

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

On Monday, May 21, 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 Jane Covart
 Board Member Melissa Fetterley
 Board Member Thomas Stodola

Members Absent: Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Michael Hiatt
 Board Member Laura Moore

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson
 Acting Mayor/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 Stodola and seconded by Board Member Covart to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated April 16, 2018

Motion by Board Member Covart and seconded by Board Member Fetterley to approve the regular meeting minutes dated April 16, 2018.

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

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Update on Public Tree Survey (A Resilient Communities Program Project)

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the purpose of this case is to provide the Board a status update on the Resilient Communities Program project to complete a survey of Public Trees. He noted that there was an initial classroom training offered by the student group that was held on Friday, April 13. He stated that there was supposed to be an outdoor training session held on April 14 but that was canceled due to a snow storm. He noted that because of the late winter, which delayed the leaf-out of most trees, it was agreed to delay the outdoor training session until late May or early June. He noted that the professor of this course has now offered to conduct a 'refresher' classroom training for those volunteers that did attend the initial training, but also for any others that were interested in volunteering to assist with the survey. He advised that the two new training dates are now set for Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. He noted that the students have also made training materials available online and have created tree identification cards that can be used for those assisting with the survey. He provided additional details on the process for the survey and the information that this will provide. He stated that the data will help the City to plan for issues such as Emerald Ash Borer, and ensure tree diversity exists in the City owned land. He welcomed any interested members of the public to attend the upcoming training sessions.

Board Member Covart asked if the teams are composed of two people.

The City Planner stated that ideally the teams would be composed of three people. He stated that ensures safety and will also help to talk through items like species identification and health condition to determine how many points are given.

Board Member Fetterley asked the length of time that this survey would take.

City Planner Anderson stated that he has been told that this will take on average ten minutes per tree, noting higher times in the beginning and lower times once people are comfortable with the process. He estimated that this would be a total of 400 hours of time and noted that 16 to 18 volunteers would be helpful.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau stated that this is a great project and will supply the City with knowledge to prepare itself for issues that arise with trees.

5.02: Update on Pollinator Friendly Projects

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City of Ramsey is partnering with the City of Andover on two (2) native landscape and pollinator friendly projects this year. He noted that Andover has hosted a Native Plant Sale for a couple of years and earlier this year, staff was asked if there was interest in participating in some fashion with their Native Plant Sale. He stated that rather than holding separate events, Ramsey staff is simply promoting the Native Plant Sale that will be held at the Andover City Hall on June 2. He stated that there will be information in the next Weekly Update and on the website. He noted that information was also included in the May/June issue of the *Ramsey Resident* newsletter promoting the event. He stated that Andover also holds a pollinator friendly tour of properties that have made changes to make more pollinator

friendly. He stated that Andover reached out to Ramsey to determine if there are any properties in Ramsey that would want to participate in the tour. He noted two properties that came to mind and noted that both property owners were very excited to be a part of the tour. He noted that the intent of the tour is to showcase local properties and provide education to the tour participants on how they could do something similar on their own property. He stated that the tour will be on July 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He noted that additional information on the tour will be printed in the *Ramsey Resident*.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau asked if there has been any data to show that the pollinator efforts are having a benefit.

The City Planner stated that if there is noticeable movement, that could be tracked by people expressing interest and adding projects to their property. He stated that there are a number of ancillary benefits for these projects as well, as less water is used for these type of landscapes, and a reduction of chemicals used.

Chairperson Valentine noted that increased presence of butterflies could also be an indicator. He stated that he has not seen data showing pollinator populations and the impacts that these efforts have had.

City Planner Anderson noted that there are some citizen science organizations, which provide the ability for the general public to input data on pollinators that they are seeing in their yards. He stated that he could see if Ramsey could be registered through a site of that type, and residents could input data.

Chairperson Valentine noted that perhaps that would be a project the City could work on with the RCP. He stated that there are benefits of native habitat planting but noted that is not the same as people just not mowing their lawn.

City Planner Anderson agreed that in the first few years there is a lot of effort needed to establish, but then the effort decreases in future years.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Next CWMA Meeting: June 5 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Location TBD**

City Planner Anderson noted that the next CWMA meeting will be held on June 5th with the location yet to be determined. He noted that once the location is known he can send an email to the group. He stated that the spring recycling event was held on Saturday May 5th and was one of the busiest events that Ramsey has ever held. He expressed appreciation for all the residents that participated and noted that the next recycling event will be in July.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Acting Mayor LeTourneau recognized that this is Board Member Stodola's last meeting.

Board Member Stodola confirmed that they are moving, and this will be the last meeting he will participate in.

Chairperson Valentine thanked Board Member Stodola for his years of service and leadership on the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.