

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

On Monday, March 4, 2013, 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 Bob Bentz  
                          Board Member John Enstrom  
                          Board Member Larry Lewis (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)  
                          Board Member Stodola (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)  
                          Board Member Michael Valentine

Members Absent:     Board Member Michael Hiatt

Also Present:         Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Max called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**2.     CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.     APPROVE AGENDA**

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

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 4, 2013**

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Bentz to approve the regular meeting minutes dated February 4, 2013.

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

**5.     POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Tree Preservation Ordinance Review**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report. He confirmed consensus to move the regulation pertaining to planting distance from a fire hydrant to 10 feet.

Board Member Stodola arrived at the meeting.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson confirmed consensus on the items included in the staff report that had come forward from the discussion at the previous meeting of the Board.

Board Member Lewis arrived.

Board Member Enstrom referenced an area regarding historic trees, or landmark trees, and questioned what would qualify a tree for that status.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson provided the definition for that term.

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Stodola to direct staff to prepare an ordinance amendment to incorporate the draft revisions into the Tree Preservation Ordinance and forward the ordinance amendment to the Planning Commission for a public hearing.

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

### **5.02: Environmental Expo Discussion**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Enstrom provided additional information on his conversations with the owners of Central Landscaping. He confirmed that he would pass on the date and time and also provided staff with the telephone number and contact information.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson continued to review the staff report, including the proposed layout for the event. He noted that the Master Gardeners will still likely participate but did not think it was likely that the Ramsey Garden Club would because the event will be held in the fall rather than the spring and they used this event primarily as a way to promote their spring plant sale.

Chairperson Max provided an update on the meeting that took place with the Subcommittee and noted that the vendors suggested all linked to the environment as your backyard.

Board Member Lewis stated that the Subcommittee felt that it was important to develop a theme that could be carried through the event. He explained that this theme is broad and will appeal to the average Ramsey resident, rather than aiming for a specialized topic that would not appeal to as many people.

Chairperson Max stated that once the theme was developed, the Subcommittee could now determine the type of vendors needed to match that theme. He advised that the keynote speaker could touch on a couple aspects suggested by the Board.

Board Member Lewis stated that he had not yet spoken with the potential speakers. He explained that the event will be as all encompassing as it can be in order to reach out to families. He stated that Ramsey is in a unique position, between the two rivers and provided examples of vendors that could align with the theme and still be a bit different than what has occurred in the past, such as a fly fishing demonstration from Cabella's.

Board Member Valentine stated that Ramsey is a very unique community with a close connection to a diverse group of wildlife.

Board Member Lewis stated that it would be nice to have some activity driven vendors mixed in with some businesses, such as Ramsey Bicycle. He explained that vendor could tie into the environment with the bike trails and physical fitness.

Chairperson Max stated that it would be nice to have some hands-on activities, such as building birdhouses.

Board Member Enstrom suggested choosing one area, such as birding per event, to ensure that new material is being brought forward each year rather than having the same activity each year.

Board Member Lewis stated that birding may be too narrow and suggested instead outdoor activities.

Board Member Stodola stated that it would be nice to have a local vendor that sells outdoor games.

Further discussion ensued regarding potential vendors and local businesses that could be reached out to in order to gauge their interest in participating in the event.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson noted that all of those sound like good ideas and advised that the next step would be to reach out and gain contacts to gauge the level of interest.

Board Member Lewis suggested that all Board Members develop a list of potential vendors for the event and bring it to the next meeting, where that list can be split between Board Members to begin making calls. He noted that the layout may need to be reconsidered because of the difference in the event this year and the potential vendors.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he could prepare a few options for layout that he could present at the next Board meeting.

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

- **QCTV Promo**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson advised that he and Chairperson Max recently taped a promotional spot at QCTV featuring the tree sale and environmental expo. He stated that if there are other topics or ideas, QCTV is willing to tape spots at the studio or out in the field.

Chairperson Max stated that QCTV actually suggested that this be a regular taping that could be aired in Ramsey. He advised of possible themes for the tapings.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson asked that Board Members provide input on potential ideas for segments.

- **Native Prairie Planting Under a Transmission Corridor**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson identified a transmission corridor that runs through Alpine Park and noted that an agreement has been made with the utility company for plantings to be established under the transmission lines. He stated that there will be establishment of native prairie plantings that will run under the transmission line in a local park, which fits with a demonstration project listed in the Work Plan. He stated that this will be the second demonstration project that will occur in Alpine Park this year. He stated that the Board could invest in signage that could be installed. He reported that work will begin this year with completion in 2014 or 2015. He confirmed that he could email the details to the Board Members.

- **Other**

Board Member Lewis stated that he did not notice an article from the EPB in the recent copy of the Ramsey newsletter.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator noted that a recycling article was included but noted that he only has the full sheet of icons and would need Board Member Lewis to email him a separate file of the individual icon for the EPB in order to incorporate that into the newsletter article.

Chairperson Max stated that he had reached out to the Council Liaison and was told that more information would be available once the Council finalizes their strategic planning and identifies priorities.

Board Member Enstrom provided an update on changes that will take place in regard to Atlas 14 in the near future.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson provided additional information in regard to flood elevations and the FEMA requirements for building.

Chairperson Max stated that he received an email that Board Member Enstrom will not be renewing his term on the Board.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he had not received any information.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson noted that packets were mailed to Board Members with expiring terms over the last couple months.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he has other obligations and will not be reapplying to the Board.

Chairperson Max thanked Board Member Enstrom for his contributions to the Board.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 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 Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*