

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

On Monday, August 17, 2020, 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 (attended remotely)
 Board Member Laura Moore (attended remotely)

Members Absent: Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Jared Little

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson

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 Fetterley to approve the agenda as submitted.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Covart	aye
Board Member Hiatt	aye
Board Member Moore	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

Motion carried.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated June 15, 2020

Motion by Board Member Covart and seconded by Board Member Fetterley to approve the regular meeting minutes dated June 15, 2020.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Moore	aye
Board Member Hiatt	aye
Board Member Covart	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

Motion carried.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Natural Resources Elements of Proposed Ramsey Villas North Preliminary Plat (Project No. 20-117); Case of Rivers Bend Holdings, LLC

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received a Preliminary Plat application from Rivers Bend Holdings, LLC, for a three lot subdivision located on the northwest corner of Xkimo Street and Xkimo Court. The subject property is currently zoned R-2 Residential (Medium Density). The proposed housing product is detached townhomes (look like single family homes). In addition to the standard landscaping and tree preservation requirements, typically density transitioning would be required. However, the proposed density is similar to the existing neighborhood and the units are detached, giving the appearance of a more traditional single-family home project.

Chairperson Valentine referenced the optional plantings and other things that could help to mitigate noise and encouraged the City to do what it can to mitigate noise on the front end as it would be harder to address at a later date.

City Planner Anderson stated that he believed a noise study would be a contingency of the plat. He stated that it is helpful for the developer to address it earlier in the process rather than attempt to have the City address it at a later date. He stated that the EPB could also include the recommendation for a noise study, noting that would typically be addressed by planning but could also be mentioned by this group.

Board Member Hiatt asked the location of the existing sound wall and whether that could be extended. He believed that noise would be an issue in that area and was unsure that plantings would be sufficient mitigation.

Chairperson Valentine agreed that sound walls are more effective than plantings.

City Planner Anderson identified the location of the existing sound wall compared to the project location. He stated that any sound mitigation for this development would only be applicable to the subject property and therefore the vacant area between the existing sound wall and this project would not require mitigation.

Board Member Covart asked for details on the tree save fence.

City Planner Anderson replied that the Code would allow for the orange snow fencing or traditional silt fence. He stated that the fencing provides a physical barrier to ensure that equipment and grading activities do not go past that point. He stated that could be placed on the edge of a tree line or around clusters of trees. He noted that in this project there are certain trees that will be marked as protected during grading and construction. He also clarified that tree save fencing is temporary and ultimately is removed when construction activity is complete.

Motion by Board Member Covart and seconded by Board Member Hiatt to approve the Landscape Plan, contingent upon compliance with Staff's requested revisions/corrections, and with the additional recommendation that a noise study be completed by the developer.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Hiatt	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Moore	aye
Board Member Covart	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

Motion carried.

5.02: Consider Recommendation on Ordinance #20-04 (Landscape Requirements)

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that as the EPB knows, staff is working on an ordinance amendment regarding landscaping requirements. Due to a couple of recent development proposals, staff wanted to check back in with the EPB regarding one aspect of the draft ordinance, which addresses detached townhomes and villas.

Board Member Covart asked for clarification on the tree requirement.

City Planner Anderson stated that two trees would be required for 80-foot lots and rural developing lots. He noted that the difference would appear in the R-1 villas. He also reviewed the requirements for R-2 and R-3.

5.03: Consider Recommendation from the Lower Rum River Water Management Organization to Provide Educational Campaign for Rum River Wild and Scenic Overlay District

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that in 1978, the State of Minnesota added the Rum River to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. The stretch of river through Ramsey is designated as Scenic (meaning, at the time of designation, the adjacent lands were mostly undeveloped and therefore provided a sense of natural character). When the State added the Rum River to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, they also developed a Management Plan and directed local municipalities and counties to adopt and enforce zoning standards in compliance with the Management Plan. The City of Ramsey officially adopted the Scenic River Protection Overlay District, which incorporated the standards outlined in Minnesota Rules 6105.1400 through 6105.1500.

Board Member Fetterley asked if staff has an idea of how many letters would be sent.

City Planner Anderson stated that he does not have the actual count but estimated between 50 and 100 properties.

Board Member Fetterley asked if a link could be provided to the actual requirements as well.

City Planner Anderson stated that a link could be added to the letter but stated that perhaps developing a one-page summary would be better as the text is somewhat lengthy and addresses all elements (subdivisions, etc.). He stated that perhaps staff develop a one-page fact sheet for the most applicable items.

Board Member Fetterley agreed that perhaps the fact sheet address the most common violation items.

Board Member Hiatt stated that the designation has been in place for some time and properties have turned over in ownership. He asked if a person is notified of these regulations when they purchase a river property.

City Planner Anderson stated that he did not believe there would be any legal requirement to disclose the zoning requirements of the overlay district. He stated that the City also does not have the ability to stay on top of when properties are changing in ownership. He stated that when the initial overlay district was adopted, the DNR and realtors were more proactive, but as time has gone on that has faded. He explained that is one of the reasons that Ramsey is looking to send out this educational information. He noted that Andover has sent out this type of information for the past four or five years and while the first mailing generated more calls, those have faded as the information continues to be generated.

Board Member Hiatt commented that he believes that this information is well timed and needed.

Chairperson Valentine commented that the one-page fact sheet could answer a lot of the questions that may typically be generated from the communication.

Board Member Moore stated that the end of the letter mentions that it is not just Ramsey but also the other three adjacent river communities, which she likes. She asked if the fact sheet could include some information such as places people could volunteer or organizations they could join as a river property owner. She stated that perhaps a link to the Anoka Conservation District could also be included.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Fall Recycling Day Event (September 26)**

City Planner Anderson reported that the City is planning to offer a fall recycling event but noted that could change dependent on the circumstances. He stated that currently the event is planned for September 26th at the Public Works Facility. He noted that carpet and carpet padding will no longer be accepted. He stated that he has been unable to connect with the textile vendor, therefore

textiles will not be included in the fall event. He stated that any updates would be provided on the City website or at upcoming City Council meetings.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Hiatt	aye
Board Member Moore	aye
Board Member Covart	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.