

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

On Monday, December 19, 2016, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Lake Itasca Conference Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Thomas Stodola
 Board Member Colleen Anderson
 Board Member Jane Covart
 Board Member Lucas Trossen
 Board Member Michael Valentine

Members Absent: Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Michael Hiatt

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Stodola called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Valentine, Covart, Anderson, and Trossen. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard and Hiatt.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated November 21, 2016

Motion by Chairperson Stodola and seconded by Board Member Covart to approve the regular meeting minutes dated November 21, 2016.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Covart, Anderson, Trossen, and Valentine. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard and Hiatt.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Landscape Plan for RTC 12th Addition

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report noting that the City has received an application for Preliminary Plat consideration for Ramsey Town Center 12th Addition. He noted that this is a City owned lot that has its own set of challenges. The proposed development would result in 12 new single family lots on what is now currently known as Outlot A, Ramsey Town Center 8th Addition, which is located north of Bunker Lake Boulevard and east of Zeolite Street. This request is being processed as a Major Plat and thus the Landscape Plan is being routed through the Board for review. He reviewed the details of the Landscaping Plan and highlighted the comments recommended by staff found in the Staff Review Letter. He noted that all applicable costs would fall to the applicant and overall, staff finds the Landscape Plan generally acceptable with revisions outlined in the Staff Review Letter.

Board Member Valentine asked for more details on the mixture listed in alternative C.

City Planner Anderson stated that the applicant is proposing a MnDOT seed mix and stated that he simply recommends using a different MnDOT seed mix that would provide a more sustainable result.

Board Member Covart asked if there is a difference between the plantings for a detached townhome and a single- family home.

City Planner Anderson stated that these will be single family homes but there will be an association that does the maintenance and therefore would be similar to a detached townhome.

Motion by Chairperson Stodola and seconded by Board Member Anderson to recommend approval of the Landscape Plan contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Anderson, Covart, Trossen, and Valentine. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard and Hiatt.

5.02: Consider Potential Ordinance Amendment to Eliminate the Irrigation Requirement in Multiple Zoning Districts

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report noting that the purpose of the case is to discuss the potential of eliminating the irrigation requirement found in many of the zoning districts. While this action would not prohibit a project from utilizing in-ground irrigation, it would simply no longer be a requirement. This topic has been raised several times by the Board, as it seems counterintuitive to the City's desire to reduce demand for groundwater. He noted that a proposed ordinance amendment could be brought back to the Board to review at their meeting in January and noted the process that would follow including a public hearing to occur with the Planning Commission and subsequent review by City Council. He noted that there could also be an incentive offered to those that choose to use new technologies, such as smart controllers and soil moisture sensors, which will help to decrease the need for irrigation. He stated that there could also be an incentive opportunity for more sustainable landscaping plans. He noted that the details

would not need to be fully developed in order to move forward on this item but could simply be a part of this ordinance review.

Board Member Valentine commented that if the City can handle the additional staff time, he would support incentive programs.

City Planner Anderson acknowledged that an incentive program would take more overhead in terms of staff time, likely from himself and other departments as well. He agreed that this would be more a proactive program.

Board Member Valentine stated that people tend to be more encouraged by proactive incentives rather than being forced to do something.

Board Member Trossen asked if this would be limited to commercial properties.

City Planner Anderson stated that this would not need to be solely for commercial properties, but would be limited to those connected to the City's water system. He stated that this attempt was to gauge whether or not the Board would be interested and explained that if there was interest he would then begin to gather information on various incentive programs used (program details, funding, and who is using the program). He stated that he would also run the idea of the incentive program past the Public Works Committee as well.

City Planner Anderson confirmed the consensus of the Board to direct staff to research further details on an incentive program and prepare a draft ordinance amendment for the Board to review at the January meeting.

Board Member Trossen asked if additional language could be added that would require an additional sensor/equipment that would assist in conservation.

City Planner Anderson provided additional details on some of the sensors available.

Chairperson Stodola commented that the item seems like overkill and that it would be expensive.

City Planner Anderson explained that in a situation in the past a contractor had stated that the additional sensor was maybe a couple hundred dollars extra when the system is being newly installed. He noted that it would be more expensive to retrofit an existing system.

Board Member Covart stated that she has an additional sensor with her irrigation system at her home and provided additional details. She noted that it was not much more expensive to get the additional sensor.

City Planner Anderson stated that he would be glad to gather more information on the technology and the costs to bring back to the Board at a future meeting. He noted that perhaps he would be able to find someone in the irrigation field that could attend a meeting to provide additional details to the Board.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Meeting Dates in January and February**
 - **January 16 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
 - **February 20 is Presidents Day**

City Planner Anderson stated that the dates for the January and February meetings would need to be rescheduled as the meetings fall on days when City Hall is closed. He noted that he would send out communication with the Board to find new dates for those meetings.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.