

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

On Monday, February 22, 2021, 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 Jared Little
 Board Member Laura Moore

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson
 City Council Liaison Chelsee Howell

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson Hiatt called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Board Member Little and seconded by Chair Valentine to approve the agenda as submitted.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Moore	aye
Board Member Covart	aye
Board Member Little	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Bernard	aye
Acting Chairperson Hiatt	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

Motion carried.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated January 25, 2021

Motion by Board Member Bernard and seconded by Board Member Little to approve the regular meeting minutes dated January 25, 2021.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Bernard	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Little	aye
Board Member Moore	aye
Board Member Covart	aye
Acting Chairperson Hiatt	aye
Chairperson Valentine	absent

Motion carried.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Landscape Plan for Gigi’s Salon and Spa

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received a Site Plan and Plat Application for the property located at the southeast corner of Zeolite Street and Sunwood Drive. The project is proposing an approximately 9,000 square foot building fronting Sunwood Drive with parking to the south, for the future home of Gigi’s Salon and Spa.

Board Member Covart asked if there are plans for the remainder of the lot.

City Planner Anderson replied that there are not specific plans for the remainder of the lot, noting that part of that is being reserved for proof of parking. He stated that there is a well on the site that creates some unique conditions. He stated that adjacent to this site there is a perspective user but that is still in negotiation as this is a City owned parcel. He noted that Gigi’s would only be purchasing a portion of the lot. He did not believe there were immediate plans for the seeded area to the east.

Acting Chairperson Hiatt commented that he believed a hotel was considered for the remainder of the site.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that is the perspective user for the lot to the east.

Motion by Chair Valentine and seconded by Board Member Bernard to recommend approval of the proposed Landscape Plan contingent upon compliance with the corrections required.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Little	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Bernard	aye

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

Motion carried.

5.02: Review Proposed Ordinance #21-06 Consolidating all Landscape Requirements into a Single Section and Amending Landscape Standards in the Employment Districts

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the purpose of this case is to review a draft Ordinance Amendment for landscaping standards in the Employment Districts. The notion of amending the landscaping standards arose as a result of the DeltaMod Tech project, which, per current requirements, would have had to over plant the site (with both trees and shrubs) to meet the minimum planting requirements. This was becoming more common in the Employment Districts, where buildings tend to be larger, with greater areas consumed by paving and stormwater ponds. Thus, leaving much less pervious area to accommodate plantings. The draft Ordinance would address more than just the Employment Districts. A new section entitled Landscaping is being proposed and all landscaping standards are being removed from individual zoning districts and moved to this location. There is a lot of repetition between many of the districts and this will help reduce the overall size of the Zoning Chapter.

Board Member Moore asked if there is one place where a native planting would take the place of a tree, noting Section 2, page seven, Item G.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that to be correct noting Subsection (c) (7) g.

Acting Chairperson Hiatt asked if the City has guidelines for native plantings.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that there are a number of resources related to native plantings and noxious weeds. He did not think it would be helpful to codify that because the State can amend the noxious weed list on an annual basis. He stated that if someone wanted to pursue this, staff would provide resources on species composition. He noted that typically if someone were to pursue this, they would use a native seed mixture based on soil type and location.

Board Member Moore commented that there is a planting page on the City website that provides details on seeding, which is brief but provides a good place to start.

Acting Chairperson Hiatt noted that the group has talked about this for some time and believes this information is better suited all together in this format.

Motion by Board Member Moore and seconded by Chair Valentine to recommend adoption of Ordinance #21-06.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Covart aye
Board Member Moore aye

Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Little	aye
Board Member Bernard	aye
Acting Chairperson Hiatt	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

Motion carried.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

City Planner Anderson stated that they are planning to hold a spring recycling event. He stated that with the public works facility under construction staff is looking for a temporary location that could be used, noting the potential to hold the spring event at the ACE Solid Waste location in Ramsey. He stated that information can be found in the March/April edition of the newsletter.

Acting Chairperson Hiatt commented that he appreciated and made use of the cardboard recycling opportunity near the holidays. He asked if there would be potential to continue that option.

City Planner Anderson commented that the cardboard recycling opportunity gets a lot of use over the holiday season. He stated that with the expansion at ACE Solid Waste, there is a dumpster available for cardboard drop-off along with carts for curbside materials and organics. He noted that those options are available year-round at the ACE location at no cost. He stated that they ask that cardboard be flattened and customers are encouraged to use those drop-off opportunity after business hours to avoid conflicts with truck traffic.

Acting Chairperson Hiatt thanked the City for providing that service over the holiday season.

Board Member Covart stated that she has been in discussion with Councilmember Woestehoff related to EV outlets for charging electrical vehicles. She advised of a gas station in another location which has outlets available for charging. She stated that perhaps there could be options to integrate that amenity into locations within The COR and development that comes forward. She stated that perhaps the City could partner with Connexus and that could help to make The COR more of a destination.

Acting Chairperson Hiatt stated that he would support that option. He noted that there are a few charging stalls within the ramp adjacent to City Hall that seem to be well used. He stated that they will continue to see more electric vehicles and it would make sense to try to get out ahead of that.

City Planner Anderson stated that if this topic were of interest to the Board, he would need a motion to bring forward that topic to the City Council to see if the Council would be open to the Board discussing that. He stated that within the past few years Connexus had approached the City about a similar concept but nothing more came of it.

Acting Chairperson Hiatt asked if Councilmember Howell is aware of any thoughts of the Council on this topic.

Councilmember Howell stated that she has not heard that discussion since joining the Council. She asked what the cost would be to the City for these charging stations.

City Planner Anderson replied that he is unsure of the cost and noted that if the direction is given to go down this road, that would be part of the staff research.

Acting Chairperson Hiatt asked if the Board could place this on a future agenda for a more exploratory discussion or whether Council approval would first be needed.

City Planner Anderson stated that if there were interest in this topic, he would suggest gaining input from the Council before going forward.

Motion by Board Member Covart and seconded by Board Member Fetterley to approach the City Council to determine if there is support for the Board to further discuss the potential of EV charging stations.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Little	aye
Board Member Bernard	aye
Board Member Moore	aye
Board Member Covart	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Acting Chairperson Hiatt	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

Motion carried.

City Planner Anderson stated that staff will put together basic information based on this discussion to present to the Council. He stated that perhaps it would be helpful if the Board provided representation at that meeting once the date is known.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Little to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Covart	aye
Board Member Moore	aye
Board Member Little	aye
Board Member Bernard	aye
Acting Chairperson Hiatt	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.