

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

On Monday, January 14, 2019, 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 Michael Hiatt
 Board Member Michael Madison

Members Absent: Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Laura Moore

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson
 City Council Liaison Melody Shryock

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated December 10, 2018

Motion by Board Member Covart and seconded by Board Member Fetterley to approve the regular meeting minutes dated December 10, 2018.

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

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Review of Harvest Estates 2nd Addition (Project No. 18-161); Case of Meadowcreek Builders

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the purpose of the case is to review various elements related to a proposed Preliminary Plat for Harvest Estates 2nd Addition. This is the second phase of development of the former Municipal Center site, located off Nowthen Boulevard, just south of Alpine Drive. The development proposal is for 15 new single-family homes, accessed with an extension of 152nd Lane NW connecting to Krypton Terrace NW. The property is zoned R-1 Residential (MUSA) and the surrounding land to the east, west and south is also zoned R-1 Residential (MUSA), while the land to the northwest and north is zoned PUD (Single family development with slightly narrow lots than what City Code had allowed at that time). He recommended approval of the Landscaping Plan contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Board Member Fetterley expressed appreciation with placing the tree requirement on the builder rather than the homeowner. She asked what would happen in the case that the requirement is placed on the homeowner rather than the developer.

City Planner Anderson stated that staff would prefer for the developer or builder to be responsible for the trees but noted that there are times when that is pushed down to the individual homeowner. He explained that details are provided on the tree requirements when a building permit is obtained. He stated that if the landscaping requirement has not been met upon inspection, an escrow is held until the landscaping is completed. He stated that once the requirement is met, the escrow would be released. He stated that there are measures in place to ensure that the landscaping plan is accomplished.

Board Member Covart referenced the vegetation on the northeast corner and asked for additional details on note 12.

City Planner Anderson stated that there are areas proposed for tree cover removal. He stated that he is asking for the specific tree inventory information to be added to that sheet. He stated that this would provide additional clarification on the specific trees that are proposed to be removed which assists the contractor that will be completing the work.

City Council Liaison Shryock stated that there was a resident letter referencing the vegetation removal on the southern portion of the lot. She stated that from the maps the vegetation on the southern boundary is proposed for removal and asked for additional input as there is not replacement proposed in that area. She stated that it appears that the trees proposed for planting seem to be helping the new homes rather than providing buffering for the existing property owners.

City Planner Anderson displayed the proposed landscaping plan and identified the trees referenced by Council Liaison Shryock. He stated that when this project originally came forward there was an overall tree inventory and landscaping plan that looked at the project being constructed at one time. He stated that the trees referenced by Council Liaison Shryock were proposed to be removed, not for house pads, but for grading purposes to ensure proper drainage. He stated that there could be further investigation to determine if the drainage grading could occur without damaging the root base of the trees.

Council Liaison Shryock suggested that the City ask the developer to preserve those trees to the extent possible.

City Planner Anderson stated that this is unique in that when the original plan came forward there were not existing homes. He stated that because the project was broken into phases, the homeowners of lots eight and nine would be mostly impacted by the removal of the trees. He again noted that those lots did not exist when the plan was proposed four years ago. He stated that the City has already granted approval of that plan and staff was looking for consistency with that plan. He noted that staff can explore that option to determine if there is a way to preserve some of those trees. He stated that they would want to ensure that there is proper drainage, as that would impact additional properties.

Board Member Covart asked if the hashed area to the west also includes trees proposed to be removed.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that the hashed areas include vegetation proposed for removal. He confirmed that the plans are consistent with the plans that were approved four years ago.

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Madison to recommend approval of the Landscape Plan contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter with the additional recommendation that the developer investigate the possibility of preserving additional trees on the southern boundary without interfering with the drainage plans.

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

5.02: Consider Participation in the Simple Recycling Program

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that staff has been contacted by ACE Solid Waste regarding a new recycling program/opportunity that is available to Ramsey. ACE recently met with representatives from Simple Recycling about a pilot program for curbside recycling of textiles (clothing). This would be separate from the existing curbside recycling program. There does not appear to be any direct cost to the City or to the residents that would utilize the program. The City would, however, market the program through newsletters along with its website and Facebook page. He provided additional input he received from Coon Rapids staff, as that city has participated in a program with Simply Recycling for the past three years. He noted that he plans to meet with ACE and Simple Recycling to gain additional input on thresholds that may be required. He noted that once he has the additional information from the businesses, he would bring the topic back for a more formal consideration by the Board and City Council.

Chairperson Valentine stated that from his perspective, the financial side is a bit of a concern and he would want to ensure that this would not burden the City with significant costs. He stated that he would not be concerned with the responsibility for advertising, but with a possible cost if a threshold is not met. He stated that conceptually he believed that this would be interesting to explore and would agree with having further discussion with the businesses.

Board Member Hiatt asked if the tonnage collected from this program would assist the City in meeting the recycling requirements set by the County.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that as long as the City receives the reporting, the tonnage collected can be included in the report to the County.

Board Member Hiatt asked if ACE is involved in the process as a co-partner.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that he would be exploring that further as to whether the partnership is between ACE and Simple Recycling or the City and Simply Recycling. He confirmed that ACE would be involved in cataloging and corresponding the collection sites to Simple Recycling.

Board Member Hiatt stated that he believes that it would be beneficial for ACE to be involved in the partnership because of their positive track record with recycling.

City Planner Anderson stated that to his knowledge there would not be an impact to the City for ACE to be involved in the program. He explained that ACE reached out to the City with the possible opportunity.

Council Liaison Shryock stated that this would be a great opportunity to pursue cautiously. She stated that many organizations collect donations and resell the items. She stated that education may be helpful on that topic. She stated that she would want to find out additional information from Coon Rapids as well as the terms of the trial period and if there are additional terms after that trial period expires. She stated that perhaps there are additional opportunities after the trial period which could include a common drop-off point or perhaps being a part of the City's recycling events, which would save the organization the gas funds picking up materials from individual households.

City Planner Anderson stated that the recycling events do have a vendor accepting textiles. He stated that an interesting aspect of this opportunity would be the additional materials that could be collected, using the example of children's toys.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Great River Energy Processing Plant Closing**

City Planner Anderson reported that the plant is scheduled to close the following day. He explained that the bulk of the waste material from Anoka County was being brought to the plant and therefore will need to be brought to another location.

- **February Meeting Date (need to reschedule to February 11th or 25th due to Presidents Day on February 18th)**

City Planner Anderson reported that the February meeting date falls on Presidents Day and therefore will need to be rescheduled. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the meeting on February 25th.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.