are better suited for the Conservation District's seedling sale.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he does not intend to purchase those types of quantities of any species and would refer residents to the Conservation District.

## **5.02: Tree Preservation Ordinance Review**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report and explained the intention is for the Board to familiarize itself with the current regulations. He also asked the Board whether it believes, in general, that the landscaping requirements are sufficient in lieu of any replacement standards or if further review and research is warranted related to replacement standards that would be in addition to landscaping requirements. He noted this is also a good time to review at least one complication that arises occasionally between tree preservation and requiring topsoil.

Board Member Hiatt asked how long the ordinance has been in place.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated it has been three to five years.

Chairperson Max inquired whether any ash species were on the preferred list in the Tree Book.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he thought White Ash was on the preferred list but was not sure whether it had been moved to the acceptable list. If that had not been done yet, he thought it should be removed from the preferred list. He thought they could discourage planting of this on private property and prohibit ash species from being planted on public property.

Board Member Valentine asked if it was common to have a tree preservation ordinance at the community level.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson indicated it was.

Chairperson Max stated the only thing Ramsey did different from other cities was the canopy cover formula to determine planting requirements for multifamily projects.

Chairperson Max stated the concern he had was the property rights and how onerous this may be.

Board Member Valentine agreed and wondered how far they want to go.

Chairperson Max stated that it is a fine line and they need to determine the limitations.

Board Member Bentz thought the tree preservation regulation was only for a development when it is being planned.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that was correct and there is nothing to prevent a homeowner from clear cutting their property. He noted other communities stipulate what needs to be preserved in a development.

Board Member Valentine thought it made sense to have some guidance for single-family developments.

Chairperson Max stated this is the time to review this because he felt that development is on the uptick.

Board Member Enstrom thought there needed to be some ordinance pertaining to utility companies and tree removal. They need to replace trees elsewhere in the community. He wanted to try to come up with some type of program to save some trees.

Chairperson Max thought it was a good idea to look at their easements and see what they can do to control tree removal.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson explained to the Board what the ordinance included and noted it was designed to ensure over story growth.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated with the topsoil requirement, all disturbed areas need to be covered with 4 inches of topsoil and there is a conflict between that and tree preservation. He stated that when individual trees are preserved, adding topsoil buries the roots, which is detrimental to the tree being saved.

Chairperson Max thought they should address this problem.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson thought it was a good idea and he has in the field directed people not to add topsoil over the critical root zone areas.

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

- **Update on Newsletter Format (as it Relates to Focus on Environment Column)**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson advised that starting in 2013, they will still have six issues but two of the six issues will be minimalistic and may not include a Focus on Environment article.

- **Reminder: Boards/Commissions and Employee Appreciation Event January 4, 2013**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson reminded the Board of the appreciation event on January 4, 2013.

- **Board Update with QCTV**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson provided an update on tying in with the Board's pursuit of communicating with residents, QCTV wondered if they would be interested in a program to update the community on different things.

Chairperson Max thought this was a great opportunity and he wondered how many people watch QCTV.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated he would check with QCTV whether any viewership numbers were available. He noted all the live televised meetings are web streamed.

- Other

Board Member Bentz asked if the business expo was going to be moved along with the environmental expo.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated it would not and would still be in the spring.

Board Member Valentine wondered if they had any insight what the affect of the local election will have on the City.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson believed the Council will be doing their annual strategic planning meeting in late January, which will determine the priorities for the next year.

Chairperson Max asked if they had anyone up for appointment at this time.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson assumed that at least one Board Member is up for appointment but would make it a point to find out for the next meeting.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator

ATTEST:

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JoAnn Shaw  
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Sue Osbeck  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*