

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

On Monday, January 23, 2023, 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 Laura Moore
 Board Member Todd Arts
 Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Melissa Fetterley
 Board Member Michael Hiatt

Members Absent: Board Member Jared Little

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Moore 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 Moore, Board Member Bernard, Hiatt, Arts, and Fetterley. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Little.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated October 17, 2022

Motion by Board Member Bernard and seconded by Board Member Fetterley to approve the regular meeting minutes dated October 17, 2022.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Bernard, Fetterley, Arts, and Hiatt. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Little.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Natural Resources Aspects of Site Plan and Plat for AARA Dome (Project

No. 22-123); Case of Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received an application for a Site Plan, Variance, Preliminary Plat, and Final Plat from Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association for a proposed new athletic dome and associated improvements. The proposed project is located at 14622 and 14650 Ferret Street NW.

Board Member Hiatt asked where expansion would be anticipated.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that future expansion would be to the west and provided more details.

Board Member Fetterley asked for details on parking.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that parking has been discussed between the applicant and planning staff. He stated that there has been a lot of discussion on whether this would be a practice facility or whether games/tournaments would be played as the use would have different requirements. He stated that as it presently stands this would only be used for practice and therefore would meet requirements for parking. He noted that if they want to hold events at the space, the requirements could be different.

Chairperson Moore asked what currently exists to the west.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that land is currently vacant and noted that if there were plans for expansion in the future, that would follow the typical site plan review process.

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Bernard to recommend approval of the natural resources aspects related to this project.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Hiatt, Bernard, Arts, and Fetterley. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Little.

5.02: Consider Natural Resources Related Elements for Parkside Townhomes Preliminary Plat

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received an application from Ramsey at COR LLC for Preliminary Plat review of a proposed townhome development located on the block bordered by Rhinestone Street, Traprock Street, 146th Avenue, and Ramsey Parkway. The purpose of this case is to review the Landscape Plan and other natural resources aspects of the project.

Board Member Hiatt asked if there is sidewalk on all four streets.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that there will be public sidewalks on all four streets. He noted that sidewalk exists on Rhinestone and the developer will install the others as part of the project.

Board Member Hiatt asked and received confirmation that the mentioned boulevard landscaping would occur between the street and sidewalk. He asked if some of the trees from the backside could be moved to the boulevard.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that the applicant could choose to do that. He noted that another option would be to add trees to the boulevard.

Chairperson Moore appreciated the information on the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) and found that interesting.

Senior Planner Anderson provided additional details on the DWSMA and concerns for infiltration within that area.

Chairperson Moore asked if the plans for stormwater anticipated this type of use for the property.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the boundary of the DWSMA is not impacted by the type of development.

Board Member Hiatt commented on the diverse species planned for landscaping.

Senior Planner Anderson agreed that the applicant did a good job emphasizing a diverse landscape.

Motion by Board Member Fetterley and seconded by Board Member Bernard to recommend approval of the Landscape Plan, contingent upon compliance with Staff's review comments.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Fetterley, Bernard, Arts, and Hiatt. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Little.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

Chairperson Moore asked for an update related to an email received from the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) on potential land uses within Ramsey.

Senior Planner Anderson provided a high-level summary of the request from ACD to inquire on whether there was park land that would be suitable to convert to a natural landscape because ACD was looking to apply for grant funds for that type of conversion. He stated that nothing was locked into place, the request was simply to determine if there were site candidates that would work. He stated that staff did identify a few locations and if ACD is successful in obtaining the grant, staff would bring that information forward to the EPB, Parks and Recreation Commission and ultimately City Council for input and approval. He noted that should that move forward, it would reduce maintenance and improve pollinator habitat. He stated that he will have a case to present at an upcoming meeting for a similar project to consider along the railroad right-of-way and COR infiltration basin. He noted that could be an opportunity for the Board to assist with the plantings.

Board Member Hiatt commented that if park land is converted as discussed, it would be nice to have some walking paths as that could be an opportunity for resident education.

Chairperson Moore asked if there is any update on Rabbit Park. She stated that perhaps there would be a spring opportunity for volunteers to assist with plantings.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that he did not have an update but would follow up with parks staff.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.