

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

On Monday, May 15, 2017, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the COR Conference Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent:     Board Member Colleen Anderson  
                          Board Member Reid Bernard

Also Present:         City Planner Chris Anderson

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Stodola called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2.     CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.     APPROVE AGENDA**

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

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated April 17, 2017**

Motion by Board Member Covart and seconded by Board Member Hiatt to approve the regular meeting minutes dated April 17, 2017.

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

**5.     POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

**5.01: Appoint Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Chairperson Stodola opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Valentine to nominate and appoint Thomas Stodola as Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board through March 2018.

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

Chairperson Stodola opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson.

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Chairperson Stodola to nominate and appoint Michael Valentine as Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board through March 2018.

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

### **5.02: Consider Landscape Plan for Stonebrook Academy**

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received an application for Final Plat and Site Plan for Stonebrook Academy, a proposed 8,800 square foot building for a new child care center to be located west of Sunwood Village between Sunwood Drive and Veterans Drive. The purpose of this case is to review the proposed Landscape Plan for the project. He stated that The COR Design Framework emphasizes landscape improvements for the “streetscape” and is less prescriptive for the private property. He stated that streetscape elements would include sidewalks, boulevards, and boulevard plantings.

Chairperson Stodola stated that the staff review letter seemed to be very detailed and thorough and did not notice any additional items that would be needed.

Board Member Stodola stated that he was pleased to see the water efficient technologies mentioned.

City Planner Anderson stated that the previous week the City Council adopted an ordinance that repealed the language that required irrigation and included language regarding the water efficient technologies.

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Valentine to recommend approval of the Landscape Plan contingent on compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

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

### **5.03: Consider Tree Preservation Plan related to Sketch Plan for Estates of Silver Oaks 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition**

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He reported that the City has received a Sketch Plan for a proposed eight lot subdivision to be known as the Estates of Silver Oaks 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition.

He stated that the site is located east of TH 47 and north of 162<sup>nd</sup> Lane. He noted that normally a Sketch Plan includes a simple layout of lot configuration for initial review and feedback from the Planning Commission, however this submittal was more detailed in nature and did include a Tree Preservation Plan. He stated that the site is currently zoned R-1 Residential (Rural Developing) and thus, as proposed, a zoning amendment and Comprehensive Plan amendment would also be needed. He reviewed the adjacent land uses, noting that the land surrounding the property is mostly developed. He confirmed that the site is serviced by City utilities for water and sewer.

Chairperson Stodola asked for more information on the building currently located on the large lot.

City Planner Anderson stated that there is an existing foundation but was unsure if there was at one time a home that has been removed.

Board Member Covart stated that it seems that there is a barn on the site that has not been well maintained.

City Planner Anderson stated that more detailed information will be provided as the process moves forward and he simply wanted to bring the Board up to speed on the potential development. He stated that this would be an opportunity for the Board to provide input.

Board Member Hiatt stated that there are some high-quality Oak trees in that area and it would be nice to see as many of those remain as possible.

City Planner Anderson confirmed the consensus of the Board that the high quality continuous Oak trees should be preserved to the extent possible.

Chairperson Stodola asked the timeline for this project.

City Planner Anderson stated that this would depend on the feedback that is received throughout this review. He noted that the project would require a Comprehensive Plan amendment and therefore the process will take longer because of the approval that would be needed from the Metropolitan Council. He provided examples of other projects in Ramsey that the developer has been a part of.

#### **5.04: Update on Mayors for Monarchs Pledge and Kick-Off Planting**

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that staff continues to work on a Mayors for Monarchs Mayoral Pledge Signing event to “kick-off” the City’s pollinator initiative. He stated that staff has met with representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a potential partnership to complete a pollinator planting project in Lake Itasca Park. The City is aiming for an early June planting event that would lead into a larger, broader project along the Itasca Trail. He stated that while details of the project are still being worked through, staff wanted to provide the Board with a brief update on the Monarch Trail Action Plan prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, since it is likely that the initial planting event will be completed prior to the next EPB meeting. He stated that the communications staff is working with the elementary school and Ramsey Rangers program to organize a coloring contest as an outreach opportunity.

**6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT**

City Planner Anderson reported that the spring recycling event was held about a week ago and seemed to be well attended. He provided an update but noted that he did not have an exact count of vehicles. He stated that he did receive positive feedback from those that did come to the event.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
City Planner

ATTEST:

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JoAnn Shaw  
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*