

**City of Ramsey
Weekly Update
July 11, 2013**

1. **July 11, 2013**

Weekly Update

1.

Meeting Date: 07/11/2013

Information

Weekly Update

July 11, 2013

Attachments

Weekly Update

Form Review

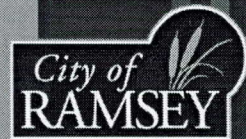
Form Started By: Kathy Schmitz

Started On: 07/11/2013 04:16 PM

Final Approval Date: 07/11/2013

WEEKLY UPDATE

Administrator's Report



July 11, 2013

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

- 5:30 p.m. – Finance Committee – Lake Itasca Room
- 6:00 p.m. – Public Works Committee -

Thursday, July 18, 2013

- 7:00 a.m. – Special EDA – The COR Room
- 7:00 p.m. – Special Planning Commission – Council Chambers

Preview of Next Week

Finance Committee (5:30 p.m. – LIR) – No meal provided.

- Nominate Chair for Finance Committee
- Review of 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)
- 2014 Preliminary Budgets Update

Public Works Committee (6:00 p.m. - LIR) – No meal provided.

- Consideration of Permitting Fence Encroachments across Private Property Lines
- Consider Partial Vacation of Drainage and Utility Easement at 15069 Helium Street NW
- Approve Plans and Specifications, and Joint Powers Agreement for the Mississippi River Trail
- Cost Estimate for Pedestrian Crosswalk at Alpine Dr and Zirconium St
- Recommend Shelter and Restroom for Riverdale Park – 2013 Capital Improvement
- Discuss Request to Mow Portions of an Undeveloped Park - Shawn Acres

Special EDA (7:00 a.m. – COR)

Special Planning Commission (7:00 p.m. – Council Chambers)

- Request for Site Plan Review for Diamond Graphics Expansion
- Request for Sketch Plan Review of Oakwood Meadows; Case of Oakwood Land Development
- Consider Ordinance to Establish Armstrong Boulevard Interchange Sign Overlay District to Allow for Additional Height and Size in Area of Future Interchange

Council Update

Absentee Voting Continues. In-person absentee voting for the July 30 Special Election began on Friday, June 28. Voting booths remain set up at City Hall to accommodate persons unable to vote in person on the 30th. Residents of Ward 1 will be able to vote absentee through July 29, Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 4:30. City Hall will be open on Saturday, July 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to accommodate in-person absentee voting as well.

Election Process Update. All preliminary testing has been completed on the AccuVote machines in preparation for the election on July 30th. Public notice of the election as well as a sample ballot are scheduled for publication in the July 12 and July 19 edition of the *Anoka County Union*. Notice of public accuracy test will be published on July 19 and the test will take place at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 23 in the Administrative Services Department.

E-Cigarettes. As Council is aware, staff has received an application for the sale of e-cigarettes. The applicant was asked to fill out the tobacco sales license and quoted the tobacco sales fee to obtain the license. Since it was the first request of this type received, staff updated Council about this new application in an email last week. A question was raised as to whether or not a tobacco license was the route to go since the e-cig contained nicotine – but not tobacco. A question was also asked about whether or not nicotine gum, and the likes of, would then also be considered tobacco products. Staff had previously been part of a mini-survey with regard to what other cities have done relating to the sale of e-cigarette sales and the outcome was that the tobacco application and fee is what neighboring cities were/are using. This past week, staff has done further research relating to e-cigarettes. ***Attached to the Weekly Update is an article titled “Focus on New Laws: Tobacco and Liquor Licensing Changes.*** In summary, the article states that the Minnesota Statutes, relating to tobacco, expanded their definition to include tobacco-laced mints and e-cigarettes. It further states that because of the expanded definition, cities may regulate these new forms of tobacco the exact same way they have always regulated traditional cigarettes, cigars, snuff, and chew. With regard to nicotine gum and lozenges, they are not subject to City regulation or licensing because they are “Tobacco Cessation Products” and exempt from tobacco regulation and licensing. ***Attached to the Weekly Update is an excerpt of the email from Jeanette Behr, Research Manager, League of Minnesota Cities, in response to staff’s inquiries relating to the e-cigarette and nicotine gum regulations.***

The tobacco application to sell e-cigarettes will be under the “Approve Licenses” portion of the Consent part of the July 23 City Council Agenda.

City of Ramsey to Host. The City will host the next Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association (MCFOA) Region IV meeting on Monday, July 22. Stefan Salmonson, PROtective Services, Inc. will be presenting “Preparing for the Unthinkable”. Staff is excited to have been able to offer the Alexander Ramsey Room for the training. It is anticipated that 80 to 100 City Clerks and/or Finance Officers will be in attendance. ***Attached to the Weekly Update is a flyer announcing the meeting.***

Night to Unite. Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 6th and police and fire will be venturing out to all registered parties throughout the City that evening. Please RSVP to Chandra Kreyer at ckreyer@ci.ramsey.mn.us or 763-433-9891 with your preference for riding with police or fire **by 7/22** so scheduling can be done to accommodate respective wards and resident requests for visits.

Community Development/Development Services

- The Community Development Department has provided an update to current development projects and draft policies as part of the Development Update. *Attached to the Weekly Update is the Development Update.*

Police Update:

Save the Date:

- **Farmers Market.** The Ramsey Farmers Market will begin July 18 and continue throughout the summer. This event will be held on Thursdays in conjunction with The Draw Summer Event Series.
- **Local Government Officials Meeting.** The quarterly Local Government Officials Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 31, at 6:00 p.m. at the Chomonix Golf Course, 700 Aqua Lane, Lino Lakes. The County Commissioners will be grilling dinner for the attendees. Jo has sent a calendar request to Mayor and Council.
- **2nd Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser.** Saturday, August 17, 2013, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Super Bowl, 6720 Riverdale Drive NW, Ramsey. All proceeds go to the Ramsey Police Explorer POST 3819. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Kristin Camacho, 763-576-4301 or kcamacho@ci.ramsey.mn.us.

Best regards,



Kurt Ulrich
City Administrator

Attachments: Focus on New Laws: Tobacco and Liquor Licensing Changes
Excerpt of email from LMC re e-cigarettes and nicotine products
Flyer announcing MCFOA Region IV Meeting/Training
Development Update



Focus on New Laws: Tobacco and Liquor Licensing Changes

The Tobacco Modernization and Compliance Act of 2010 expands the definition of what is regulated as tobacco.

(Published Aug 18, 2010)

The main feature of the Tobacco Modernization and Compliance Act of 2010 (**Chapter 255** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=255&doctype=Chapter&year=2010&type=0](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=255&doctype=Chapter&year=2010&type=0))) is to expand the definition of what is regulated as tobacco in the state of Minnesota. "Tobacco products" were formally defined in *Minnesota Statutes, section 297F.01, subdivision 19* ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=297F.01](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=297F.01)) as:

"Cigars; little cigars; cheroots; stogies; periques; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine-cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco."

The definition is now expanded to also include:

"Any products containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product."

New products covered

This definition encompasses new products on the market, such as tobacco-laced mints and "e-cigarettes." The e-cigarettes are typically a plastic container (that looks like a cigarette and may even have a red-lighted end) that delivers nicotine through a mist. The e-cigarettes are smokeless. The new law also criminalizes sale of these tobacco-related products to minors.

Because of the expanded definition, cities may now regulate these new forms of tobacco the exact same way they have always regulated traditional cigarettes, cigars, snuff, and chew. Cities with ordinances regulating tobacco should discuss updating their ordinance terms and definitions with their city attorney to mirror the new law's definitions.

It is important to note that not all cities regulate tobacco sales. And the new law does not require cities to begin regulation of any type of tobacco product if they have opted not to.

Cities may choose to regulate tobacco. In contrast, the county must license all retailers that sell tobacco products, unless a city adopts its own tobacco ordinance. A city wishing to adopt a tobacco ordinance must give general notice of the intent to adopt or amend a tobacco ordinance, and must give retailers a 30-day written notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting where the proposed ordinance or amendments are to be considered.

A tobacco ordinance, whether adopted by the county or the city, must, at a minimum:

- Establish an administrative hearing system where an alleged violator has the right to be heard before a designated hearing officer or panel (which could be the city council) and where a fine, instead of a

criminal penalty, could be imposed for violating the ordinance. State law establishes a schedule of minimum fines.

- Provide for and conduct at least one, unannounced compliance check each year.
- Prohibit self-service (vending machine) sales of individual cigarette packages, except in establishments that prohibit minors, and in establishments that derive at least 90 percent of their revenue from the sale of tobacco.

The ordinance may establish a licensing fee sufficient to cover the costs of enforcing the above provisions. These provisions on licensing are not new—these old provisions have simply been made applicable to a wider range of tobacco products and devices. The Tobacco Modernization and Compliance Act of 2010 became effective on Aug. 1.

Excerpt of email relating to
e-cigarettes & nicotine gum/lozenges
from Jeanette Behr, LMC

E-cigarettes

Generally, under Minnesota law, e-cigarettes fit the definition of a *tobacco product* subject to city regulation and licensing under Minn. Stat. § 461.12 citing to Minn. Stat. 609.685, subd. 1.

"Tobacco products" means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including, but not limited to, cigars; little cigars; cheroots; stogies; periques; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine-cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco, and other kinds and forms of tobacco; but does not include cigarettes as defined in this section.

See also, Handbook for Minnesota Cities Chapter 11, page 35.

The Department of Revenue agrees that e-cigarettes are a tobacco product subject to taxation: "An electronic cigarette, or e-cigarette, simulates the act of tobacco smoking. It produces an inhaled mist with the physical sensation, appearance – and often the flavor and nicotine content – of inhaled tobacco smoke. E-cigarettes are taxable as tobacco products." See <http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/businesses/tobacco/Pages/e-Cig.aspx>

In addition, the FDA is now regulating electronic cigarettes as a "tobacco product" after a federal case found that e-cigarettes are subject to regulation as a tobacco product:

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, in *Sottera, Inc. v. Food & Drug Administration*, 627 F.3d 891 (D.C. Cir. 2010), recently issued a decision with regard to e-cigarettes and other products "made or derived from tobacco" and the jurisdictional line that should be drawn between "tobacco products" and "drugs," "devices," and combination products, as those terms are defined in the FD&C Act. *The court held that e-cigarettes and other products made or derived from tobacco can be regulated as "tobacco products" under the Act and are not drugs/devices unless they are marketed for therapeutic purposes.*

See <http://www.fda.gov/newsevents/publichealthfocus/ucm252360.htm>

Nicotine Gum and lozenges

Nicotine gum or lozenges, however, are not subject to city regulation or licensing because they are "Tobacco Cessation Products" and exempt from regulation and licensing. The same section of law quoted above (Minn. Stat. 609.685, subd. 1.) goes on to make this clear:

Tobacco products excludes any tobacco product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

The Food and Drug Administration designates these products as smoking cessation products. Please see <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm198176.htm#learn>

MCFOA Region IV

Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington and Wright

Mark your calendar—Monday, July 22, 2013 for a Region IV meeting

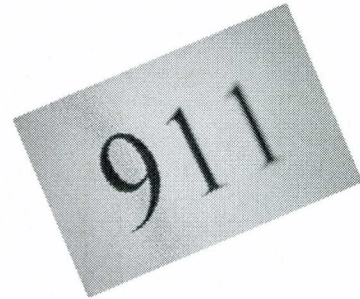
Stefan Salmonson, PROtective Services, Inc. will be presenting:

"Preparing for the Unthinkable".

- *De-escalating Confrontation (Angry Customers, Residents, Employees)*
- *Identity Theft (Not just for Clerks, Protecting Residents Data, Etc.)*
 - *Emergency/Disaster Preparedness (NIMS)*
 - *Security Awareness 101*

Date: Monday, July 22, 2013

Location: Ramsey Municipal Center (City Hall)
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
(763) 433-9840
Alexander Ramsey Room



Time: 8:30am—3:30pm (6 Certification Hours Awarded for Full Day Attendance)

Parking: Available in the ramp, on the street and in the back parking lot OR the NorthStar stops within walking distance if you're up for an adventure!

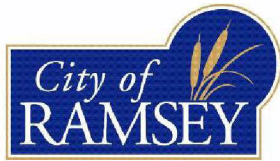
Cost: \$30 includes lunch, please make your check payable to **MCFOA Region IV**, send to: Audra Etzel, City of Rockford, 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN 55373.

Lunch: Provided by Wells Catering. Please contact Audra if you have dietary restrictions.

RSVP to Audra by Wednesday, July 17th, so we can get a head count for lunch:
(763) 477-6565 or email: audrae@cityofrockford.org

For more information regarding PROtective Services, Inc.:
Web: www.PROtectiveServicesinc.net





City of Ramsey Development Update

July 11, 2013

Report Background

The following report is updated weekly.

Seasons of Ramsey [Updated]

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Seasons of Ramsey is a 50 unit rental townhome development located in the Town Center Gardens plat at the northeast intersection of Bunker Lake Boulevard and Town Center Drive (also known as Center Street). The Planning Commission reviewed the Sketch Plan of the Plat on December 6, 2012. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Plat and reviewed the Site Plan on January 31, 2013. The City Council approved the Preliminary Plat, Final Plat, Site Plan, and associated requests of February 12, 2013. The Developer has submitted an Application for Building Permit.

The Developer was able to successfully close on the Property on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. The Developer anticipates to complete the entire project by December 31, 2013. The City is awaiting a request from the contractor to issue the Building Permit. Leasing information is available at www.essenceproperties.com, 320-255-9910, or info@essenceproperties.com.

Work has commenced and continues on the project. Staff will provide updates as needed.

The City Council approved a request to amend exterior materials on June 11, 2013, consistent with acceptable exterior materials per Zoning Code.

Project Photos:



Photo taken on June 27, 2013 from Bunker Lake Boulevard looking west.

Building Permits have been issued for twenty-eight (28) of the fifty (50) units as well as the community building. Framing and wall section construction has begun on multiple buildings. Staff completed review of an additional four (10) units, ready to be issued. [Updated July 11, 2013]

McDonalds (Sunwood Retail in The COR) [No Update]

Primary Reviewer: Chris Anderson (canderson@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-433-9905)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Site Plan Review for McDonalds on January 3, 2013. The site is located along the re-aligned Sunwood Drive at Armstrong Boulevard, located just north of Northstar Marketplace. The City Council approved the site plan and associated requests on January 22, 2013. The project is now eligible to submit a Building Permit. The City has received an Application for Building Permit.

The HRA approved Plans and Specifications and authorized Staff to advertise for bids for the Stage I Improvements as directed by the HRA for the May 14, 2013 HRA meeting. Initial Building Permit Plan Review has been completed, subject to revisions as requested by the City's Technical Review Staff. Staff also continues work with McDonald's to complete pre-development activities and review the plan sheets submitted for Building Permit review.

The Ramsey Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) accepted bids and awarded a contract to construct the Stage I (common) Improvements for the three (3) lots within the COR TWO/Sunwood Retail area. The HRA also approved an extension to the Real Estate Contract to allow the Stage I Improvements to be completed and the due-diligence process to be completed. Construction is anticipated to begin on the facility itself this fall (2012). [Updated June 13, 2013]

Northgate Performing Arts Center [Updated]

Primary Reviewer: Consulting Planner (Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Permit for Northgate Performing Arts Center located at 7295 Sunwood Drive NW (northeast intersection of Sunwood Drive and Peridot Street NW on October 4, 2012. The City Council approved the request on October 23, 2012.

Construction has officially commenced on the facility. The City has approved a temporary closure of one (1) block on Peridot Street for June 18, 2013 to June 21, 2013 in order to set building panels along Peridot Street. The closure would only be from Sunwood Drive north to 145th Avenue (one [1] block). The closure will also impact traffic patterns for PACT Charter School, which is currently not in regular session. The detour would use 145th Avenue west to Peridot Street, then south to Sunwood Drive. The Contractor will be forwarding Staff a detour plan/map. A sketch provided by the Contractor is shown below. When a more detailed map is provided, Staff will ensure proper communication with the City Council and adjacent property owners. *Below is an updated road closure map.*

Below are recent project photos. Progress has been made on the completion of the precast walls, with work beginning on placement of the roof. [Updated July 11, 2013]



Photo taken June 27, 2013 at Sunwood Drive and Peridot Street looking north east.



Photo taken June 20, 2013 at Sunwood Drive and Peridot Street looking north west.

Super America (Sunwood Retail in The COR) *[No Update]*

Primary Reviewer: Chris Anderson (canderson@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-433-9905)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Site Plan Review for Super America located in the Sunwood Retail Center of The COR, along the realigned Sunwood Drive on October 4, 2012. The City Council approved the request on October 16, 2012.

The City is awaiting said submittal of the Building Permit. [Updated March 14, 2013]

North Commons (COR THREE) *[No Update]*

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Minor Plat Review of COR THREE, a seventeen (17) lot single-family development located north of Bunker Lake Boulevard in The COR on June 19, 2012. The City Council approved the request on July 10, 2012.

Preliminary grading and utility work commenced at the end of 2012. The Plat will need to be recorded prior to any Building Permit issuance.

On May 28, 2013, the HRA amended the scope of the project to focus on four (4) of the seventeen (17) lots that are located abutting North Commons (park). The remaining thirteen (13) lots that were approved along Bunker Lake Boulevard could be re-evaluated in the future as market conditions improve.

The Ramsey Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) reviewed a potential purchase offer on all or portions of the four (4) lots along the park. The HRA will be reviewing current market conditions and seeking additional qualified offers on these lots. A more detailed work plan will be provided soon. [Updated June 13, 2013]

Stoney River *[No Update]*

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed the request for Site Plan Review of Stoney River, a 72 unit assisted living and memory care development at the northwest intersection of Nowthen Boulevard and Saint Francis Boulevard in August, 2011. The site is adjacent to the Lord of Life Lutheran Church Campus. The City Council approved the request in August, 2011.

The City has reviewed the Building Permit, and is awaiting final revisions as requested. According to Anoka County Property Records, the site is now owned by First Phoenix Ramsey, LLC. The Developer has stated they anticipate to close on the financing package sometime on in mid-April and has now agreed to submit the required financial surety in the form of the City's standard Letter of Credit.

Staff did receive the required Plumbing Plan Review from the State of Minnesota. Staff is still awaiting revised plan sheets, which are assumed to be under development to complete the Building Permit Review. Staff is also awaiting the required Letter of Credit.

Staff did receive communication from the Developer's Managing Director for Minnesota that the project was awarded financing and expects to close on said financing within the next month. The Developer anticipates construction to begin mid-to-late summer. Staff is working on final review of the Building Permit with this most recent communication. [Updated June 13, 2013]

Residence at The COR **[Updated]**

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed the request for Site Plan Review of Residence at The COR, a 230 unit apartment development along Sunwood Drive next to the Ramsey Municipal Center in 2011. The City Council approved the request in November, 2011. The project is currently under construction. The Developer anticipates the opening of a

leasing office on a temporary basis in the coming weeks. The Developer desires to open a portion of the project (approximately 50 units) in early May, at which time an existing unit will take the place as the leasing office until the actual leasing/management office is complete. For more information, visit www.corapts.com or call 763-208-5931.

A temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued on approximately 50 units. The Developer anticipates opening the remainder in two (2) phases, with Phase II desired opening in late June.

A second Temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for an additional four (4) units. [Updated July 11, 2013]



Photo taken June 27, 2013 along Sunwood Drive at the Municipal Center looking west.



Photo taken the Municipal Center Plaza in front of the retail space.

Housing Assistance Policy [No Update]

Primary Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The City Council has directed Staff to complete a Housing Assistance Policy. The intent of the policy is to provide a framework for which to review requests for housing assistance and provide a mechanism to review proposals for compatibility with the City's housing goals. The Policy was forwarded to the Planning Commission for development. The Planning Commission has established an ad-hoc sub-committee to assist in the development of the policy.

The Housing Sub-Committee has met on two (2) occasions to date. Current accomplishments include completion of an Interim Policy Statement (until the final policy is adopted), agreement on the framework of the policy, and establishment of housing-type priorities. All drafts must still be approved by the City Council.

Staff provided an update to the City Council on June 11, 2013, and received positive feedback on direction to continue along the current path for completion.

To date, the sub-committee has completed an initial review of demographic data, established an Interim Policy Statement, and established a framework of the proposed policy (product type priorities, minimum thresholds, and scoring/ranking matrix). The ad-hoc sub-committee met on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 and finished a draft of the Minimum Thresholds. The Minimum Thresholds are based on the Housing Chapter Goals and Implementation Strategies of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The final step is to complete a draft of the Scoring/Ranking Matrix. This is anticipated to be completed over two (2) to three (3) sub-committee meetings. At that point, a full draft would be reviewed by Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council. [Updated June 27, 2013]

167th Avenue Retail Node [Updated]

Primary Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission and EDA have both discussed the status of the retail node located at the intersection of 167th Avenue and Saint Francis Boulevard (TH 47). The City had previously been asked to review two (2) potential users at 6001 167th Ave NW (indoor shooting range and clothing recycling warehouse distribution. Per EDA

discussion, Staff will be setting up stakeholder meetings to discuss a comprehensive approach with all property owners of the node in regards to future land uses as well as mechanisms to achieve desired future land uses. A more detailed summary will be provided following the outcomes of these stakeholder meetings.

Staff has scheduled a Stakeholder/Property Owner Meeting with owners of commercial/retail property in the area for Wednesday, June 5, 2013. The intent of the meeting is to outline options (land use and economic development related) for Property Owners and discuss a unified vision for the future of the current retail node. Staff will provide an update to the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council following the Stakeholder Meeting.

The EDA discussed the topic at their July 11, 2013 Meeting. The EDA has tentatively scheduled a Special Meeting on July 18, 2013 to finalize a recommendation on formulating current policies and recommendations as well as potential next steps. Staff will update the City Council in the near future. [Updated July 11, 2013]

Former Municipal Center Future Land Uses [Updated]

Primary Contact: Patrick Brama (pbrama@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-433-9903)

In 2006, the City relocated the Ramsey Municipal Center from 15153 Nowthen Blvd NW to 7550 Sunwood Dr NW. The former location still operates as Fire Station #2. The City has been exploring options for future use of this campus and relocation of Fire Station #2. To assist in the analysis of acceptable land uses for this campus for future development, an Open House has been scheduled for Thursday, April 18th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers (7550 Sunwood Dr NW). The Open House will explore options for single-family and data center users. Multiple smaller group stations, with full size maps and ability for written comments, will be available from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. A brief presentation will be presented, with ability for large group comment, from 7:00 to 7:30 (or until comments are complete). Small group stations will re-convene following the presentation and comment period.

The Open House was held as scheduled despite weather concerns. Staff continues to compile results and comments from that Open House and presented preliminary findings to the City Council on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. Based on the results of that open house, Staff will presenting the detailed results to the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council in May prior to taking any further steps. It is at this stage that Staff will discuss future direction, if any direction is desired at this time.

Staff has updated the Planning Commission (5/2/13) and the EDA (5/16/13) on the status of the project.

Staff presented a case to discuss possible next steps at the June 11, 2013 City Council Meeting. The City Council directed Staff to re-engage the surrounding public through a collaborative process utilizing a task force to continue to review options for the site.

Staff met to discuss possible alternatives for the new public process, and anticipates bringing forward alternatives for consideration to the July 9, 2013 City Council Meeting.

The City Council approved the development of a Study Group to begin a collaborative input process to be held at a later date, in order to continue discussions with surrounding property owners as to desired future land uses for the site. Staff will be seeking interested individuals to participate in the process in the near future. Interested names in participating in the process will be brought forward to the City Council at a later date. [Updated July 11, 2013]

Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) Update for The COR [No Update]

In 2003, an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) was prepared for the development formerly known as Ramsey Town Center, now known as The COR. The AUAR is an environmental review process that is an alternative to the standard, required environmental review for certain sized project. This alternative is a proactive, rather than individual reactive review, of the development as a whole as opposed to review with each individual project.

Minnesota Rules guiding the length of time this review is valid requires that the City update this document if it is to be used for current environmental review purposes. In addition, the preferred development alternative has changed from the original preparation.

On May 28, 2013, the City Council 'ordered' the AUAR, which sent the completed update for an official review process. The comment period ended on June 12, 2013. Staff received comments from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Staff will now complete the final draft, including submitted comments, and distribute for final review. It is anticipated that the City Council will consider adopting the final document on July 9, 2013.

On June 19, 2013, the City also received advisory comments from the Metropolitan Council. These comments will also be incorporated into the final document, still tentatively scheduled for City Council consideration on July 9, 2013. [Updated June 20, 2013].

Potential Sign Overlay District for Armstrong Boulevard Interchange Area *[No Update]*

As part of the public review process for the Armstrong Interchange, several comments from commercial (retail) property owners discussed concern with loss of visibility to their business due to the height of the interchange. It was discussed as a potential solution to increase the allowable height for properties surrounding the interchange. One property owner has requested that the City consider implementing a zoning solution as soon as possible, to ensure when construction does begin, a tool is already in place to allow additional height.

The Planning Commission briefly discussed the request to begin a process on June 6, 2013, and directed Staff to begin the process of establishing an Overlay District related to signs adjacent to the Armstrong Boulevard Interchange. [Updated June 13, 2013]

July Planning Commission *[No Update]*

The regularly scheduled Planning Commission for July would normally be July 4, 2013. As City Offices are closed that day, the meeting has been **officially** re-scheduled for July 18, 2013. Cases tentatively include the following:

1. Consider Request for Sketch Plan Review of Oakwood Acres; Case of Oakwood Land Development
 - a. The request is to create three (3) new buildable lots along the re-aligned 167th Avenue, west of Nowthen Boulevard.
2. Consider Request for Site Plan Review for Expansion of Diamond Graphics Facility Located at 14350 Azurite St NW; Case of Diamond Graphics, Inc.
3. Consider Ordinance to Amend Official Zoning Map to Establish Sign Overlay District Adjacent to Intersection of U.S. Highway 10 and Armstrong Boulevard to Address Sign Height for Future Interchange Area; Case of the City of Ramsey

Detailed Report Information

For more information regarding the project listed above, please contact the Tim Gladhill at 763-576-4308 or visit www.cityoframsey.com/planning-division.



Tim Gladhill, Development Services Manager