

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

On Monday, April 17, 2017, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Lake Itasca Conference Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Vice Chair Michael Valentine
Board Member Colleen Anderson
Board Member Reid Bernard
Board Member Jane Covart
Board Member Michael Hiatt

Members Absent: Chairperson Thomas Stodola
Board Member Lucas Trossen

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Valentine called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated March 20, 2017

Motion by Board Member Bernard and seconded by Board Member Covart to approve the regular meeting minutes dated March 20, 2017.

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

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Oak Wilt Management Plan for Brookfield 8th Addition

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated Capstone Homes/Brookfield Land LLC has applied for Final Plat approval of Brookfield 8th Addition, a 25-lot, single-family residential development. He noted in September 2016, the Board reviewed multiple aspects of this project, including the Tree Preservation and Landscaping Plans. The applicant revised their plans based on recommendations from the EPB and actions by the Planning Commission and the Final Plat was considered by the City Council on February 28, 2017. The project is still awaiting action by the Metropolitan Council regarding a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to re-guide a portion of the project area to Low Density Residential so that the two lots at the end of the cul-de-sac can be serviced with municipal sewer and water. Due to this contingency, along with discussion about a cost-share agreement to extend the water main south to 166th Avenue, the City Council tabled action until these two items were resolved. As a result, construction timelines have been revised and now will coincide with the high-risk time-period for Oak Wilt. City Planner Anderson provided the location of the project on a map for the Board. This will go before the Metropolitan Council next Wednesday for the Comp Plan Amendment. City Council will not take action until its' first meeting in May.

City Planner Anderson stated construction is likely to begin around May 15. Due to concerns with oak wilt, the applicant has submitted an Oak Wilt Management Plan that outlines the precautions they will take to address the potential introduction of and/or spread of oak wilt to other adjacent properties. A copy of the Oak Wilt Management Plan was provided in the Board packet. City Planner Anderson reviewed the plan and noted the proposed management strategy is reasonable and should be effective at controlling the already present pocket of oak wilt. All costs associated with this request are the responsibility of the Applicant.

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Chairperson Anderson to recommend City Council approve the Oak Wilt Management Plan for Brookfield 8th Addition.

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

5.02: Consider Landscape Plan for Riverstone Addition

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He explained the purpose of this case is to consider the landscape plan for Riverstone Addition, a 293-lot residential subdivision. He reported the City's Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) identifies a small, non-native plant community in the northern portion of the site. Beyond that there are no other significant natural areas on the property. The landscape plan includes boulevard trees throughout the proposed development as well as a landscaped berm along the railroad tracks to the south and plantings along the proposed trails and neighborhood park as well. The overall number of plantings exceeds the minimum requirement outlined in City Code. All species are acceptable as is the size of trees. Staff has discussed with the Developer options of ground cover and suggested that the berm be finished with a native seed mix that is not only more pollinator friendly, but also an opportunity to reduce maintenance costs (mowing and watering) for the HOA. The development plan will return to the Board for review at an upcoming meeting. City Planner Anderson noted the location of the project on a map. The landscape plan includes the 90 acres. The focus is on the first phase, which is the southern portion of the area. Construction will begin in the southeastern portion of the project. In the northwest,

there is a small area of tree cover. Tree preservation is not as critical at this stage because the first couple phases are in an area without any tree cover. The tree inventory will be done during future phases of the development. There is a small naturalized area that cut into the cropland area. There are no significant areas of ecological importance. Staff is supportive of the Landscape Plan for Riverstone Addition with additions on how the berm will be vegetated. The berm will be part of phase one (First Addition) of the development.

Vice Chair Valentine stated that would be an exciting place to live.

Board Member Anderson asked if there are sidewalks along the berm.

City Planner Anderson stated there would be no sidewalks along the berm. There are walking trails and sidewalks within the development. There will be a “private” park that will be accessible to the general public. There is a plan for a turfed open space.

Board Member Anderson noted it would be nice to have signage indicating the plantings in the natural area. The berm will be a barrier to the railroad tracks and would have natural growth and not be mowed.

Board Member Covart asked about the vision clearance triangle.

City Planner Anderson explained and made a handwritten drawing to explain it to the Board. Adjustments may need to be made to plantings in the field to keep the vision clearance triangle clear.

Motion by Board Member Anderson and seconded by Chairperson Hiatt to recommend approval of the proposed landscape plan for Riverstone Addition, contingent upon compliance of the Staff Review Letter.

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

5.03: Recommend Revisions to the Draft Master Plan Amendment – Mississippi West Regional Park

City Planner Anderson reviewed the purpose of this case is to provide a recommendation to Ramsey City Council on the Draft Master Plan Amendment for Mississippi West Regional Park. The City is looking at extending Riverdale Drive to Ramsey Blvd this year. In order to do this some land is needed. A frontage road system will be constructed along Highway 10. The County has prepared a Master Plan Amendment that needs to be reviewed by the Metropolitan Council. The shoreline has had some serious erosion issues and should be included in the Master Plan comments. Staff does not want to lose sight of the shoreline inventory that was recently completed. Staff is requesting comments be included regarding the shoreline inventory along the Mississippi River and bank stabilization.

Motion by Board Member Bernard and seconded by Board Member Covart to recommend incorporation of findings from the Mississippi Shoreline Inventory in the comments submitted.

Further discussion: Board Member Hiatt asked how much land is involved and City Planner Anderson stated 273 acres (3½ miles of shoreline). Board Member Hiatt asked about the pedestrian bridge and City Planner Anderson stated it is in the City's plan and will be included in comments to the Draft Master Plan. Board Member Covart asked how much input the City of Ramsey will have on what goes into the Park and City Planner Anderson stated the City may be able to provide comments but won't be the leading force in determining what is going into the Park. City Planner Anderson showed the development plan for the park. It will be a natural resources park when all improvements are made. Board Member Covart asked about campsites believing she read that somewhere. City Planner Anderson stated he is not aware of campsites. Board Member Hiatt asked if there is a timeline and City Planner Anderson stated there is no definitive timeline on park improvements. The development will take some time. Board Member Hiatt said it will be a great addition to the City.

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

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Comprehensive Plan Update Workshop**

City Planner Anderson reminded the Board on June 12 there will be a Comprehensive Plan Update Workshop on the Natural Resources Chapter. Board Members were encouraged to attend the workshop.

Board Member Anderson stated a neighbor of hers had comments about the maintenance of some of the trails in the City and would it be appropriate for her to attend the workshop.

City Planner Anderson suggested she call the Parks Department (Mark Riverblood) with her concerns.

It was noted that the Spring Recycling Event will be held May 6, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon, at the Public Works Campus.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Anderson to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Debbie Wolfe
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.