

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

On Monday, July 16, 2018, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Council Chambers at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Valentine
 Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Jane Covart
 Board Member Melissa Fetterley
 Board Member Michael Hiatt
 Board Member Michael Madison
 Board Member Laura Moore

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson
 City Council Liaison John LeTourneau

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Valentine, Board Member Bernard, Hiatt, Covart, Fetterley, Madison, and Moore. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated June 18, 2018

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Bernard to approve the regular meeting minutes dated June 18, 2018.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Valentine, Board Member Hiatt, Bernard, Covart, Fetterley, Madison, and Moore. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Landscape Plan for Lazy Days RV Site Plan (Project No. 18-126)

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that Lazy Days RV is in the process of acquiring Shorewood RV, located at 8390 Riverdale Drive NW. As part of the acquisition, the applicant is proposing to replat Outlot A, Alpaca Estates 4th Addition, into a buildable lot and construct a 29,600 square foot, 30 bay maintenance facility for the RV operation. He stated that a Landscape Plan was included with their Site Plan submittal. He recommended that the Board recommend approval of the Landscape Plan, contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Board Member Moore referenced the darkened line to the south and asked if that is the location of the fence.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that line is the proposed privacy fence along the southern border to provide screening to the adjacent residential parcel.

Chairperson Valentine asked for additional details on the stormwater pond.

City Planner Anderson replied that it is a regional pond designed to accommodate all of the Alpaca Estates 4th Addition development. He stated that engineering will review the stormwater calculations to ensure that the excess runoff from the site could still be handled by the pond. He stated that engineering will also ensure that the infiltration requirements are met by the requested proposal.

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Valentine, Board Member Hiatt, Covart, Bernard, Fetterley, Madison, and Moore. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

5.02: Consider Landscape Plan for Sterling Trophy Site Plan (Project No. 18-125)

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that Sterling Trophy is working with the City on the potential purchase of the property located at 6710 Highway 10 NW. The applicant has submitted a Site Plan for the construction of a 4,000 square foot retail building for their business operation on the subject property. He noted that the Site Plan submittal includes a Landscape Plan for review. He recommended that the Board recommend approval of the Landscape Plan, contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Board Member Covart referenced the south side of the lot and asked if there are plans for that open area.

City Planner Anderson replied that it is intended to remain vacant at this time. He stated that the applicant is still in discussion with the City regarding a purchase agreement for the property. He noted that at one time the applicant was only interested in a portion of the lot, but it would be difficult to find another user for that remnant and therefore the City would prefer to have that

included in this sale. He stated that if left undisturbed during the construction, that portion of the property could remain as is.

Chairperson Valentine asked if prairie restoration could be a viable option for that portion of the site.

City Planner Anderson stated that there is existing turf and therefore the applicant would have to modify the existing conditions. He stated that option could be explored with the applicant.

Council Liaison LeTourneau stated that if the Council is going to weigh in on sod versus seed, he would like input from the Board on that discussion.

Board Member Fetterley stated that it is a large portion of the property and therefore can appreciate a form of prairie restoration. She stated that if there is not proper irrigation, seed may not establish, and that area could appear run down. She noted that even sod will not maintain itself if there is not irrigation.

Board Member Bernard stated that it did not appear that anything would be disturbed during construction and therefore perhaps that portion could just remain as is and seed would be used for disturbed areas. He stated that he would be okay with seed and that would match the existing area that will not be disturbed.

Chairperson Valentine stated that he would agree that something viable should be the desired outcome.

Board Member Hiatt asked if there is an irrigation requirement for the property.

City Planner Anderson stated that there is not an irrigation requirement for the property. He noted that following the input from the Board, Planning Commission and City Council, the irrigation requirement was removed in attempt to align more with the concept of water conservation. He noted that the seed label seems out of context, in the parking lot area, and therefore staff has asked for clarification. He noted that staff does not oppose the use of seed but simply needs to draw attention to it because of the language in the City Code.

Board Member Covart asked the estimated cost and work to convert the existing excess area to prairie.

City Planner Anderson provided additional details on the steps that would be needed, noting that it would be a bit of work and would take multiple years to establish prairie.

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Covart to recommend approval of the Landscape Plan, contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter, adding direction for the applicant to consider options for the south end of the property including prairie restoration.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Valentine, Board Member Hiatt, Covart, Bernard, Fetterley, Madison, and Moore. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Pollinator Garden Tour – July 21, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

City Planner Anderson provided details on the upcoming pollinator garden tour, which will take place this Saturday and feature properties in Andover, Ramsey, and Anoka.

- **Summer Recycling Day Event – July 28, 2018**

City Planner Anderson provided details on the upcoming summer recycling event on July 28th, reviewing the materials that will be accepted.

Chairperson Valentine noted that he recently viewed a program which stated that China is not as interested in accepting recycled materials and asked the impact that may have on the industry.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that China has enacted much more stringent contamination standards on the materials that they will accept. He stated that the State is actively engaging with haulers to discuss this issue and possible impacts. He stated that on the east and west coasts some of those materials have been landfilled because there is not a market in those areas. He stated that local markets have not been impacted in Minnesota, but the issue is on the horizon and it could become problematic. He explained that the single sort system which made recycling so much easier and increased participation, has resulted in less clean materials and cross contamination of materials, particularly crushed glass getting into other materials. He noted that another problem in recycling is “wish-cycling” where a resident may not be sure that something is recyclable and still places it in the recycling with the hopes that it can be recycled.

- **Monarch Trail Update – Final seeding done on June 25th**

City Planner Anderson stated that there is a seven acre stretch of trail that was renamed as the Monarch Trail, noting that there was a groundbreaking event the previous summer. He described the restoration and seeding activities that have occurred in the past year to help establish a native prairie seed mix with featured plants to attract Monarchs. He noted that the Board was somewhat involved in the City pursuing the Mayors for Monarchs program and advised that the project has now been completed.

- **Tree Survey Training**

City Planner Anderson noted that the tree survey training session the previous weekend was canceled as there were no residents registered for the event. He noted that there will be one final training opportunity on August 10th and 11th. He hoped to obtain a few more volunteers for the project.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.