

**City of Ramsey**  
**Agenda**  
**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**  
**Thursday, October 12, 2017**  
**7:30 am**  
**Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approve Agenda**
- 3. Approve Minutes**
  1. Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
    - 1) EDA Regular Meeting - September 14, 2017
- 4. EDA Business**
  1. Receive Update on The COR Interim Development Plan
  2. 2017 EDA Business Networking Event Update
- 5. Member/Staff Input**
- 6. Adjournment**

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

**3. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 10/12/2017

**By:** Katie Schmidt, Administrative Services

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**Title:**

Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:

1) EDA Regular Meeting - September 14, 2017

**Purpose/Background:**

Purpose: The purpose is to approve the meeting minutes for the EDA meeting held the prior month.

Background: The meeting minutes are attached for review and approval.

**Notification:**

**Observations/Alternatives:**

**Funding Source:**

**Recommendation:**

**Action:**

Motion to approve the following EDA meeting minutes:

1) EDA Regular Meeting - September 14, 2017

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**Attachments**

[EDA Minutes 9/14/2017](#)

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Patrick Brama

Kurt Ulrich

Form Started By: Katie Schmidt

Final Approval Date: 09/21/2017

**Reviewed By**

Patrick Brama

Kurt Ulrich

**Date**

09/21/2017 04:02 PM

09/21/2017 04:18 PM

Started On: 09/21/2017 01:48 PM

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority (EDA) conducted a regular meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2017, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Jim Steffen  
                          Member Brian Burandt  
                          Member Glen Hardin  
                          Member Chris Riley  
                          Member Wayne Skaff

Members Absent:     Member Phillip Brunt  
                          Member Kristine Williams

Also Present:        Patrick Brama, Econ. Dev. Mgr/Assistant City Administrator  
                          Tim Gladhill, Development Services Manager  
                          Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator  
                          Councilmember John LeTourneau  
                          City Planner Chris Anderson

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Steffen called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

**2.     APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member Hardin, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Skaff, Hardin, Burandt, and Riley.  
Voting No: None. Absent: Members Brunt and Williams.

**3.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**3.01:   Approve Meeting Minutes Dated August 10, 2017**

Motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Skaff, to approve the August 10, 2017, minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Riley, Skaff, Burandt, and Hardin.  
Voting No: None. Absent: Members Brunt and Williams.

**4.     EDA BUSINESS**

**4.01: Review Status of Request to Install and Maintain a Ground Mounted Solar Energy System on the Property Legally Described as Lot 3, Block 1, River Crossing Addition (Project No. 17-135); Case of Connexus Energy**

- 1. Appeal for Issuance of a Development Permit on an Officially Mapped Parcel**
- 2. Zoning Amendment to Include Solar Energy Systems as a Principal Use with the Issuance of a Conditional Use Permit in the Public/Quasi-Public District**
- 3. Zoning Amendment to Rezone a Property from R-2 Residential to Public/Quasi-Public**
- 4. Conditional Use Permit to Install and Maintain a Solar Energy System**

Community Development Director Gladhill presented the staff report.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama provided background information on the existing solar farm and bee habitat on the Connexus property. He stated that staff had a discussion with Connexus Energy about their desire to expand their solar farm on their outlot in mid 2016. He noted that the Connexus outlot would be a great fit for economic development and therefore staff suggested Connexus also consider other available properties as part of their process. He stated that as Connexus investigated other available sites, they landed on a site owned by Anoka County. He reviewed the economic development opportunity cost, explaining that generally, businesses pay twice the amount of taxes that residential properties pay. He reviewed the opportunity loss that would occur if the solar farm were not allowed on the Anoka County site. He explained, Connexus told staff that if the Anoka County site is not allowed, Connexus would move onto another community rather than pursuing a solar farm on the Connexus outlot.

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed some of the challenges that the Planning Commission will consider when this item is returned for their discussion.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that he found the tax base information helpful. He asked if the Anoka County site is also subject to a two percent tax rate.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator explained that the use determines the tax classification rate, not local zoning districts.

Chairperson Steffen noted that Anoka County owns that land and therefore is not a tax paying entity.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that currently Anoka County leases the property, which is being used for agricultural purposes, so there are taxes being paid on the property. He noted that Connexus is a tax paying entity as well. He believed that there would most likely be tax credits because this is an alternative energy use.

Member Riley asked if it would make more sense to hold the parcel for commercial industrial use or suggest that the solar garden go on the Connexus outlot. He stated that he believes that the Connexus outlot would be better used for commercial industrial use and not a solar farm.

Member Burandt stated that he has been working on this project for well over one year and provided additional information on the tax credits that would be available. He stated that the membership of Connexus wants the renewable energy to increase as long as that does not increase the cost of membership. He stated that they are looking at doing three sites within Anoka County, which would be the largest renewable energy project in the country. He stated that when Ramsey stated that they did not want Connexus to use their outlot for the project, they began to look for alternative sites and the Anoka County site came forward. He noted that this would be the showcase property with solar plus storage. He provided additional information on the other sites that will be constructed in Saint Francis and Blaine, noting that they are contracting with local government units to lease the land rather than purchasing land. He noted that in order to be eligible for the tax credits, the properties need to be constructed and operational by a deadline. He stated that the Connexus Board has already made the decision not to use the Connexus outlot in Ramsey, and therefore that is no longer an option.

Chairperson Steffen asked how long Connexus has owned the outlot.

Member Burandt stated that Connexus has owned the outlot since 1997.

Chairperson Steffen asked why the land is being held for so long.

Member Burandt stated that they use the property for lineman training and would be open to selling the property to the right tenant. He confirmed that Connexus would be open to working with City staff to market the property to the right tenant.

Member Hardin asked if there is a corridor outlined for a bridge.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that a bridge is not shown on the Highway 10 plan, but noted that a connection could be made at Armstrong, although there is not an official map showing that connection. He stated that the areas of impact would still affect the same property owners, although the location would be shifted.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that he agrees with the Anoka County owned location proposed over the Connexus outlot. He stated that this would take an agricultural property and put it into use and would provide a showcase for conservation as well. He stated that the high-profile pollinator plantings would also be a good fit for the corridor and the community partnership the City has had with Connexus over the years.

Chairperson Steffen agreed that the Connexus outlot is a prime commercial property that he would much rather preserve.

Member Skaff also agreed that the Connexus outlot would be valuable for commercial use.

Member Burandt stated that Connexus has spent more on property taxes for the outlot over the years than it is worth and therefore they do not plan to let it stay vacant.

Councilmember LeTourneau agreed that the Connexus outlot would be better used for commercial industrial use. He stated that staff directed Connexus to look at other parcels for their solar farm for that reason and that the Connexus Board also supports that use.

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member Hardin, to recommend to City Council that the existing Connexus outlot property be reserved for future commercial industrial use.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Skaff, Hardin, and Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Brunt and Williams. Abstained: Member Burandt.

#### **4.02: Inland Group Purchase Agreement**

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama presented the staff report.

Chairperson Steffen asked if staff believes that this is the best fit for this site.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama stated that the staff reviewed this preliminarily and liked having this project in the correct zoning district and capitalizing on the park improvements. Staff did not have a preferred site.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that from a land use and Planning Commission perspective, Concept C would be the preferred site. He noted that comments from the City Council have been incorporated to provide the Main Street look along Sunwood Drive.

Member Riley asked if the City is being smart drawing the boundaries and selling to the right lines to ensure that they are not creating unsellable land.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama stated that staff spent some time with a designer laying out this concept to ensure the depth of the commercial building site and parking are realistic rather than simply lines on a map. He agreed that it is an odd shaped lot that will have challenges, but the parcel would be market relevant. He stated that before this moves onto City Council he will reach out to developers to ensure that this parcel would work in the market.

Member Riley asked if this park concept fits with the plans the City had.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the Parks Superintendent has seen the plans and agreed that this would fit with the plans for the park in the municipal square. He stated that the idea is to create this greenway corridor up to the Itasca Trail and The Draw. He stated that this would be another great example of how the residential properties work well with the City activities, noting that residents that live in the apartments within The COR are often seen on their patios watching the concert series at The Draw and the Happy Days parade.

Chair Steffen asked if it would be appropriate for the developer to share the cost in the Bolton & Menk work order.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama confirmed that the developer is open to a cost-share.

Chairperson Steffen agreed that this would be a great project and good fit for The COR.

Motion by Chairperson Steffen, seconded by Member Burandt, to recommend to City Council to approve the attached purchase agreement with CAP Acquisitions LLC for roughly 4.2 acres of City owned land.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Burandt, Hardin, Riley, and Skaff. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Brunt and Williams.

Motion by Chairperson Steffen, seconded by Member Skaff, to recommend to City Council to authorize the Bolton & Menk work order, with a cost-share from the developer.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Skaff, Burandt, Hardin, and Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Brunt and Williams.

#### **4.03: 2018 EDA Workplan**

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama presented the staff report.

Member Hardin asked for more information on the proforma and asked if RFPs would be sent out.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama stated that it would depend upon the scope of what is being done. He noted that some of the work orders are very specialized and have a lower cost, therefore the City could go with a preferred consultant that has experience with The COR. He noted that the more costly projects would go through the RFP process. He noted that the entire package may be put out to bid, allowing consultants to bid on the projects they desire. He stated that staff would come back to the EDA for further direction.

Chairperson Steffen noted that this item will move forward to a joint worksession with the City Council on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Member Riley stated that he is excited to get the two groups together for discussion.

Motion by Chairperson Steffen, seconded by Member Hardin, to approve the 2018 EDA Work Plan.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Hardin, Burandt, Riley, and Skaff. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Brunt and Williams.

#### **4.04: 2018 EDA Budget**

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama presented the staff report.

Chairperson Steffen asked if the EDA is on budget currently.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama stated that the EDA is on budget. He noted that the professional services budget is running dry because of the large number of projects in 2017 but felt comfortable with the budget as proposed for 2018.

Member Hardin asked if there are sufficient funds in the miscellaneous professional services fund to cover the remaining shovel ready sites.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama confirmed that there would be adequate funds in the TIF 1 account.

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member Hardin, to recommend to City Council to approve the 2018 EDA budget and levy as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Skaff, Hardin, Burandt, and Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Brunt and Williams.

#### **4.05: Resolution #17-09-232 Requesting Use of the Anoka County HRA Fund: Case of the City of Ramsey's New Business Park**

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama presented the staff report.

Member Hardin asked if these would be existing funds or whether this would be a levy increase for Anoka County.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama confirmed that this would be a request for existing dollars and would not be an increase in the levy.

Motion by Member Burandt, seconded by Member Skaff, to recommend that the City Council adopt Resolution #17-09-232 Requesting the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (ACHRA) allocate \$1,750,000 for infrastructure costs associates with the City of Ramsey's new business park development.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Burandt, Skaff, Hardin, and Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Brunt and Williams.

#### **5. MEMBER / STAFF UPDATE**

The EDA reviewed the Staff Update. He noted that EDA Member Phillip Brunt has submitted his resignation of his position on the EDA. He stated that the term on that seat would expire in March 2020, and therefore the City has started the application process for anyone that may be

interested. He noted that the application period expires on September 29<sup>th</sup> and noted that interested parties are encouraged to apply.

Member Riley asked if the City would consider reaching out to someone with real estate experience for the vacant position.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama stated that while staff would not directly recruit, EDA Members could recruit members. He stated that all EDA members may not have to be Ramsey residents, as local business representatives could possibly become members as well.

City Administrator Ulrich noted that if the EDA Members are aware of someone that may be a good fit, they could pass that referral to staff and staff could reach out.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama stated that Sharp and Associates walked away from their Purchase Agreement and provided an update. He stated that the group expects to come back within the next six months but staff is going to put real estate signs up for the property. He provided an update on Stonebrook Academy. He continued to review the staff update.

City Administrator Ulrich provided an update on upcoming activities.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama identified potential sites that could potentially be a fit for the Amazon headquarters. Staff intended to investigate further and pitch something.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kurtis G. Ulrich  
City Administrator

ATTEST:

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Patrick Brama  
Econ. Dev. Mgr/Assistant City Administrator

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

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

4. 1.

**Meeting Date:** 10/12/2017

**By:** Tim Gladhill, Community Development

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**Title:**

Receive Update on The COR Interim Development Plan

**Purpose/Background:**

**[This case is a copy of a recent city council case, and has not been re-written for the EDA]**

The purpose of this case is to receive an update on The COR Interim Development Plan, which essentially puts into motion a more formal amendment to the master plan. Details of the recommendations prepared by the Planning Commission over a series of workshops are attached to this case.

Direction from the April 25, 2017 Joint Work Session was to review this draft with advisory boards and commissions. The draft was reviewed by the Economic Development Authority on May 25, 2017 and by the Parks and Recreation Commission at their June 8, 2017 meeting. The Planning Commission recommends submitting this document for Public Comment.

It is also noted that multiple courses/student groups are assisting in the next steps in this process through the University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Project (RCP). Public input will be gained through a series of workshop, online forums, etc., that will capitalize on the current Comprehensive Plan Update process and utilize the assistance of the RCP program.

**Notification:**

**Observations/Alternatives:**

This document is certainly a working document. Ideas on how to better phrase and format this document are appreciated.

The City will be reaching out directly to area property owners, developers, stakeholders, and the general public. Staff anticipates the formal public comment period and collaborative engagement process to continue through the end of 2017, with a check-in soon after the first of the year.

Details on the content being discussed by the Planning Commission are included in the attached document. Staff has included two versions of the document.

1. Final Draft (clean)
2. Original Draft with Annotation (comments from Boards and Commission review)

**Funding Source:**

This case is being handled as part of normal Staff duties.

**Recommendation:**

NA

**Action:**

\*\*\*No action requested. This case was brought back to the EDA for a second chance to review, per EDA request (August). The EDA originally reviewed this case in May of 2017. Staff is happy to take any suggested changes or comments related to this plan back to the Planning Commission and City Council.\*\*\*

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### **Attachments**

[FINAL DRAFT - The COR Interim Development Plan](#)

[DRAFT - The COR Interim Development Plan](#)

[DRAFT - The COR Parks and Public Realm Plan](#)

[Joint Work Session Minutes dated April 25, 2017](#)

[Economic Development Authority Minutes dated May 25, 2017](#)

[Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes dated June 8, 2017](#)

[Environmental Policy Board Minutes dated June 19, 2017](#)

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### **Form Review**

#### **Inbox**

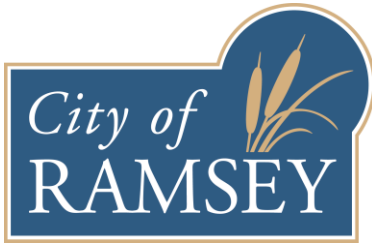
Tim Gladhill (Originator)  
Patrick Brama  
Kurt Ulrich  
Form Started By: Tim Gladhill  
Final Approval Date: 10/06/2017

#### **Reviewed By**

Tim Gladhill  
Patrick Brama  
Katie Schmidt

#### **Date**

10/06/2017 09:19 AM  
10/06/2017 11:27 AM  
10/06/2017 01:50 PM  
Started On: 10/06/2017 09:17 AM



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# The COR Interim Development Plan

Anticipated Adoption: 2017

## City Council

Mayor Sarah Strommen  
Councilmember At-Large John LeTourneau  
Councilmember At-Large Kristine Williams  
Ward 1 Councilmember Jill Johns  
Ward 2 Councilmember Mark Kuzma  
Ward 3 Councilmember Melody Shryock  
Ward 4 Councilmember Chris Riley

## Planning Commission

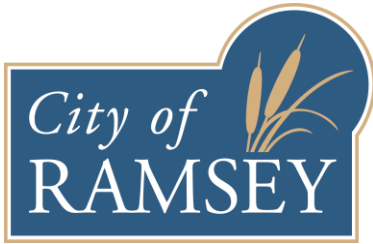
Chairperson Randy Bauer  
Vice-Chairperson Gary Van Scoy  
Bruce Anderson  
Ralph Brauer  
Cheri Gengler  
Cindy Nosan  
Patrick Surma  
Former Chairperson Gary Levine (in memory)

## Economic Development Authority

Chairperson Jim Steffen  
Vice-Chairperson Wayne Skaff  
Philip Brundt  
Brian Burandt  
Glen Hardin  
Chris Riley (Council Representative)  
Kristine Williams (Council Representative)

## Parks and Recreation Commission:

Shane Bennett, Chairperson  
Russell Bayer  
Andrew Fyten  
Jennifer Lestico  
Brandon Sis  
Charles Tchuinkwa  
Jon Trappen



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Environmental Policy Board

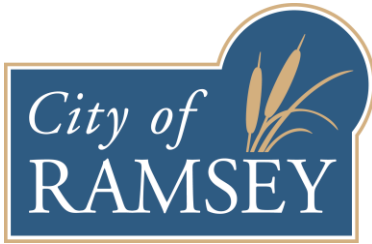
Thomas Stadola, Chairperson  
Michael Valentine, Vice-Chairperson  
Colleen Anderson  
Reid Bernard  
Jane Covart  
Michael Hiatt  
Lucas Trossen

Staff Team:

Tim Gladhill, Community Development Director  
Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator  
Patrick Brama, Asst. City Administrator/Economic Dev. Manager  
Chris Anderson, City Planner  
Bruce Westby, City Engineer  
Mark Riverblood, Parks and Asst. Public Works Superintendent

Version: I:\The Cor\2015 Vision Clarification\Vision Document 2017\Interim Development Plan\The COR Interim Development Plan.Docx 4/3/2017 2:07 PM

DRAFT



## Purpose of Interim Plan

The purpose of this document is to set into motion potential land use policy changes for The COR. In 2015, the City's Planning Commission described a need to evaluate and clarify the vision for The COR in response to several project approvals.

The Land Use Plan and Zoning Code are not the vision. They are the tool to achieve the vision. Focus on the elements that are important to us, regardless of the land use (examples include, but are not limited to greenway connections, sense of place, walkability). There are ways to achieve the vision, regardless of the use.

## Common Terms

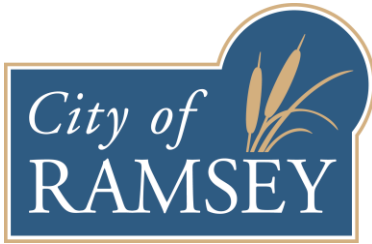
**The COR Development Plan.** This is the existing land use plan for The COR circa 2011. This is the official control and legal basis for land use decisions within The COR. Also referred to as the 'Development Plan'. This is the 'second generation plan' for the development, preceded by the Ramsey Town Center Master Plan.

**The COR Interim Development Plan.** This is the document you are reading now. While the City continues to refine land use recommendations and feasibility analysis for The COR, this document is intended to be a guiding policy document to review quality projects that do not meet the strict adherence to The COR Development Plan. Also referred to as the 'Interim Development Plan'.

**The COR Development Plan Amendment.** This is a future document. This will be the document that updates the Zoning Code, otherwise known as the official controls, for The COR. This will replace existing Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code, and Design Framework. Also referred to as the 'Plan Amendment'. This will be considered the 'third generation plan' for The COR.

## Using this Document

This land use plan is an interim plan that will guide land use decisions prior to a formal amendment for The COR. Uses currently allowed in The COR Development Plan shall be allowed consistent with applicable law. Projects consistent with options contained within this Interim Development Plan, but conflict with the existing plan, may proceed forward, but shall require a formal Plan Amendment. The policy directives of this document are advisory in nature, and are not binding. If a proposed project meets the minimum requirements of the existing Development Plan, it shall be considered consistent with the Development Plan and Zoning Code and shall be approved.



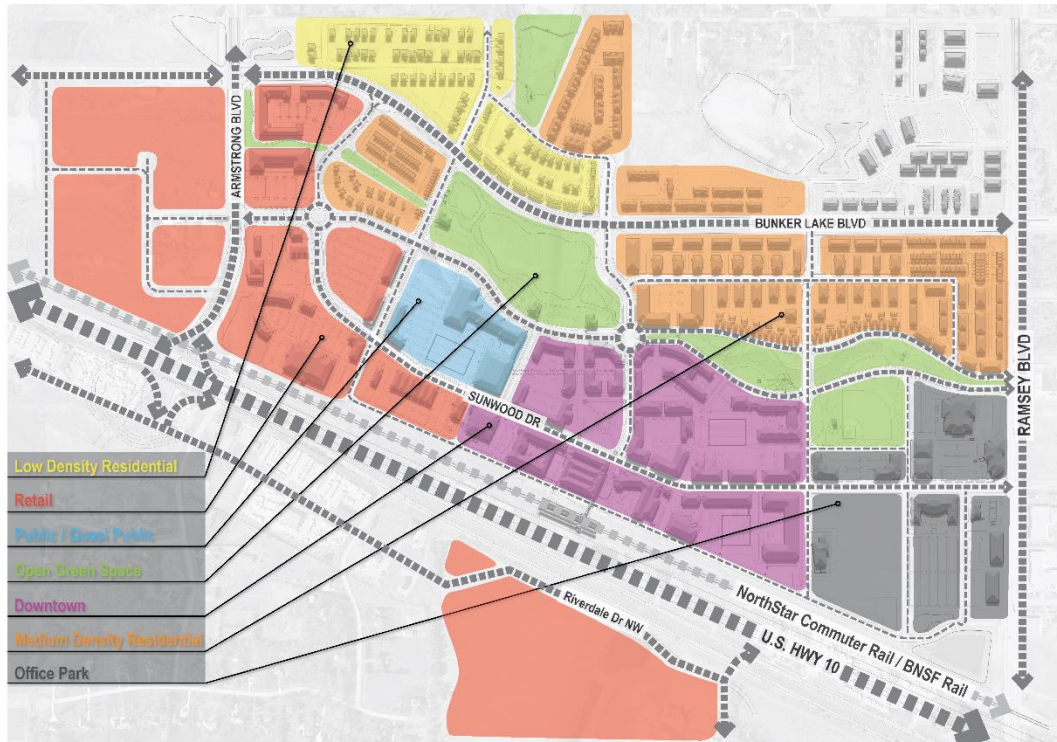
## Vision


The Vision Statement was created for the purpose of crafting update land use scenarios and is not intended to approve or disapprove individual projects. Projects must be reviewed using the City's Zoning Code as the official land use control. The Vision Statement is not a regulatory tool, yet a visionary tool.

*The COR will serve as a City Center primarily to bring people of Ramsey together that embraces natural market opportunities. The COR will also attract energy from the surrounding region. It will be a unique destination, technology-accessible, and serve as a gathering place. It will feature unique architecture stressing historical feel and function.*

## Development-Wide Assumptions

1. The development is part of a broader **GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY** that protects the City's primary land use goal to respect the **BALANCE OF RURAL AND URBAN CHARACTER**.
2. The development shall take a **MIX OF USES** within the development, which is also known as **HORIZONTALLY MIXED USE** approach versus a strict adherence to traditional mixed-use definitions to require vertically mixed-use buildings. The mix of land use districts and land use types within the development as a whole shall guide success of mixed use, not strictly mix of uses within a building, block, or individual district. These types of mixes although not required, are encouraged. The 'mix of uses' approach shall not preclude flexible first floor and vertically mixed use buildings.
3. Our vision includes significant areas guided for a variety of **RETAIL OFFERINGS**. **HOUSING DENSITY** is important to that vision. The emphasis of the master plan concepts is to **GUIDE LAND USE**, and is **NOT SPECIFIC SITE PLAN REVIEW**. Future developers shall have the creative freedom to propose other concepts that are generally in line with **OVERALL VISION**.

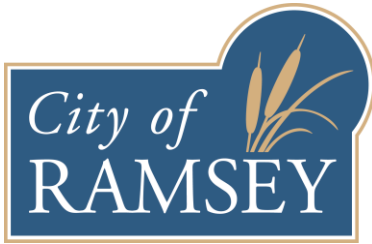


 The COR Land Use  

## Land Use District (Sub-District) Descriptions and Requirements

The COR is divided into five (5) distinct land use districts that ensure a mix of uses and guides quality private and public development. These districts are considered sub-districts and can be amended easier than traditional zoning districts. The overall land use mix shall be provided. Amending sub-districts shall be approved by resolution of the City Council after recommendation by the Planning Commission, but shall not require a Public Hearing. Amending sub-district boundaries shall not require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment so long as the overall land use balance is preserved.

1. Downtown District (COR-1)
2. Retail District (COR-2)
3. Office District (COR-3)
4. Residential District (COR-4)
5. Parks and Open Space District (COR-5)



### The Downtown District (COR-1)

**Downtown District Description.** The Downtown District shall be a high-density district with a mix of uses. Vertically mixed use buildings are not required, but are encouraged. The Downtown District shall be predominantly high-density residential to support existing transit and City growth-management goals, but is not required. Shared parking districts are an integral part of the success of this district. Urban design shall also emphasize build-to lines and pedestrian interaction. The district shall have the most robust architectural design standards amongst all City land use districts.

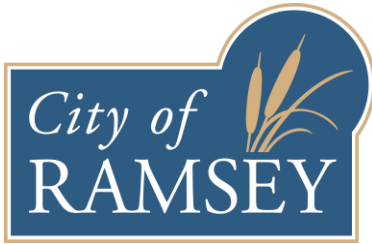
This district is the focal point of the development. This quarter-mile radius is key to land use supportive of transit and other City land use goals. The City of Ramsey and its funding partners (Anoka County, CTIB-Counties Transit Improvement Board, and Metropolitan Council) invested nearly \$14 Million Dollars on the Northstar Commuter Rail – Ramsey Station, relying on The COR Development Plan. This district is described as predominantly high-density residential, with a number of commercial uses along Sunwood Drive. There should be a **MIX OF USES** within this district.

**Planning Commission Recommendation:**

The City should focus on original visions to better manage parking and maximize land use of individual parcels. This includes reverting back to a **FLOOR AREA RATIO (FAR) OF 0.75** and retaining a strict adherence to **MAXIMUM PARKING** standards and shared **PARKING DISTRICT** requirements. Minimum density shall be fifteen (15) units per acre with no maximum density required.

**4/25/17 City Council Work Session Comment.** Concern was raised over reverting back to the 0.75 FAR, thus requiring vertical shared parking in the downtown district. Consensus was generally to study cost/benefit further, with acknowledgment of the need for flexibility.

**5/25/17 EDA Comment.** Open to discussion and reviewing further parking districts and parking ramps. However, the City should not force or require shared parking. Shared parking and parking ramps should be encouraged and strived for, but not required of private development. The City should not revert back to the 0.75 FAR.



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### The Retail District (COR-2)

**Retail District Description.** The Retail District shall be focused on providing retail offerings to support the community and beyond. This district shall focus on smaller, unique shops, while allowing larger format retailers along Highway 10 where visibility and access is best.

Places to eat, shop, and be entertained were a key component of the original development. While other land uses have succeeded in continued growth, retail goals have struggled to keep pace. The City has continued to evaluate our retail marketing strategy, and amendments to this plan represent a broader effort to advance these goals.

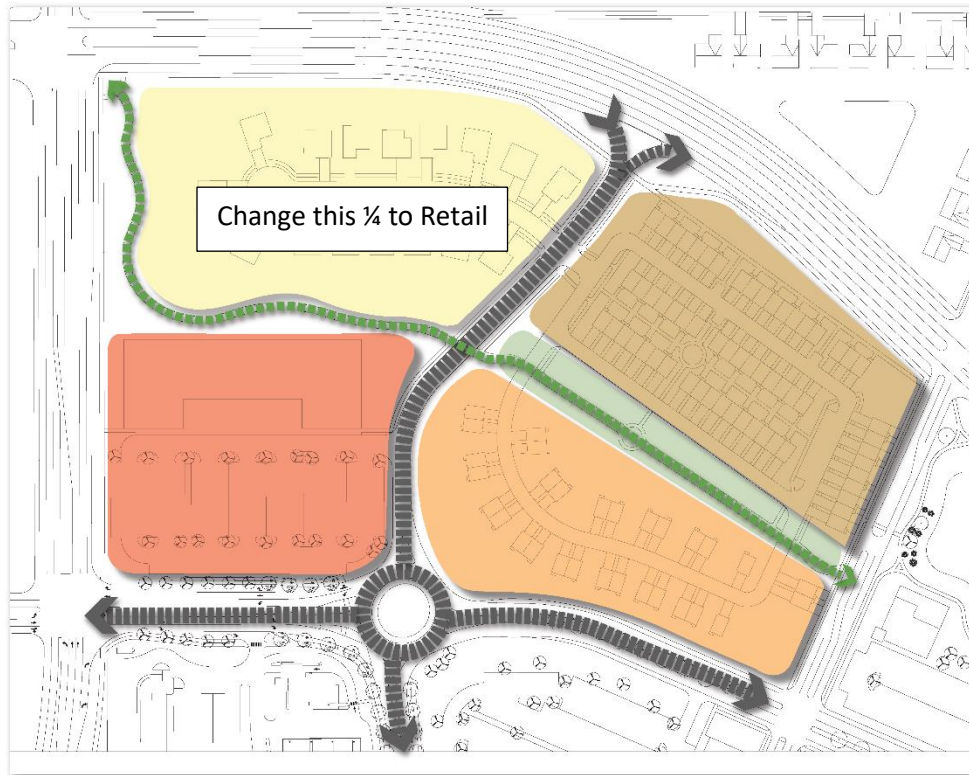
Citywide, the community has over 150 acres of undeveloped or redevelopment areas guided for future retail growth. In comparison, the Riverdale shopping center in Coon Rapids is approximately 200 acres. Coupled with proximity to Elk River and physical barriers such as the Mississippi River and Rum River, it is not likely that the City will be successful in developing this amount of retail within this 20 year planning period, if at all. Additionally, the market for larger retail users is quickly changing with adapting technologies. The City's market experts have encouraged the City to re-evaluate its retail strategies.

EMPHASIS: The City continues to plan for a significant amount of retail growth within The COR and throughout the community. The recommendations below are not intended to de-emphasize our retail goals, yet strengthen said retail goals and focus on more appropriate areas for future growth.

**Planning Commission Recommendation:** The northwest quadrant of the development (bordered by Armstrong Boulevard, Bunker Lake Boulevard, Zeolite Street, and Sunwood Drive) should be amended to strengthen the **LAKE ITASCA GREENWAY**, create **SMALLER DESTINATION RETAIL USERS**. Half of this quadrant should be re-guided for an **APPROPRIATE RESIDENTIAL USE**, with **DENSITY** appropriate for the type of overall land use plan for The COR.

This is the area of **MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE** recommended by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission collaborated on developing multiple land use scenarios. The overall approach was to divide the northwest quadrant into four (4) smaller sub-quadrants divided by future public roadways and greenways and allocating half the quadrants to smaller, destination retailers and the other half to residential uses. Based on feedback and reconciling multiple angles of consensus, the land use map below represents the primary recommended land use map.

Primary NW Quadrant Land Use Map – Vertical Split (this will be the model of the actual land use map [focus on polygons per land use, less focus on detailed site planning])





#### Strengths

- Continuous greenway corridor
- Removes struggling 'big-box' retail
- Introduces smaller destination retail
- Moderate return on tax base
- Transition of mix of uses

#### Weaknesses

- Land use types desired by community

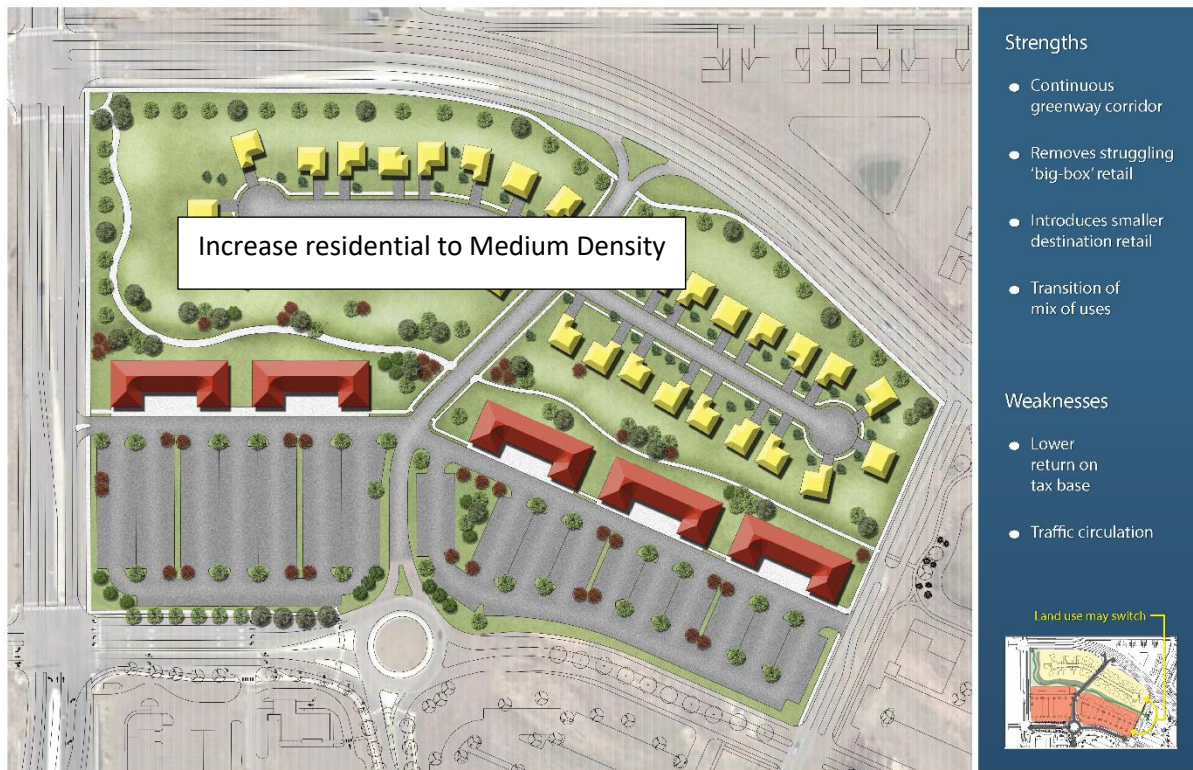


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### NW Quadrant Acceptable Alternatives

The alternatives listed below would require a future plan amendment, but are afforded certain policy feedback in advance. These can be viewed as 'pre-screened' alternatives.

#### NW Quadrant Horizontal Split



Continued on next page.

NW Quadrant All Retail



Strengths

- Continuous greenway corridor
- Removes struggling 'big-box' retail
- Introduces smaller destination retail
- Higher return on tax base

Weaknesses

- Transition of mix of uses

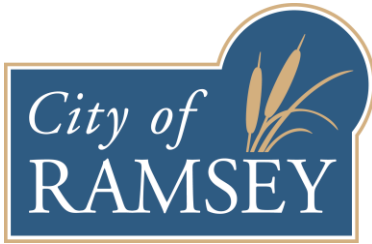


The Office District (COR-3)

This district represented the area of highest consensus amongst the Planning Commission.

**Planning Commission Recommendation:**

**NO AMENDMENTS** to this district are recommended. However, the City should look at strategies to encourage parking districts within this land use district as well.



Note. During the January 24, 2017 Joint Work Session between the City Council and Planning Commission, it was noted that an office user may be possible in the northeast quadrant currently guided for retail use. Staff's recommendation, while a potentially positive amendment, would be to consider this possibility under a separate amendment, as the overall plan currently has a good balance of office planned, and a more comprehensive look would be needed for such an amendment.

### The Residential District (COR-4)

The Residential District is further divided into three (3) categories. The descriptions below include recommended adjustments to density ranges.

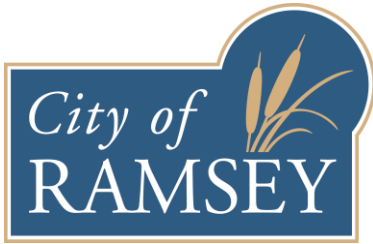
- 'Low' Density (COR-4a). This is predominantly detached single-family located north of Bunker Lake Boulevard. The minimum density shall be four (4) units per acre and densities up to fifteen (15) units per acre shall be allowed.
- Medium Density (COR-4b). These predominantly include townhomes, both attached and detached. Minimum density shall be eight (8) units per acre with a maximum density of fifteen (15) units per acre. Additional density may be allowed via Conditional Use Permit.
- High Density (COR-4c). These areas are focused immediately north of The Draw Park and Amphitheater and provide a unique opportunity for interaction and transition. The emphasis on mix of uses is muted compared to the Downtown District. The minimum density of this district shall be fifteen (15) units per acre with no cap of maximum density.

#### **Planning Commission Recommendation:**

The remaining undeveloped area immediately north of The Draw currently owned by K Hovnanian Homes shall be re-guided to High Density Residential. The Planning Commission recognizes the success of high density residential abutting The Draw on the south side (Parkview East) and sees this as an opportunity for consistent design when coupled with the future Aeon Apartment Development (north side).

### Parks and Public Spaces (COR-5)

This district is governed by The COR Parks + Public Spaces Plan, and is included by reference as an integral part of The COR Interim Development Plan. Neither document shall be interpreted as a wholly separate document, and neither document shall be adopted or otherwise amended unless coinciding with each other. An amendment to one plan shall be considered an amendment to the other. This document has been adopted as a 'working draft' by consensus of the City Council. The intent is to adopt as a formal plan as part of the overall COR Development Plan Amendment.



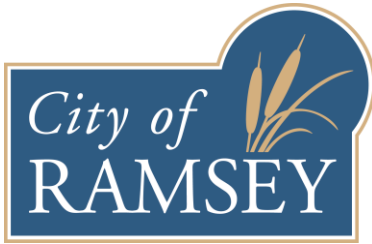
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## Implementation Plan

The Interim Development Plan represents Phase I of a three (3) phase project.

1. Interim Development Plan (this step)
2. System Plans (roads, utilities, parking structures, infrastructure, etc.).
3. Development Pro-Forma (funding and financing options).

Continued on next page.



### Major Planning COR Planning Efforts

**EFFORT #1**  
**COR Re-Visioning**

**PURPOSE**  
Update/ amend the vision for The COR.

1. Update COR Master Plan (map that shows vision, how the COR will look, how buildings will be oriented, where infrastructure should be located, etc.)
2. Update zoning district map (underlying land use regulations that will ensure the master plan will be implemented at the time individual projects come forward for review by the City)
3. Direction on outstanding major policy items:
  - Is vertically mixed use development a requirement?
  - appropriate size and location of retail uses?
  - Is there flexibility in location of zoning district borders?
  - Define basic vision and policy for community center.
  - Define basic vision and policy for parking ramps.

**RESPONSIBLE BOARD**  
Planning Commission will draft a recommendation for Council consideration.

**TIMING**  
Anticipated to have draft completed by April 2017. Once a draft is completed, it should be checked against COR System Plans and COR Pro-Forma. May need to be adjusted.

**EFFORT #2**  
**COR System Plans**

**PURPOSE**  
The City purchased The COR with two goals in mind (a) recover previous public investments, and (b) ensure the vision of The COR is implemented.

As a result, the City of Ramsey has taken the role of master developer for The COR. With the role, various assumed responsibilities are assigned to the City. Developers, businesses, and residents expect the city to have concept plans/ policies in place for the following items:

1. Storm water plan (regional)
2. Road plan (public roads)
3. Sign plan (development signs, way finding signs, etc.)
4. Park & Trails plans
5. Community Center plan/ policy
6. Parking Ramp(s) plan/ policy
7. Cut/fill basic plan

There are many benefits to having this preliminary information ready—please see system plan dashboard for details. These plans are intended to be preliminary/ concept level only—for the sake of planning and budgeting.

**RESPONSIBLE BOARD**  
Likely, all boards will be involved with this process. However, for the sake of efficiencies, the EDA will lead this effort. Findings will be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council.

**TIMING**  
Upon completion of 1<sup>st</sup> draft of COR re-vision, staff would like to order this work for completion (i.e. begin May 2017). This work will take 6-9 months. Once draft is completed, it should be checked against COR Master Plan and COR Pro-Forma. May need to be adjusted.

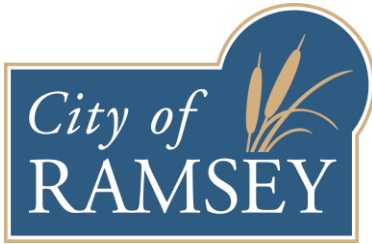
**EFFORT #3**  
**COR Pro-Forma**

**PURPOSE**

1. Update COR pro-forma based on updated vision and system plans. COR pro-forma will display the city's financial performance forecast/ project cash-flow over time (expenditures/ obligations versus revenues/ available funding).
2. Update COR TIF plan/ TIF analysis previously completed by Ehlers. This plan plays a major role in the "funding" side of the COR pro-forma. Because actual TIF revenues are based on actual completed projects, it would be helpful to update periodically. NOTE: TIF can only be used for projects completed before 2021.
3. Update COR land proceeds policy. Staff would like to (a) clearly identify what previous expenditures the City wishes to repay itself, (b) consider using land proceeds only for non TIF eligible costs, and (c) update the City's land sale proceeds forecasts.

**RESPONSIBLE BOARD**  
EDA will draft a recommendation for Council consideration.

**TIMING**  
Upon completion of COR re-vision and COR system plans, staff will complete this work (i.e. begin late 2017). This work will take 1-2 months. Once draft is completed, it should be checked against COR Master Plan and COR system plans. May need to be adjusted.



The group then formulated a broad work plan to accomplish the many steps to complete an overall plan amendment and update.

The COR Development Plan Update Plan of Action												
	2017											
	January	Quarter 1		Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4		December
<b>Task 1: Land Use Plan Update (Planning Commission)</b>												
Draft Vision Statement												
Draft Land Use/District Map												
Draft District Descriptions												
Draft Development and Design Standards												
Draft Development Plan Update (Zoning Code)												
Adopt Final Version of Development Plan												
<b>Task 2: System Plan/Infrastructure Study (EDA)</b>												
Stormwater Plan												
Road Plan												
Sign Plan												
Parks and Recreation Plan												
Community Center Plan or Policy Statement												
Parking Ramp/District Plan or Policy Statement												
Cut/Fill Plan (Grading)												
<b>Task 3: Project Pro Forma (EDA)</b>												
Pro-Forma												
Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan												
COR Land Sale Proceeds Policy												

### Public Engagement

A key component of any policy decision is collaboration amongst its residents. These processes are part of natural and organic community conversations around key policy topics. The City will couple this policy discussion with ongoing workshops and community events as part of its overall Comprehensive Plan Update. For more information on this effort, please visit [www.cityoframsey.com/ramsey2040](http://www.cityoframsey.com/ramsey2040).

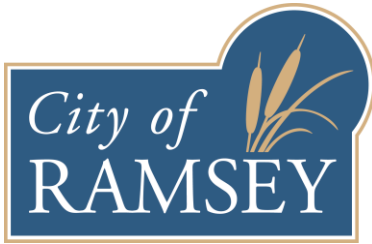
**4/25/17 City Council Work Session Note:** All Boards and Commissions should review this document before the City Council considers formal adoption. The City Council should review the final document and approve before distributing to the public and stakeholders/landowners.

### Mobile Comprehensive Plan Tour

The City is planning a Mobile Comprehensive Plan Tour for policy makers that will include local examples of plans and policies being discussed in the Comprehensive Plan Update. The tour is planned to include examples discussed in this Interim Development Plan as well.

### Market Analysis

The Planning Commission recommends completion of a market analysis to confirm the policy directives of this document as it relates to the planned retail area. The Planning Commission continues to stress



the importance of attracting retail uses to the Development, but want to ensure that there is not too much areas guided for retail growth beyond what the community can sustain.

### Community Center

The Planning Commission desires to continue to plan for a Community Center in The COR. The Planning Commission feels that this type of use would benefit the community and be a draw for other users within the development. This analysis will be completed as a separate planning process.

### Architectural Standards

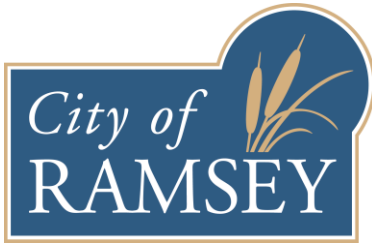
A key component of the policy discussion for The COR has been architectural design standards. The Planning Commission believes several recent projects fell short of community expectations. While originally intended to be part of Phase I of The COR Development Plan Update, the Planning Commission continues to refine these recommendations and will continue throughout Phase II and Phase III to bring a quality recommendation forward with a full Plan Amendment.

The standards below are not an exhaustive list of current design requirements, yet a focus on key topics that have been raised for future discussion. Upon final amendment, the City will prepare a side-by-side comparison of all existing and proposed design requirements. The final version of this Interim Development Plan will also include drawings/illustrations to illustrate the narrative being discussed.

The COR should continue to focus on four-sided architecture visible from the public realm. Quality signage on all four sides of the building should be allowed. The community should be able to park on public streets and reasonably access the building.

### Planning Commission Recommendation:

In the interim, the Planning Commission shall serve as an ad-hoc architectural review committee. Projects shall complete an architectural review prior to official Site Plan Review. The Planning Commission reserves the right to establish an ad-hoc sub-committee to serve as this Architectural Review Committee. The Planning Commission recommends that the City supplement the Development Review Team with the services of a licensed architect to help develop updated design standards and review development proposals. This will add value to the process, hopefully streamline review, and is in line with other professional services the City employs in development review. The cost of these services are the responsibility of the Developer.



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**Additional Discussion Points:**

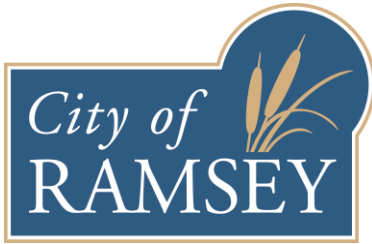
- \* The intent of design requirements is to maintain a consistent development look and acknowledge the pride and planning that went into the vision of this development. The tradeoff of a more densely developed areas was an acknowledgement of the need to 'step up' architectural design.
- \* All single-family homes in The COR shall include/not include a porch that protrudes from the front of the home, even with the garage, and not a recessed entry in the middle of the home.
- \* Over the next several months, the Planning Commission will better define front porches and if any additional design requirements or restrictions (i.e. split entry homes) are warranted. .
- \* Buildings in the Downtown District shall include a minimum of 50% brick. Vinyl siding shall not be allowed. Fiber cement panels shall be allowed as a complimentary material.
- \* Buildings in the Residential District shall have a minimum of 35% brick or stone on the front façade. Vinyl siding is allowed.

### Private Open Space and Stormwater Design

The Planning Commission has expressed a concern over a perceived lack of private open space in medium density development as well as depth and steep slopes of stormwater ponds within the development due to the higher density nature. This concern has not yet been resolved, but will continue to be discussed during Phases II and III of the Plan Amendment. The City shall take into account sidewalks, greenways, and other private and innovative improvements (such as wonerfs).

### Site Selection Process

The City is in a unique situation as Property Owner and Regulatory Authority. This presents opportunity, but also requires special attention to remain accountable to the public. In order to balance this



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approach without creating burdensome processes, the following steps shall be followed when considering a Purchase Agreement with the City in The COR.

Any perspective buyer of City-Owned Property in The COR shall first meet with City Staff to discuss appropriate sites. This is known as the Site Selection Process. The City and Buyer shall review multiple sites before selecting a preferred location. Depending on the complexity of the project, the City reserves the right to take this Site Selection Process to the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council before reviewing a specific site.

The Buyer shall provide a site concept to be reviewed by the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council before approving a Purchase Agreement. When a single-user proposes to purchase a portion of an undeveloped block or area, a series of 'site concepts' shall be developed before reviewing with any City board or commission. These site concepts shall demonstrate at least one reasonable concept for the remaining portion of the site that fits the vision and requirements of that area/district.

The Buyer must still complete the official Site Plan Review (and Subdivision) process after the Purchase Agreement Phase.

## History of Policy Discussion

This Interim Development Plan is the result of a Planning Commission initiative dating back to 2015. The City has invested a significant amount of time, energy, and resources in order to ensure a **MARKET RELEVANT PLAN** that balances **COMMUNITY VISION**.

## Joint Work Sessions

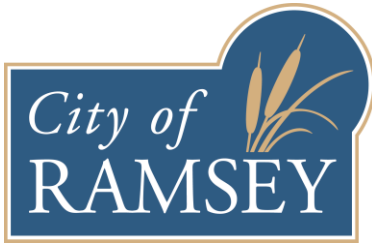
The City Council and Planning Commission have met on multiple occasions to frame the policy question, discuss strategies, and identify solutions.

- March 26, 2015 = Joint Work Session
- July 12, 2016 = Joint Work Session
- January 24, 2017 = Joint Work Session

## Surveys

In 2016, the City surveyed its Board and Commission Members on key topics related to The COR Development Plan.

The key directive coming out of review of these results on July 12, 2016 was to create a forum for policy makers to ask questions and receive direct feedback from developers and market experts, rather than completing another market study.



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### Market Panel Event

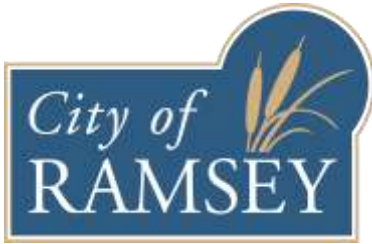
On October 27, 2016, the City hosted several market experts to respond to a wide range of policy topics raised by community policy makers. The output from this event served as an important foundation for land use recommendations developed by the Planning Commission.

### Planning Commission Work Sessions

The information gleaned from the steps above were utilized to begin important policy discussions about the future of The COR. Following review of the Market Panel Event, the City Council authorized the Planning Commission to begin formulating land use recommendations for The COR. The Planning Commission met Work Sessions dedicated to The COR on multiple occasions.

- January 5, 2017 (to prepare for the January 24, 2017 Joint Work Session with the City Council)
  - Develop a Vision Statement
- February 2, 2017
  - Refine the Vision Statement
  - Collaborate on a Future Land Use Map
- March 2, 2017
  - Refine the Vision Statement
  - Refine the Future Land Use Map and Alternative Future Land Use Maps
- April 18, 2017
  - Refine the Vision Statement
  - Refine the Future Land Use Map and Alternative Future Land Use Maps
- April 25, 2017
  - Draft document reviewed by City Council and Planning Commission in Joint Session.
  - Authorization to review with internal advisory boards and commissions.
- May 25, 2017
  - Draft document reviewed by EDA. Feedback/comments added to document.
- June 1, 2017
  - EDA comments reviewed by Planning Commission.

The Interim Development Plan is anticipated to be adopted in 2017.



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# The COR Interim Development Plan

Anticipated Adoption: 2017

## City Council

Mayor Sarah Strommen  
Councilmember At-Large John LeTourneau  
Councilmember At-Large Kristine Williams  
Ward 1 Councilmember Jill Johns  
Ward 2 Councilmember Mark Kuzma  
Ward 3 Councilmember Melody Shryock  
Ward 4 Councilmember Chris Riley

## Planning Commission

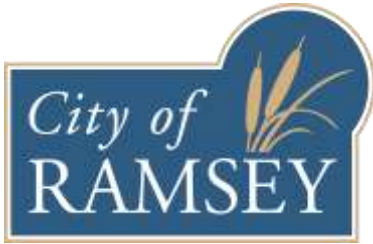
Chairperson Randy Bauer  
Vice-Chairperson Gary Van Scoy  
Bruce Anderson  
Ralph Brauer  
Cheri Gengler  
Cindy Nosan  
Patrick Surma  
Former Chairperson Gary Levine (in memory)

## Economic Development Authority

Chairperson Jim Steffen  
Vice-Chairperson Wayne Skaff  
Philip Brundt  
Brian Burandt  
Glen Hardin  
Chris Riley (Council Representative)  
Kristine Williams (Council Representative)

## Parks and Recreation Commission:

Shane Bennett, Chairperson  
Russell Bayer  
Andrew Fyten  
Jennifer Lestico  
Brandon Sis  
Charles Tchuinkwa  
Jon Trappen



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Environmental Policy Board

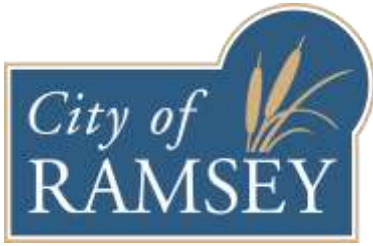
Thomas Stadola, Chairperson  
Michael Valentine, Vice-Chairperson  
Colleen Anderson  
Reid Bernard  
Jane Covart  
Michael Hiatt  
Lucas Trossen

Staff Team:

Tim Gladhill, Community Development Director  
Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator  
Patrick Brama, Asst. City Administrator/Economic Dev. Manager  
Chris Anderson, City Planner  
Bruce Westby, City Engineer  
Mark Riverblood, Parks and Asst. Public Works Superintendent

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## Purpose of Interim Plan

The purpose of this document is to set into motion potential land use policy changes for The COR. In 2015, the City's Planning Commission described a need to evaluate and clarify the vision for The COR in response to several project approvals.

**4/25/17 City Council Work Session Comment.** This comprehensive/strategic document is important to clarify the City's expectations and vision in order to choose the correct real estate strategy. This document is an interim policy, and can adjust parallel to discussions on master developer/real estate strategy.

## Common Terms

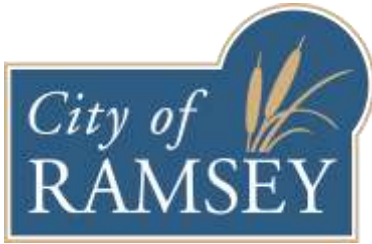
**The COR Development Plan.** This is the existing land use plan for The COR circa 2011. This is the official control and legal basis for land use decisions within The COR. Also referred to as the 'Development Plan'. This is the 'second generation plan' for the development, preceded by the Ramsey Town Center Master Plan.

**The COR Interim Development Plan.** This is the document you are reading now. While the City continues to refine land use recommendations and feasibility analysis for The COR, this document is intended to be a guiding policy document to review quality projects that do not meet the strict adherence to The COR Development Plan. Also referred to as the 'Interim Development Plan'.

**The COR Development Plan Amendment.** This is a future document. This will be the document that updates the Zoning Code, otherwise known as the official controls, for The COR. This will replace existing Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code, and Design Framework. Also referred to as the 'Plan Amendment'. This will be considered the 'third generation plan' for The COR.

## Using this Document

This land use plan is an interim plan that will guide land use decisions prior to a formal amendment for The COR. Uses currently allowed in The COR Development Plan shall be allowed consistent with applicable law. Projects consistent with options contained within this Interim Development Plan, but conflict with the existing plan, may proceed forward, but shall require a formal Plan Amendment. The policy directives of this document are advisory in nature, and are not binding. If a proposed project meets the minimum requirements of the existing Development Plan, it shall be considered consistent with the Development Plan and Zoning Code and shall be approved.



## Vision

The Vision Statement was created for the purpose of crafting update land use scenarios and is not intended to approve or disapprove individual projects. Projects must be reviewed using the City's Zoning Code as the official land use control. The Vision Statement is not a regulatory tool, yet a visionary tool.

*The COR will serve as a City Center primarily to bring people of Ramsey together. The COR will also attract energy from the surrounding region. It will be a unique destination, technology-oriented, and serve as a gathering place. It will feature unique architecture stressing historical feel and function.*

**4/25/17 City Council Work Session Comment.** Recommend the following edits.

- Needs to clarify how this is going to be something other cities do not have and remain market driven.
- Statement on technology should be amended to 'technology accessible' and not 'technology-oriented.'
- Does the comment on 'welcoming to all cultures' belong in this statement?
- Is the vision for 'unique' achievable?
- Is the vision for architecture and historic feel achievable and unique?

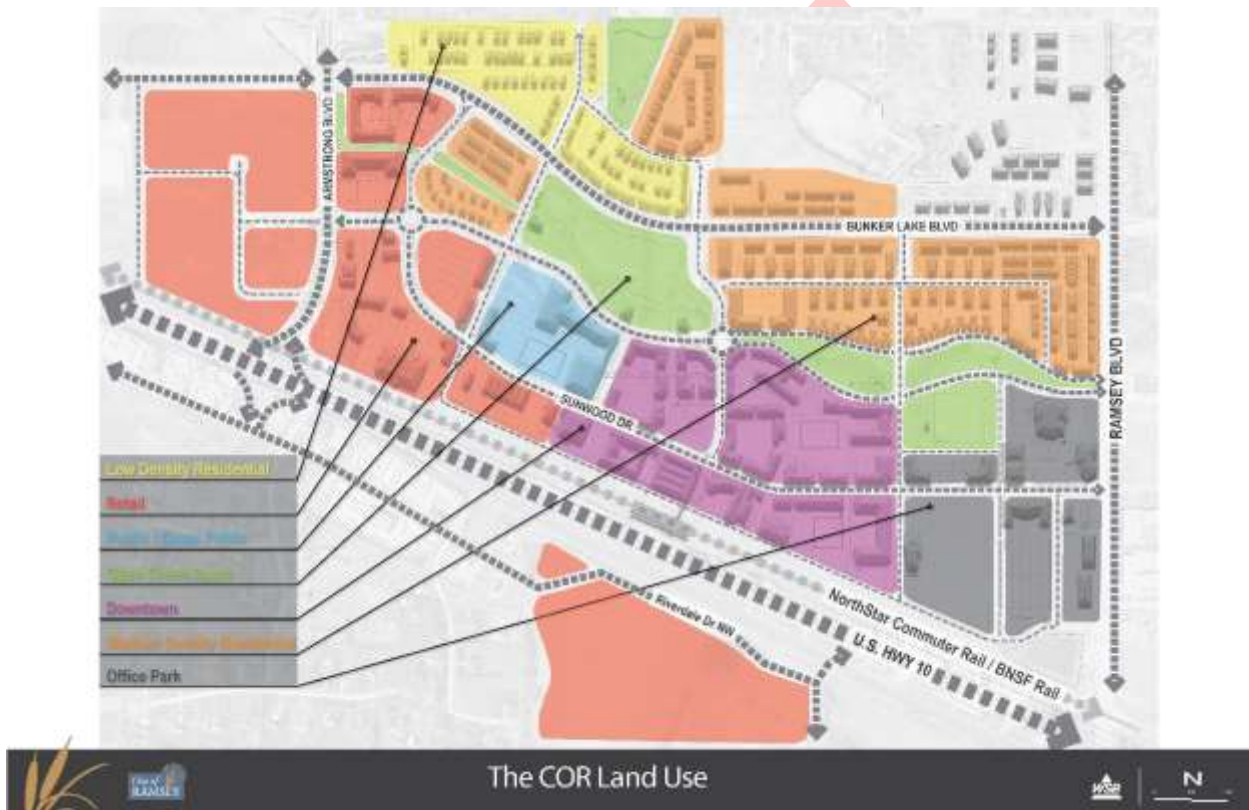
**5/25/17 EDA Comment.** The Vision Statement needs additional refinement. Suggestions include, but are not limited to the following.

- The development should be market-driven, and not dictated by the City.
- The City should embrace market-driven opportunities as they come.

## Development-Wide Assumptions

1. The development is part of a broader **GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY** that protects the City's primary land use goal to respect the **BALANCE OF RURAL AND URBAN CHARACTER**.
2. The development shall take a **MIX OF USES** within the development, which is also known as **HORIZONTALLY MIXED USE** approach versus a strict adherence to traditional mixed-use definitions to require vertically mixed-use buildings. The mix of land use districts and land use types within the development as a whole shall guide success of mixed use, not strictly mix of uses within a building, block, or individual district. These types of mixes although not required, are encouraged. The 'mix of uses' approach shall not preclude flexible first floor and vertically mixed use buildings.

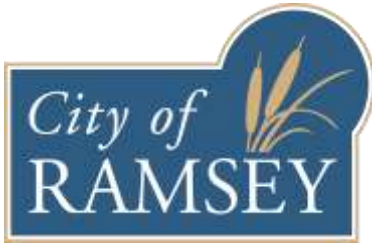
3. Our vision includes significant areas guided for a variety of **RETAIL OFFERINGS**, **HOUSING DENSITY** is important to that vision. The emphasis of the master plan concepts is to **GUIDE LAND USE**, and is **NOT SPECIFIC SITE PLAN REVIEW**. Future developers shall have the creative freedom to propose other concepts that are generally in line with **OVERALL VISION**.



## Land Use District (Sub-District) Descriptions and Requirements

The COR is divided into five (5) distinct land use districts that ensure a mix of uses and guides quality private and public development. These districts are considered sub-districts and can be amended easier than traditional zoning districts. The overall land use mix shall be provided. Amending sub-districts shall be approved by resolution of the City Council after recommendation by the Planning Commission, but shall not require a Public Hearing. Amending sub-district boundaries shall not require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment so long as the over land use balance is preserved.

1. Downtown District (COR-1)



2. Retail District (COR-2)
3. Office District (COR-3)
4. Residential District (COR-4)
5. Parks and Open Space District (COR-5)

### The Downtown District (COR-1)

**Downtown District Description.** The Downtown District shall be a high-density district with a mix of uses. Vertically mixed use buildings are not required, but are encouraged. The Downtown District shall be predominantly high-density residential to support existing transit and City growth-management goals, but is not required. Shared parking districts are an integral part of the success of this district. Urban design shall also emphasize build-to lines and pedestrian interaction. The district shall have the most robust architectural design standards amongst all City land use districts.

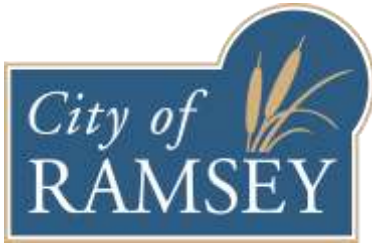
This district is the focal point of the development. This quarter-mile radius is key to land use supportive of transit and other City land use goals. The City of Ramsey and its funding partners (Anoka County, CTIB-Counties Transit Improvement Board, and Metropolitan Council) invested nearly \$14 Million Dollars on the Northstar Commuter Rail – Ramsey Station, relying on The COR Development Plan. This district is described as predominantly high-density residential, with a number of commercial uses along Sunwood Drive. There should be a **MIX OF USES** within this district.

**Planning Commission Recommendation:**

The City should focus on original visions to better manage parking and maximize land use of individual parcels. This includes reverting back to a **FLOOR AREA RATIO (FAR) OF 0.75** and retaining a strict adherence to **MAXIMUM PARKING** standards and shared **PARKING DISTRICT** requirements. Minimum density shall be fifteen (15) units per acre with no maximum density required.

**4/25/17 City Council Work Session Comment.** Concern was raised over reverting back to the 0.75 FAR, thus requiring vertical shared parking in the downtown district. Consensus was generally to study cost/benefit further, with acknowledgment of the need for flexibility.

**5/25/17 EDA Comment.** Open to discussion and reviewing further parking districts and parking ramps. However, the City should not force or require shared parking. Shared parking and parking ramps should be encouraged and strived for, but not required of private development. The City should not revert back to the 0.75 FAR.



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## The Retail District (COR-2)

**Retail District Description.** The Retail District shall be focused on providing retail offerings to support the community and beyond. This district shall focus on smaller, unique shops, while allowing larger format retailers along Highway 10 where visibility and access is best.

Places to eat, shop, and be entertained were a key component of the original development. While other land uses have succeeded in continued growth, retail goals have struggled to keep pace. The City has continued to evaluate our retail marketing strategy, and amendments to this plan represent a broader effort to advance these goals.

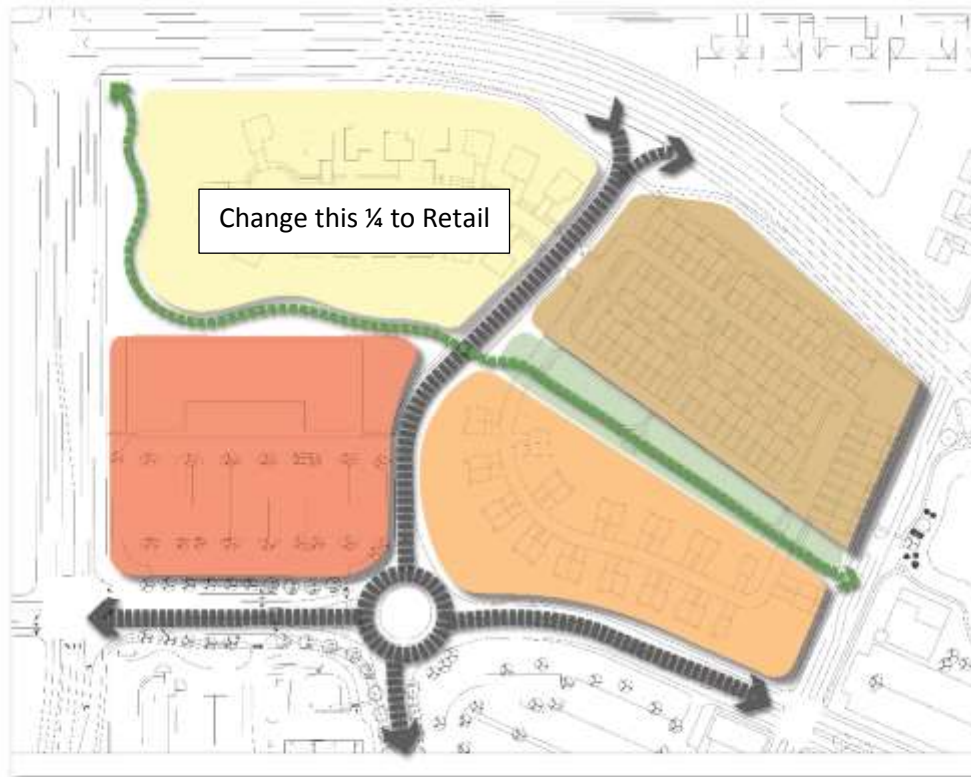
Citywide, the community has over 150 acres of undeveloped or redevelopment areas guided for future retail growth. In comparison, the Riverdale shopping center in Coon Rapids is approximately 200 acres. Coupled with proximity to Elk River and physical barriers such as the Mississippi River and Rum River, it is not likely that the City will be successful in developing this amount of retail within this 20 year planning period, if at all. Additionally, the market for larger retail users is quickly changing with adapting technologies. The City's market experts have encouraged the City to re-evaluate its retail strategies.

EMPHASIS: The City continues to plan for a significant amount of retail growth within The COR and throughout the community. The recommendations below are not intended to de-emphasize our retail goals, yet strengthen said retail goals and focus on more appropriate areas for future growth.

**Planning Commission Recommendation:** The northwest quadrant of the development (bordered by Armstrong Boulevard, Bunker Lake Boulevard, Zeolite Street, and Sunwood Drive) should be amended to strengthen the **LAKE ITASCA GREENWAY**, create **SMALLER DESTINATION RETAIL USERS**. Half of this quadrant should be re-guided for an **APPROPRIATE RESIDENTIAL USE**, with **DENSITY** appropriate for the type of overall land use plan for The COR.

This is the area of **MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE** recommended by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission collaborated on developing multiple land use scenarios. The overall approach was to divide the northwest quadrant into four (4) smaller sub-quadrants divided by future public roadways and greenways and allocating half the quadrants to smaller, destination retailers and the other half to residential uses. Based on feedback and reconciling multiple angles of consensus, the land use map below represents the primary recommended land use map.

Primary NW Quadrant Land Use Map – Vertical Split (this will be the model of the actual land use map [focus on polygons per land use, less focus on detailed site planning])





Continued on next page.

### NW Quadrant Acceptable Alternatives

The alternatives listed below would require a future plan amendment, but are afforded certain policy feedback in advance. These can be viewed as 'pre-screened' alternatives.

### NW Quadrant Horizontal Split



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NW Quadrant All Retail



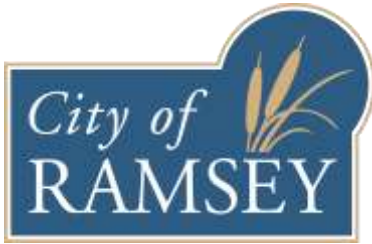
The Office District (COR-3)

This district represented the area of highest consensus amongst the Planning Commission.

**Planning Commission Recommendation:**

**NO AMENDMENTS** to this district are recommended. However, the City should look at strategies to encourage parking districts within this land use district as well.

Note. During the January 24, 2017 Joint Work Session between the City Council and Planning Commission, it was noted that an office user may be possible in the northeast quadrant currently guided for retail use. Staff's recommendation, while a potentially positive amendment, would be to consider



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this possibility under a separate amendment, as the overall plan currently has a good balance of office planned, and a more comprehensive look would be needed for such an amendment.

### The Residential District (COR-4)

The Residential District is further divided into three (3) categories. The descriptions below include recommended adjustments to density ranges.

- 'Low' Density (COR-4a). This is predominantly detached single-family located north of Bunker Lake Boulevard. The minimum density shall be four (4) units per acre and densities up to fifteen (15) units per acre shall be allowed.
- Medium Density (COR-4b). These predominantly include townhomes, both attached and detached. Minimum density shall be eight (8) units per acre with a maximum density of fifteen (15) units per acre. Additional density may be allowed via Conditional Use Permit.
- High Density (COR-4c). These areas are focused immediately north of The Draw Park and Amphitheater and provide a unique opportunity for interaction and transition. The emphasis on mix of uses is muted compared to the Downtown District. The minimum density of this district shall be fifteen (15) units per acre with no cap of maximum density.

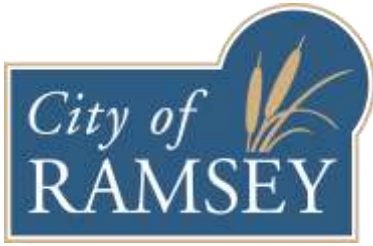
#### **Planning Commission Recommendation:**

The remaining undeveloped area immediately north of The Draw currently owned by K Hovnanian Homes shall be re-guided to High Density Residential. The Planning Commission recognizes the success of high density residential abutting The Draw on the south side (Parkview East) and sees this as an opportunity for consistent design when coupled with the future Aeon Apartment Development (north side).

### Parks and Public Spaces (COR-5)

This district is governed by The COR Parks + Public Spaces Plan, and is included by reference as an integral part of The COR Interim Development Plan. Neither document shall be interpreted as a wholly separate document, and neither document shall be adopted or otherwise amended unless coinciding with each other. An amendment to one plan shall be considered an amendment to the other. This document has been adopted as a 'working draft' by consensus of the City Council. The intent is to adopt as a formal plan as part of the overall COR Development Plan Amendment.

Continued on next page.



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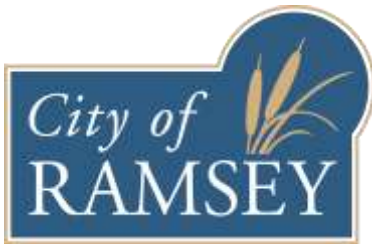
## Implementation Plan

The Interim Development Plan represents Phase I of a three (3) phase project.

1. Interim Development Plan (this step)
2. System Plans (roads, utilities, parking structures, infrastructure, etc.).
3. Development Pro-Forma (funding and financing options).

Continued on next page.

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### Major Planning COR Planning Efforts

**EFFORT #1**  
**COR Re-Visioning**

**PURPOSE**  
Update/ amend the vision for The COR.

1. Update COR Master Plan (map that shows vision, how the COR will look, how buildings will be oriented, where infrastructure should be located, etc.)
2. Update zoning district map (underlying land use regulations that will ensure the master plan will be implemented at the time individual projects come forward for review by the City)
  - Is vertically mixed use development a requirement?
  - appropriate size and location of retail uses?
  - Is there flexibility in location of zoning district borders?
  - Define basic vision and policy for community center.
  - Define basic vision and policy for parking ramps.
3. Direction on outstanding major policy items:

**RESPONSIBLE BOARD**  
Planning Commission will draft a recommendation for Council consideration.

**TIMING**  
Anticipated to have draft completed by April 2017. Once a draft is completed, it should be checked against COR System Plans and COR Pro-Forma. May need to be adjusted.

**EFFORT #2**  
**COR System Plans**

**PURPOSE**  
The City purchased The COR with two goals in mind (a) recover previous public investments, and (b) ensure the vision of The COR is implemented.

As a result, the City of Ramsey has taken the role of master developer for The COR. With the role, various assumed responsibilities are assigned to the City. Developers, businesses, and residents expect the city to have concept plans/ policies in place for the following items:

1. Storm water plan (regional)
2. Road plan (public roads)
3. Sign plan (development signs, way finding signs, etc.)
4. Park & Trails plans
5. Community Center plan/ policy
6. Parking Ramp(s) plan/ policy
7. Cut/fill basic plan

There are many benefits to having this preliminary information ready—please see system plan dashboard for details. These plans are intended to be preliminary/ concept level only—for the sake of planning and budgeting.

**RESPONSIBLE BOARD**  
Likely, all boards will be involved with this process. However, for the sake of efficiencies, the EDA will lead this effort. Findings will be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council.

**TIMING**  
Upon completion of 1<sup>st</sup> draft of COR re-vision, staff would like to order this work for completion (i.e. begin May 2017). This work will take 6-9 months. Once draft is completed, it should be checked against COR Master Plan and COR Pro-Forma. May need to be adjusted.

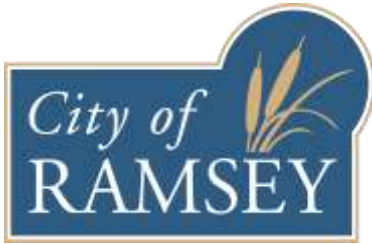
**EFFORT #3**  
**COR Pro-Forma**

**PURPOSE**

1. Update COR pro-forma based on updated vision and system plans. COR pro-forma will display the city's financial performance forecast/ project cash-flow over time (expenditures/ obligations versus revenues/ available funding).
2. Update COR TIF plan/ TIF analysis previously completed by Ehlers. This plan plays a major role in the "funding" side of the COR pro-forma. Because actual TIF revenues are based on actual completed projects, it would be helpful to update periodically. NOTE: TIF can only be used for projects completed before 2021.
3. Update COR land proceeds policy. Staff would like to (a) clearly identify what previous expenditures the City wishes to repay itself, (b) consider using land proceeds only for non TIF eligible costs, and (c) update the City's land sale proceeds forecasts.

**RESPONSIBLE BOARD**  
EDA will draft a recommendation for Council consideration.

**TIMING**  
Upon completion of COR re-vision and COR system plans, staff will complete this work (i.e. begin late 2017). This work will take 1-2 months. Once draft is completed, it should be checked against COR Master Plan and COR system plans. May need to be adjusted.



The group then formulated a broad work plan to accomplish the many steps to complete an overall plan amendment and update.

The COR Development Plan Update Plan of Action												
	2017											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
<b>Task 1: Land Use Plan Update (Planning Commission)</b>												
Draft Vision Statement												
Draft Land Use/District Map												
Draft District Descriptions												
Draft Development and Design Standards												
Draft Development Plan Update (Zoning Code)												
Adopt Final Version of Development Plan												
<b>Task 2: System Plan/Infrastructure Study (EDA)</b>												
Stormwater Plan												
Road Plan												
Sign Plan												
Parks and Recreation Plan												
Community Center Plan or Policy Statement												
Parking Ramp/District Plan or Policy Statement												
Cut/Fill Plan (Grading)												
<b>Task 3: Project Pro Forma (EDA)</b>												
Pro-Forma												
Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan												
COR Land Sale Proceeds Policy												

### Public Engagement

A key component of any policy decision is collaboration amongst its residents. These processes are part of natural and organic community conversations around key policy topics. The City will couple this policy discussion with ongoing workshops and community events as part of its overall Comprehensive Plan Update. For more information on this effort, please visit [www.cityoframsey.com/ramsey2040](http://www.cityoframsey.com/ramsey2040).

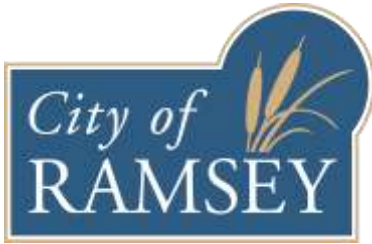
**4/25/17 City Council Work Session Note:** All Boards and Commissions should review this document before the City Council considers formal adoption. The City Council should review the final document and approve before distributing to the public and stakeholders/landowners.

### Mobile Comprehensive Plan Tour

The City is planning a Mobile Comprehensive Plan Tour for policy makers that will include local examples of plans and policies being discussed in the Comprehensive Plan Update. The tour is planned to include examples discussed in this Interim Development Plan as well.

### Market Analysis

The Planning Commission recommends completion of a market analysis to confirm the policy directives of this document as it relates to the planned retail area. The Planning Commission continues to stress the importance of attracting retail uses to the Development, but want to ensure that there is not too much areas guided for retail growth beyond what the community can sustain.



## Community Center

The Planning Commission desires to continue to plan for a Community Center in The COR. The Planning Commission feels that this type of use would benefit the community and be a draw for other users within the development. This analysis will be completed as a separate planning process.

## Detailed Vision/Zoning Check List for Future Decision-Making

**5/25/17 EDA Comment.** Now that the land use map is developed, this detailed checklist should come out of this document (strategic/visionary document). Perhaps it can be re-utilized when the Zoning Code is updated in later stages.

THE COR WILL BE A CITY CENTER THAT WILL SERVE AS A GATHERING PLACE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

### CHECKLIST:

- IT WILL ATTRACT A DIVERSE AUDIENCE
- IT WILL HAVE SOMETHING OTHER CITIES DO NOT
- IT WILL STRESS SMALL SHOPS, NOT BIG BOX
- IT WILL BE FAMILY ORIENTED
- IT WILL APPLY MULTIPLE USES
- IT WILL BE TECHNOLOGY-ORIENTED

**4/25/17 City Council Work Session Comment.** The document should remove the comment about 'not big box).

**THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE COR SHOULD BE TO BRING THE PEOPLE OF RAMSEY TOGETHER.**

**A SECONDARY PURPOSE WILL BE TO BRING IN PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE CITY.**

***THE COR SHOULD SERVE AS A CITY CENTER PRIMARILY TO BRING THE PEOPLE OF RAMSEY TOGETHER AND, IF POSSIBLE, BRING PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE.***

### **TO REALIZE THIS VISION**

→ **IT WILL ATTRACT A DIVERSE AUDIENCE BY:**

- ✓ **WELCOMING ALL CULTURES**
- ✓ **BEING OPEN TO ALL TYPES OF BUSINESSES**
- ✓ **ATTRACTING A WIDE AUDIENCE**



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→ IT WILL BE UNIQUE; A DESTINATION BY:

- ✓ HAVING SOMETHING OTHER CITIES DO NOT
- ✓ BEING TECHNOLOGY-ORIENTED
- ✓ SERVING AS A COMMUNITY CENTER & GATHERING PLACE
- ✓ FEATURING UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE (COULD BE “HISTORICAL” AND STRESS FUNCTIONS)
- ✓ BEING FAMILY-ORIENTED; NOT BIG BOX

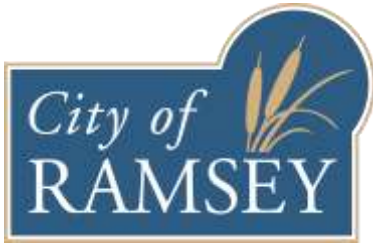
**4/25/17 City Council Work Session Comment.** The document should remove the comment about ‘not big box’.

**TEN PRINCIPLES (borrowed from Urban Land Institute)**

1. **GREAT STREETS NEED GREAT CHAMPIONS**
2. **IT TAKES A VISION**
3. **THINK RESIDENTIAL**
4. **HONOR THE PEDESTRIAN**
5. **PARKING IS POWER**
6. **MERCHANDISE & LEASE PROACTIVELY**
7. **MAKE IT HAPPEN**
8. **BE SAFE, CLEAN, FRIENDLY**
9. **EXTEND DAY INTO NIGH**
10. **MANAGE FOR CHANGE**

### Architectural Standards

A key component of the policy discussion for The COR has been architectural design standards. The Planning Commission believes several recent projects fell short of community expectations. While originally intended to be part of Phase I of The COR Development Plan Update, the Planning Commission continues to refine these recommendations and will continue throughout Phase II and Phase III to bring a quality recommendation forward with a full Plan Amendment.



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The standards below are not an exhaustive list of current design requirements, yet a focus on key topics that have been raised for future discussion. Upon final amendment, the City will prepare a side-by-side comparison of all existing and proposed design requirements. The final version of this Interim Development Plan will also include drawings/illustrations to illustrate the narrative being discussed.

**Planning Commission Recommendation:**

In the interim, the Planning Commission shall serve as an ad-hoc architectural review committee. Projects shall complete an architectural review prior to official Site Plan Review. The Planning Commission reserves the right to establish an ad-hoc sub-committee to serve as this Architectural Review Committee. The Planning Commission recommends that the City supplement the Development Review Team with the services of a licensed architect to help develop updated design standards and review development proposals. This will add value to the process, hopefully streamline review, and is in line with other professional services the City employs in development review. The cost of these services are the responsibility of the Developer.

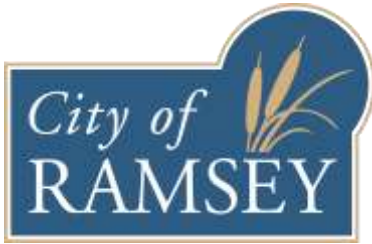
**Additional Discussion Points:**

\* The intent of design requirements is to maintain a consistent development look and acknowledge the pride and planning that went into the vision of this development. The tradeoff of a more densely developed areas was an acknowledgement of the need to 'step up' architectural design.

\* All single-family homes in The COR shall include/not include a porch that protrudes from the front of the home, even with the garage, and not a recessed entry in the middle of the home.

\* Over the next several months, the Planning Commission will better define front porches and if any additional design requirements or restrictions (i.e. split entry homes) are warranted. .

\* Buildings in the Downtown District shall include a minimum of 50% brick. Vinyl siding shall not be allowed.



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Fiber cement panels shall be allowed as a complimentary material.

\* Buildings in the Residential District shall have a minimum of 35% brick or stone on the front façade. Vinyl siding is allowed.

**5/25/17 EDA Comment.** Support a focus on quality architecture. City should continue to focus on four-sided architecture visible from the public realm. Quality signage on all four sides of the building should be allowed. The community should be able to park on public streets and reasonably access the building.

### Private Open Space and Stormwater Design

The Planning Commission has expressed a concern over a perceived lack of private open space in medium density development as well as depth and steep slopes of stormwater ponds within the development due to the higher density nature. This concern has not yet been resolved, but will continue to be discussed during Phases II and III of the Plan Amendment. The City shall take into account sidewalks, greenways, and other private and innovative improvements (such as wonerfs).

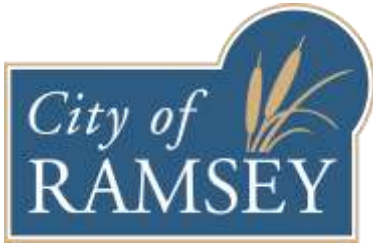
### Site Selection Process

The City is in a unique situation as Property Owner and Regulatory Authority. This presents opportunity, but also requires special attention to remain accountable to the public. In order to balance this approach without creating burdensome processes, the following steps shall be followed when considering a Purchase Agreement with the City in The COR.

Any perspective buyer of City-Owned Property in The COR shall first meet with City Staff to discuss appropriate sites. This is known as the Site Selection Process. The City and Buyer shall review multiple sites before selecting a preferred location. Depending on the complexity of the project, the City reserves the right to take this Site Selection Process to the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council before reviewing a specific site.

The Buyer shall provide a site concept to be reviewed by the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council before approving a Purchase Agreement. When a single-user proposes to purchase a portion of an undeveloped block or area, a series of 'site concepts' shall be developed before reviewing with any City board or commission. These site concepts shall demonstrate at least one reasonable concept for the remaining portion of the site that fits the vision and requirements of that area/district.

The Buyer must still complete the official Site Plan Review (and Subdivision) process after the Purchase Agreement Phase.



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## History of Policy Discussion

This Interim Development Plan is the result of a Planning Commission initiative dating back to 2015. The City has invested a significant amount of time, energy, and resources in order to ensure a **MARKET RELEVANT PLAN** that balances **COMMUNITY VISION**.

### Joint Work Sessions

The City Council and Planning Commission have met on multiple occasions to frame the policy question, discuss strategies, and identify solutions.

- March 26, 2015 = Joint Work Session
- July 12, 2016 = Joint Work Session
- January 24, 2017 = Joint Work Session

### Surveys

In 2016, the City surveyed its Board and Commission Members on key topics related to The COR Development Plan.

The key directive coming out of review of these results on July 12, 2016 was to create a forum for policy makers to ask questions and receive direct feedback from developers and market experts, rather than completing another market study.

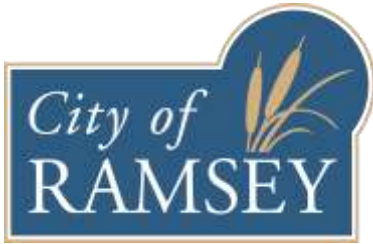
### Market Panel Event

On October 27, 2016, the City hosted several market experts to respond to a wide range of policy topics raised by community policy makers. The output from this event served as an important foundation for land use recommendations developed by the Planning Commission.

### Planning Commission Work Sessions

The information gleaned from the steps above were utilized to begin important policy discussions about the future of The COR. Following review of the Market Panel Event, the City Council authorized the Planning Commission to begin formulating land use recommendations for The COR. The Planning Commission met Work Sessions dedicated to The COR on multiple occasions.

- January 5, 2017 (to prepare for the January 24, 2017 Joint Work Session with the City Council)
  - Develop a Vision Statement
- February 2, 2017
  - Refine the Vision Statement
  - Collaborate on a Future Land Use Map
- March 2, 2017



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- Refine the Vision Statement
  - Refine the Future Land Use Map and Alternative Future Land Use Maps
  - April 18, 2017
    - Refine the Vision Statement
    - Refine the Future Land Use Map and Alternative Future Land Use Maps
  - April 25, 2017
    - Draft document reviewed by City Council and Planning Commission in Joint Session.
    - Authorization to review with internal advisory boards and commissions.
  - May 25, 2017
    - Draft document reviewed by EDA. Feedback/comments added to document.
  - June 1, 2017
    - EDA comments reviewed by Planning Commission.

The Interim Development Plan is anticipated to be adopted in 2017.

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**DEVELOPMENT STATUS**

- EXISTING DEVELOPMENT
- PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
- ACTIVE DEALS
- UNDER CONTRACT
- COMPLETED

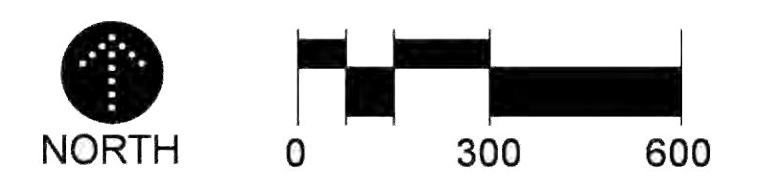
Parks and Public Realm Plan Working Document

**ACCESS**

- EXISTING SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION
- FUTURE SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION
- FULL INTERSECTION
- NO LEFT OUTBOUND MOVEMENTS
- PARKING RAMP

**TRAFFIC INFORMATION**

ADT INFORMATION TAKEN FROM 2009 ACTUAL COUNTS AND 2030 PROJECTED VOLUMES



**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Acting Mayor John LeTourneau  
                          Councilmember Jill Johns  
                          Councilmember Mark Kuzma  
                          Councilmember Chris Riley  
                          Councilmember Melody Shryock  
                          Councilmember Kristine Williams

Members Absent:     Mayor Sarah Strommen

**Planning Commission**

Members Present:     Chairperson Randy Bauer  
                          Commissioner Bruce Anderson  
                          Commissioner Cheri Gengler  
                          Commissioner Cindy Nosan  
                          Commissioner Patrick Surma

Also Present:         City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich  
                          Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood  
                          Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer  
                          Community Development Director Timothy Gladhill  
                          City Engineer Bruce Westby  
                          Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Patrick Brama

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Mayor LeTourneau called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:39 p.m.

**2.     TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**2.01:   Review Planning Commission Recommendation for The COR Interim Development Plan**

Community Development Director Gladhill presented the staff report, noting the purpose of this case is to receive a final recommended policy framework for a document to be known as The COR Interim Development Plan, which will put into motion a more formal amendment to the Master Plan. He stated the Interim Development Plan will become the new format of the Master Plan, and outlined changes on the eastern half of the site that will introduce more medium density such as villas. He said the Interim Development Plan was intended to be flexible to recognize a vision instead of an exact site plan and contained sub quadrants with retail on one

side and residential on the other that is able to react to the market. Community Development Director Gladhill shared proposed recommendations and standards, adding assistance from the Architectural Review Committee would be included not to add more process but to fit in with a low-impact type of review. He highlighted The COR Interim Development Plan Key Policy Topics, including General Retail Strategy, Lake Itasca Greenway, Northwest Quad Future Land Use, Parking Standards, and Architectural/Design Standards. Community Development Director Gladhill explained if the proposed format were approved, the City would host a series of public workshops to gain feedback on potential changes as part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Chairperson Bauer noted big-box stores would be a draw with other surrounding development and could be located in the diamond-shaped area for better visibility. He said the Planning Commission thought basic COR uses would include a community center, entertainment, food and retail on Highway 10 and that retail would be at the mercy of the market and what would be realistic. He stated the many retail options in Elk River and Coon Rapids Riverdale needs to be taken into consideration, adding parking is important but everything should not be pavement so cost sharing options such as ramps and shared parking should be considered for the type of retail that would be located in The COR and along Highway 10.

Acting Mayor John LeTourneau thanked the Planning Commission for their work on The COR Interim Development Plan.

Councilmember Riley said he wanted to think about a master developer rather than the City doing the project and asked how this Plan fit with that idea.

Community Development Director Gladhill said the intent is to be clear on our framework in order to get a good fit and that the Plan still affords the opportunity to tweak the vision, which is why it is phrased as an interim plan. He said in this manner the Plan can be worked through and expectations set.

Planning Commissioner Nosan agreed that we need to have a strategic plan so a master developer knows what the City is expecting.

Councilmember Williams thanked the Planning Commission for their extraordinary thought on the Plan and said the other Commissions need an opportunity to provide their recommendations as they all have important focus that needs to be considered. She asked how other landowners within The COR would be affected even in the interim and inquired about their thoughts.

Community Development Director Gladhill said the idea was to communicate the Plan followed by the next steps of taking the Plan to the general public, including all Boards, Commissions, stakeholders, and potential and future developers. He confirmed that public engagement would be incorporated.

Councilmember Williams said she preferred that comments from the EDA and Commissions be incorporated within the Plan before taking it to the public.

Councilmember Kuzma said the original plan was dated and this Plan is progressive, flexible, and market-driven to help define the vision.

Councilmember Riley agreed the Plan is market-driven and that two areas of concern is changing floor-to-area-ratio (FAR) in response to market requests and parking structures. He said the market will not dictate that and if we push structured parking the result will be the City constructing a ramp instead of developers. He said flexibility and strict adherence to FAR does not sound very flexible and should be reviewed.

Community Development Director Gladhill said staff will work with the Planning Commission to acknowledge community impacts and market, adding it is important to balance between requirements and what will work. He said a ramp is not a new topic and this Plan will not solve all parking concerns but we want to study how parking could work in order to communicate the benefits to developers.

Chairperson Bauer said he was concerned that if we have a vision then it should be followed. He said the Planning Commission wanted to stress the need for shared parking so it was incorporated into each of the developments. He acknowledged structured parking may require some City dollars as developers will not pay for an entire ramp if they only use a portion.

Planning Commissioner Anderson said we should consider shared parking from the beginning for cost sharing as he does not want to see us bottleneck with nowhere to park. He said we have to consider either constructing higher or allowing for the capability to go up if needed.

Councilmember Riley said he wished we had the problem of not having enough space because we have nothing but space. He said structured parking costs \$50/square foot and the market will not support that because land costs now range between \$6-\$12/square foot. He commented that shared parking with Northgate Church works well.

Chairperson Bauer agreed, stating a theater generally uses parking in the evenings and could be another shared parking option.

Community Development Director Gladhill said it is fair to assume proformas, ROI, tax base, etc. to identify the funding gap and frame any vision in that context.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau commented that flexibility will be important.

Councilmember Williams asked if staff wants structured parking studies included in the Plan.

Community Development Director Gladhill said the Plan is a broad policy document and based off this direction we will lay out system plans, one being parking districts and/or parking ramps, and that staff is looking for feedback to kick off system plans, including parking strategies. He said this direction will establish how we make requests and bring contracts forward.

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama said if Council is in a position not to support parking ramps then it will be removed from the Plan and will not be considered as part of the system plans going forward.

Councilmember Johns thanked the Planning Commission for their work and said she would like the parking structures to remain, as citizens have commented that they do not want to see large parking lots. She said affording a parking ramp is another question but does not want to take the option off the table.

Councilmember Shryock said it is important to have a vision and then follow it and if we have identified parking or other issues, then we need to further define them and suggested nodes of parking and then moving retail and housing around those parking nodes. She said there are too many moving parts right now but that this Plan will help us maintain cohesiveness.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau said he would like to see the parking remain and said while he is not sure where the greater density will be it is important to be open to consideration. He said we could work on ways to recover costs as The COR develops as one way to approach funding parking structures.

Councilmember Riley commented on the vision statement and how we know this is going to be something other cities do not have, especially when everything is market driven. He added the technology-orientated statement from the Plan could be dated.

Chairperson Bauer said this statement was suggested by Planning Commissioner Brauer and was intended to focus on providing fiber for future businesses.

Councilmember Shryock suggested the statement be amended to say technology accessible and not necessarily oriented.

Community Development Director Gladhill said staff will review some language to address these concerns but noted they would like to see something included as technology is important.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau agreed, stating vision statements helps narrow the focus.

Councilmember Riley commented on the welcoming cultures point as this seems to state that it is not already happening. He said the unique point will be difficult to achieve as well with the market as architecture and historical Ramsey are not very unique.

Councilmember Williams said the Plan twice refers to no big box stores but said if one came forward today she would approve it and is not comfortable with that vision. She said the community wants a big box store like a Target.

Chairperson Bauer said big box stores are more interested in Highway 10 locations.

Councilmember Williams suggested removing the big box reference entirely.

Chairperson Bauer said their intent was that the Plan needs to include more than just The COR and that it be realistic as big box stores will more likely locate on Highway 10 than The COR.

Community Development Director Gladhill said staff will work to find a better way to phrase the statement or include a reference on the map instead.

Councilmember Shryock said she would like to see a road map and flexibility so when we remove some verbiage and review modular developments or districts or zones they can be moved around. She said she would like to see more timeless architecture references so development does not become outdated.

Councilmember Johns agreed any development will be market driven but said the importance of the Plan is to help create what development is driven to Ramsey.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood said the Parks Board liked the Interim Plan as it incorporates a future parks plan that will help market The COR. He said the Board will further review the Plan in May and that their feedback will be shared with the Council.

The consensus of the Council was to continue with the process as outlined for the COR Interim Development Plan.

**2.02: Receive Update on Park Dedication Credit Discussion for Riverstone Addition Located Near Bunker Lake Boulevard and Puma Street; Case of Capstone Homes (Project No. 17-106)**

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report, noting the purpose of this case is to receive an update on a request for Park Dedication Credit as part of the proposed Riverstone Addition. He explained the Council is not being asked to make a final decision but to hear an update on recent progress and talking points in advance of official review in May and June. He reviewed the key policy topics, including the Master Parks Plan Update, the existing parks CIP, the Riverstone Addition Policy Document, the Planned Unit Development, housing goals, and other development scenarios. He said staff is seeking policy direction for park dedication credit stating the developer is requesting \$475,000 as credit to create a smaller pocket park maintained by a homeowner's association (HOA) with a trail connection as part of Lake Itasca Greenway. Community Development Director Gladhill said staff has held discussions with the developer regarding their request and said if approved this action would have impacts on the future Lake Itasca Park whether reduced or delayed improvements.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reinforced trigger points when the project would start, stating \$29 million of park/trails have been identified with \$2 million in the park trust fund that should be focused instead on community parks, splash pad and other items in The COR that would also serve this subdivision.

Councilmember Riley asked if we suggested pocket parks to the developer.

Community Development Director Gladhill said the pocket park was part of the developers' proposal and felt its value was a success of the project.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood said it is common to have private amenities in similar developments.

Stephen Bona, Capstone, thanked staff for their work on this busy project, stating they are working towards an August groundbreaking. He said the park stems from a firm belief that 293 lots of mid-density housing guided and zoned R-2 with 1,000 residents will need greenspace and parks for the children. He said the regional park will be a great amenity but a closer park is needed as the regional park is half a mile away. Mr. Bona said necessity is not the issue just how we get there and with exposure from Highway 10 this will be a highly visible, unique and special neighborhood. He noted the \$483,000 will be credited back over time and that the HOA will maintain the park so it will not be a burden on the park system. He said Capstone is paying over \$1 million for infrastructure to be extended to the property which is not typical and that they cannot absorb both. He said they have changed their original proposal and outlined a small green area that has been removed at \$200,000 to make this happen and have one acre of lots that will not have homes to provide more open space. Mr. Bona said the park will cost over \$200,000 just to provide space which will be an improvement with City funds. He noted that Capstone is making a large financial commitment to open space already in the plan but that they are unable to do so without working with City. He said they love the site and said the benefits of housing price between \$260,000-\$350,000 results in having high end homes without being custom which is good.

Councilmember Shryock inquired about land value plus improvements.

Mr. Bona said they are proposing vacant land value of \$25,000/acre as unimproved land cost and additional improvements would be the playground, pavilion and landscaping.

Councilmember Kuzma inquired about the preliminary budget.

Community Development Director Gladhill shared the budget for a total of \$300,675.23, with the public trail at \$182,234.99 for a total of \$482,910.22.

Councilmember Shryock asked if there is an additional requirement on Alpine Drive for a trail.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood said the Greenway as proposed and supported by staff would include a 14-foot footprint and offer land dedication credit off the top and that the Greenway would "t" into the northwest road but not include any additional trail on Alpine Drive.

Community Development Director Gladhill said Puma Street will have a pedestrian crossing trail constructed by the City's infrastructure project.

Councilmember Johns asked for cost clarification.

Community Development Director Gladhill said the cost would be \$1.1 million.

Councilmember Shryock said she does not recall allowing credit for improvements and property.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood said this would be a precedent for park dedication more than the minimum for private amenities. He said the public interest is land but the park would remain private with a public easement. He said this would also set precedent for future developers.

Mr. Bona said the reason for the request is because this is the largest neighborhood ever to be built in Ramsey and with so many units they are only requesting one acre. He said they understand the precedent but felt other developments could not justify a request.

Councilmember Johns said she is concerned about the precedent and others wanting to do that at Itasca Park for broader benefit for others to use. She said she might be open to land incentives but not the improvements.

Councilmember Kuzma said he liked the Capstone project and understood that space was important but was concerned the HOA will not survive and suggested providing a bond to ensure maintenance.

Mr. Bona said he understood the point but said we have so many units paying such a small amount the HOA will be established right way. He said ideally the City would own the park and we would maintain lawns, including replacing equipment in 20 years.

Councilmember Riley said Harvest Estates wanted a small park for 300 houses and we choose this a neighborhood goes in without a park.

Mr. Bona reiterated they would not be able to do the project as proposed due to the offsite infrastructure costs.

Councilmember Shryock said she was excited about the project but said the precedent would be bad and if the park does not happen can open space be counted through ponding.

Community Development Director Gladhill said open space requirements can be reviewed with the PUD and could count as an amenity, adding other aspects can be reviewed to refine costs.

The consensus of the Council was not to support the request from Capstone Homes for Park Dedication Credit as part of the proposed Riverstone Addition.

Councilmember Williams requested the Parks Board convene to reevaluate the City's pocket parks policy.

### **3. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

#### **3.01: Review Future Topics/ Calendar**

Noted.

**4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT**

None.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Acting Mayor John LeTourneau adjourned the Work Session meeting.

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kurtis G. Ulrich  
City Administrator

ATTEST:

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Jo Ann M. Thieling  
City Clerk

Drafted by Cathy Sorensen  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority (EDA) conducted a regular meeting on Thursday, May 25, 2017, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Jim Steffen  
                          Member Phillip Brunt  
                          Member Brian Burandt  
                          Member Chris Riley  
                          Member Wayne Skaff  
                          Member Kristine Williams (arrived at 7:38 a.m.)

Members Absent:     Member Glen Hardin

Also Present:        Patrick Brama, Econ. Dev. Mgr/Assistant City Administrator  
                          Tim Gladhill, Development Services Manager

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Steffen called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

**2.     APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member Brunt, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Skaff, Burandt, Brunt, and Riley.  
Voting No: None. Absent: Members Hardin and Williams.

**3.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**3.01:   Approve Meeting Minutes Dated April 13, 2017**

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member Skaff, to approve the April 13, 2017, minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Skaff, Burandt, Brunt, Riley, and Skaff. Voting No: None. Absent: Hardin and Williams.

**4.     EDA BUSINESS**

**4.01:   Review Planning Commission Recommendation for The COR Interim Development Plan**

Community Development Director Gladhill presented the staff report.

Member Williams arrived at 7:38 a.m.

Chairperson Steffen asked if this plan includes more or less retail than the original plan.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that this plan has slightly less retail but identified two other areas that have available space for retail. He noted that the Planning Commission feels that it would be a better balance.

Chairperson Steffen asked if there was a negative opinion of retail in this area from The COR panel.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that there are challenges and barriers to the retail market. He explained that The COR will not be a Riverdale or Elk River, but the focus should instead be a unique business incubator.

Member Skaff asked the plans for the open land in the downtown area.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that there would still be a mix of uses along Sunwood Drive between retail and residential with a focus on high density residential. He noted the relationship needed between residential and the success of the transit with the commuter rail.

Chairperson Steffen asked if the document would change any zoning.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the zoning would not change as the mixed use allows for a multitude of uses. He stated that some simple adjustments can be made to the subdistrict boundaries which allows more flexibility.

Member Williams stated that the document makes some strong statements in regard to retail and asked if the EDA is comfortable publishing that and making it public. She stated that while the City has not been able to attract the desired retail that is indicative of the market. She noted that there are two places in the vision statement that state no “big box” retail and asked if the EDA is comfortable with that.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that he would support tweaking that language, as the vision statement became more focused on the northwest quadrant. He believed that the Planning Commission would support “big box” retail in the right opportunity. He explained that the Planning Commission wanted to attract more unique opportunities but would still be open to “big box” retail as well.

Chairperson Steffen stated that the City has been open to “big box” retail for 15 years and did not see any reason to detract from that option now.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that perhaps the statement be tweaked to remove the portion disallowing “big box” retail and instead encouraging smaller incubator retail destinations.

Member Riley stated that the market will dictate the choice the City will have and noted that there are several statements that push the smaller unique retail that would have a higher rate of turnover. He noted that he would prefer to have more established names in terms of retail that would most likely have a higher rate of success.

Member Burandt agreed that the statement should instead say that the City will embrace market driven opportunities as they come, rather than trying to attract businesses that would have a higher rate of turnover.

Member Riley stated that this is a first draft of a document that the EDA has not yet had input on and therefore this is a great discussion.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that the Planning Commission has spent a lot of time attempting to develop a plan broad enough to go over the entire development but advised that this is still a draft. He noted that he does like the idea of embracing market driven opportunities as they come but stated that perhaps the vision statement is not the right place for that item. He instead suggested putting talking points from each group under each section as the discussions continue.

Member Riley recognized the change in the mixed-use definition, noting that the idea has been switched as the vertical mixed use did not seem to be a success. He stated that parking is another area that the group should discuss. He noted that although the City prefers structured parking, the market would most likely support that notion. He stated that because the market would not support additional structured parking, that would require City funds to make that a reality. He stated that the floor area ratio has been changed but the document suggested that it should be changed back. He provided an example of a development that did not include structured parking and still provided a good product. He noted that going back to the original ratio would not allow additional developments of that nature.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that there are discussions currently to determine whether there would be a return on investment for the City to invest in that type of infrastructure. He noted that while that policy discussion is occurring, the parking ramps have been left off this plan for the time being. He noted that the Planning Commission mentioned that during peak times it can be difficult to find parking near areas like Acapulco. He confirmed that the City is flexible in terms of parking, whether that be surface or ramp.

Member Riley stated that the EDA should weigh in further on parking. He stated that shared parking is a great concept if it works, he provided a successful example between Allina and the neighboring church. He stated that while that is a great concept that works in that situation he does not believe the City should attempt to coordinate those efforts between developing sites.

Community Development Director Gladhill asked if there is any openness to partner with developing properties to create structured parking, whether that be grant funds or TIF dollars. He asked if there is a desire to continue that discussion.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama stated that this is a high-level policy land use plan, which is an interim plan. He noted that the next step will be a more detailed planning exercise, and will include a parking discussion that will have more details on costs. He confirmed that in this market there would need to be a cost-share between private and public to develop structured parking.

Chairperson Steffen stated that he would not say no to the concept. He noted that he would be willing to continue discussions, but does not want structured parking to be a requirement for developers.

Member Skaff stated that he would also be open to the concept but would not want to see structured parking become a requirement in a planning document, for developers.

Member Riley asked for more details on the floor area ratio.

Community Development Director Gladhill provided the definition of floor area ratio, noting the higher the floor area ratio, the denser the parking would need to be. He noted that the ratio had been decreased in order to respond to the market. He stated that a few years ago the Council then made the decision to encourage shared and structured parking but not require that element and decreased the floor area ratio to .65. He confirmed that the Planning Commission did support reverting back to the ratio of .75. He noted that the EDA comments would be added to that item, noting that while the EDA would be open to encouraging shared/structured parking, they would not want to require the element and do not support the change in floor area ratio from .65 to .75. He asked for broad thoughts on architecture and whether the City is on track, providing examples of recent development, and whether the architecture is meeting the expectations of the EDA.

Chairperson Steffen stated that there were one or two developments that did not meet his architectural expectations. He asked which examples the Planning Commission had.

Community Development Director Gladhill provided examples of architectural elements that the Planning Commission felt perhaps did not meet their expectations, noting that often it was color related.

Chairperson Steffen asked if the guidelines have changed in the past two years.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that there have not been changes in the last two years but there was a significant amendment prior to that. He stated that staff's approach is to add more details to make things more specific. He stated that the design document is currently very lengthy and staff is attempting to simplify that while still providing the necessary definition. He stated that The COR is very unique and because the density was going to be higher, the desire

was to have higher design standards. He did not believe that would be appropriate to have the standards community wide.

Member Williams stated that she appreciates that the desire to stay strong to the architectural desires. She stated that with retail that could become a concern. She stated that it is important in the western and southern portion of The COR, and she would not want a development to look out at the back of a building. She stated that it is important to have four-sided design for buildings, so that you prevent a development from looking out at the back of a strip mall with no design and just back doors. She stated if you are going to require four-sided development, the City should also ensure that the sign ordinance would allow for signage on all sides. She provided examples of four-sided development that has been well done in The COR.

Community Development Director stated that there is flexibility to allow signage on all sides but the conflict often comes with the type of signage allowed. He noted that the discussion would play out with the Stonebrook Academy application as that moves forward. He noted that business will have their front entrance on the side opposite of Sunwood Drive and therefore the four-sided design will be important as the back of their building will be facing Sunwood.

Member Williams stated that she would want to ensure that the back of the building facing Sunwood still looks like the front as well, since that is the main roadway for The COR.

Community Development Director Gladhill summarized the input from the EDA regarding the vision statement, noting that the EDA would like to be market driven rather than dictating the market, with an emphasis of that discussion related to different types of retail users; for parking the EDA would be open to all parking options, but does not want to force shared/structured parking on developers; and in regard to architecture the EDA would like to emphasize four-sided design and would want to ensure signage is allowed for all sides if desired.

Member Riley stated that he feels the vision statement needs more amendments than what was mentioned.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that this is intended to be an interim document and if the master developer route is chosen, that group would work with the EDA and Planning Commission to further develop the plan and implementation of the plan. He noted that the Planning Commission would focus on developing the plan while the EDA would focus on implementation of the plan. He noted that the document has been setup to allow for additional input from a master developer.

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member Brunt, to recommend to City Council that approve The COR Interim Development Plan for public comment, incorporating the consensus statements from the EDA.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Skaff, Brunt, Burandt, Riley, and Williams. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Hardin.

#### **4.02: State of Minnesota Economic Development Marketing Initiative**

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama presented the staff report.

Chairperson Steffen asked, and received confirmation, that the City does receive copies of the ad that they would be able to utilize. He asked what would be promoted.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama stated that it is a high-level advertisement for the City that is very visual. He noted that Coon Rapids and Elk River utilize the publication. He stated that Anoka County used the publication in the past but pulled out of the publication this year which brings forward another reason it would be important for the City to include their own advertisement. He stated that the City would work with the designer to develop an ad.

Member Williams stated that while she likes the advertisement, it does not seem as detailed as some of the advertisements for the other cities. She suggested reviewing some of the other advertisements to make Ramsey's stand out a little more.

Member Burandt suggested using a map to show the location of Ramsey as well.

Motion by Member Brunt, seconded by Member Burandt, to authorize staff to utilize \$5,000 of the EDA budget to select, design, and publish an ad in the 2018 MN DEED/Business Climate annual publication.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Brunt, Burandt, Riley, Skaff, and Williams. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Hardin.

Member Burandt suggested possibly cost-sharing the ad by highlighting shovel ready sites.

#### **4.03: Business of the Year**

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama presented the staff report. He explained how the short list is developed.

Chairperson Steffen stated that he likes the line of questioning which began in the last few years.

Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama stated that an additional question was added regarding community support the previous year.

Chairperson Steffen stated that next year perhaps a scoring mechanism be developed next year to help quantify the chosen selection, noting that the questions would be weighted to provide higher numbers for the more important elements.

Member Riley stated that might be overthinking this. He stated that the EDA has been given the information and have an idea of which elements are more important to them.

Chairperson Steffen agreed but noted the scoring system would develop a system for the group to evaluate as a whole, rather than which element is most important to each member.

The EDA discussed possible recipients for the business of the year.

The EDA selected Capstone Homes as the 2017 Business of the Year with a strong recommendation that Zero Zone should be considered for 2018.

## **5. MEMBER / STAFF UPDATE**

The EDA reviewed the Staff Update. Economic Dev. Mgr./Assistant City Administrator Brama highlighted recent activity regarding PSD and their interest in the north portion of the new business park noting that the request will come before the EDA in the next few weeks. He stated that Adrenaline Sports is also looking at the PSD owned space next to the potential PSD development. He stated that there is also interest in the site Adrenaline Sports was previously interested in, noting that hopefully a purchase agreement will come before the EDA at the next meeting. He also provided updates on the potential closing for Capstone and the recent activity of Stonebrook.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Chairperson Steffen, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Steffen, Members Skaff, Burandt, Brunt, Riley, and Williams. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Hardin.

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kurtis G. Ulrich  
City Administrator

ATTEST:

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Patrick Brama  
Econ. Dev. Mgr/Assistant City Administrator

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

**5.02: Review Update on The COR Interim Development Plan**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the Commission is requested to review a preliminary draft of The COR Interim Development Plan, which essentially puts into motion a more formal amendment to the master plan. Details of the recommendations prepared by the Planning Commission were provided for Commission review. Mr. Riverblood noted direction from the April 25, 2017 Joint Work Session was to review this draft with advisory boards and commissions. The draft was reviewed by the Economic Development Authority on May 25, 2017. The Park and Recreation Commission and Environmental Policy Board will review the draft at their June 2017 meetings. Staff will be seeking authorization for public comment on the draft in July 2017. There were some revisions to the plan in 2011. At one point there appeared to be conflicting goals for The COR's development plan—one being to sell the land, and get the city out of the business of being a developer, the other to 'hold the vision'. A market panel was held which brought a lot of clarity to questions of market forces and the potentiality for big box retail etc. This evening is the second opportunity for the Park and Recreation Commission to weigh in.

Mr. Riverblood reviewed the Interim Development Plan. The porch element is something that will be held fast. The apartments are necessary to provide businesses 'rooftops' to attract the restaurants and other businesses in the community.

Commissioner Leistico returned to the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Riverblood showed the Commission The COR Development Concept indicating the various sections of the plan. The Planning Commission has recommended higher density for the residential area. There has been a shift in focus for large retailers to smaller retail businesses. The other major policy change would be regarding the office areas, where the office area would be retained until fully developed by office businesses.

Commissioner Sis asked for the location of Bunker Lake and Mr. Riverblood indicated it on a map. Mr. Riverblood indicated the Greenway area on a map. Mr. Riverblood reviewed the revisioning steps. The budget will be used to hire multiple consultants to assist in road planning, grading, stormwater, and sign plan. The retailers will help pay for some of the signage. Even during the recession, The Draw was being constructed and developers viewed that as the City's commitment to developing The COR. Mr. Riverblood drew for the Commission the parking lot plan with future expansion to a parking ramp.

EPB Minutes dated June 19, 2017

#### **5.05: Receive Update on The COR Interim Development Plan**

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the purpose of this case is to review a preliminary draft of The COR Interim Development Plan, which essentially puts into motion a more formal amendment to the Master Plan. He noted that details of the recommendations prepared by the Planning Commission over a series of workshops were attached to the case. He noted that the direction from the April 25, 2017 Joint Work Session was to review this draft with the advisory Boards and Commissions. He stated that the draft was reviewed by the Economic Development Authority on May 25, 2017 and by the Parks and Recreation Commission at their June 8, 2017 meeting. He advised that staff will be seeking authorization for public comment on the draft in July.

Board Member Valentine commented that the plan is coming along nicely.

Chairperson Stodola asked for more information on the boundaries of The COR.

City Planner Anderson provided the boundaries of The COR, explaining that some of The COR zoning extends past those boundaries.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that one of the driving factors of the Council is the market, noting that the development will have to be market driven. He explained that the big box retail that was originally desired will not fit into The COR because of the challenges that exist lying between two retail nodes and other market factors. He noted that the other factors that bring in business is density and that is why additional housing is being considered.

City Planner Anderson stated that while residents have said they do not want more apartments in The COR, additional rooftops are needed to attract business and that is the quickest method. He noted that the original plan for The COR included apartments because that would concentrate density and allow other portions of the City to remain more rural.

Councilmember LeTourneau noted that this has been a balance approach with market rate apartments.

Board Member Valentine stated that the planning for growth in the community has been done well.

Board Member Hiatt stated that the challenge in The COR is the density focus and balancing that with an environmental aspect. He provided examples of additional plantings that the Board has been able to negotiate on more dense projects. He noted that often with big box retail there is less landscaping and stated that in smaller retail settings you are able to maintain that landscaping to make it more appealing.

City Planner Anderson provided additional details on the Lake Itasca Greenway Corridor which plays into the concepts.

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

4. 2.

**Meeting Date:** 10/12/2017

**Submitted For:** Patrick Brama, Administrative Services

**By:** Nichole Wenberg, Administrative Services

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**Title:**

2017 EDA Business Networking Event Update

**Purpose/Background:**

**Purpose of Case**

The purpose of this case is to provide an update on the 2017 Business Networking Event.

**Detailed Background**

Annually, the Ramsey EDA hosts a 'Fall Networking Event.' Typically, this event includes a keynote speaker(s), and a free breakfast for attendees. Historically, this event has taken place at the Ramsey Municipal Center in the AR room and has averaged 60-85 attendees. The Ramsey EDA allocates \$2,500 to this event annually. EDA Fall Networking Event attendees are typically manufacturers and representatives from the services industry (banking, insurance, financial, etc.).

The purpose of the EDA Fall Networking Event is for the City to develop and maintain positive relationships with Ramsey Businesses. Additionally, this event provides an opportunity for Ramsey businesses to network, provide self-help/best-practices solutions and identify opportunities for Ramsey businesses to buy/sell goods locally.

**Notification:**

NA

**Observations/Alternatives:**

**Event Details**

**Date:** Wednesday, November 15th, 2017, 8:00- 9:30 am

**Location:** Alexander Ramsey Room, Ramsey Municipal Center --Secured/Confirmed

**Food/Drinks:** Wells Catering Service, \$1,500 or less.

**Theme/Topic:** Effect of US Bank Stadium & Super Bowl on Economic Development, and Greater MSP Updates (proposed)

**Keynote Speaker :** Michael Langley, confirmed available\*\*

**Emcee:** Jim Steffen

**Small Stage:** Metro Tent Rental, \$400 or less.

**RVSPs:** 87 (2016), 83 (2015), 84 (2014), 68 (2013), 60 (2012)

**Flyer:** See Attached Draft

\*\*Staff is open to other ideas or adding another speaker. For example: <https://explorecoco.com/> is an idea. The owner of this company lives in Anoka County.

**Funding Source:**

EDA Budget- \$2,500

**Recommendation:**

NA

**Action:**

No action requested, update only.

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**Attachments**

2017 Business Networking Event Flyer

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Patrick Brama (Originator)  
Kurt Ulrich  
Form Started By: Patrick Brama  
Final Approval Date: 10/06/2017

**Reviewed By**

Katie Schmidt  
Katie Schmidt

**Date**

10/06/2017 01:50 PM  
10/06/2017 01:50 PM  
Started On: 10/06/2017 11:33 AM

City of Ramsey  
Economic Development Authority presents

# 2017 BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT



## Effect of US Bank Stadium & Super Bowl on Economic Development

**You are invited to attend the Ramsey EDA  
Business Networking Event!**

Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**8:00 a.m. – Networking & Free Wells Catering Breakfast**

**8:30 a.m. – Welcome & Introductions**

**8:40 a.m. – City of Ramsey**  
Development Updates and City News

**8:55 a.m. – Addressing Effect of US Bank Stadium &  
Super Bowl on Economic Development,  
Greater MSP Updates**  
Michael Langley  
CEO, Greater MSP

**9:25 a.m. – Closing Remarks**

**Date:**

Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Time:**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Location:**

Alexander Ramsey Room,  
Ramsey Municipal Center  
7550 Sunwood Drive NW

**RSVP:**

Please note, space at this event is  
limited. To register, please  
contact Katie Schmidt by

**Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

[kschmidt@cityoframsey.com](mailto:kschmidt@cityoframsey.com)  
763-433-9842

