

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

On Monday, May 15, 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 Melissa Fetterley
 Board Member Thomas Hagerty
 Board Member Hassan Salami
 Board Member Jessica Vikander

Members Absent: Board Member Reid Bernard

Also Present: Senior Planner Chris Anderson
 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 Fetterley and seconded by Board Member Vikander to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Fetterley, Vikander, Hagerty, and Salami. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated April 17, 2023

Motion by Board Member Vikander and seconded by Board Member Hagerty to approve the regular meeting minutes dated April 17, 2023.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Vikander, Hagerty, Fetterley, and Salami. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: In Memory of Environmental Policy Board Member Michael Hiatt

Senior Planner Anderson commented that Michael Hiatt passed away on April 26, 2023. He commented that Mr. Hiatt served on the EPB since 2012, had a passion for giving back to the community and was always interested in getting out into the community to improve environmental awareness. He will be greatly missed, and the Board and staff wish to recognize him for all he has done for the community and as a member of the EPB.

Chairperson Moore agreed that he will be greatly missed, noting that Mr. Hiatt was a high school teacher of hers as well.

Board Member Fetterley commented that it was always a delight to work with Mr. Hiatt and he will be missed, noting that he was a great advocate not only for the EPB but for students and the schools.

Councilmember Howell commented that Mr. Hiatt will be greatly missed.

5.02: Consider Natural Resources Aspects of Proposed Site Plan for CorTrust Bank (Project No. 23-104)

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received an application from CorTrust Bank for a proposed new bank to be located at the northeast corner of Zeolite Street and Sunwood Drive. The application includes a Site Plan, Plat and Zoning Amendment.

Chairperson Moore commented that she was hoping the area marked in red would be converted to native plantings, which it has been.

Board Member Salami asked if the road construction would be brought about because of the hotel and bank projects and whether those projects would contribute towards the road improvement.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that Zeolite Street was constructed as a temporary road to connect Bunker Lake Boulevard and Sunwood Drive, therefore the City was aware that it would eventually need to reconstruct the road to City standards. He commented that these projects are not triggering the road improvement as that was already slated to be completed in 2024 regardless of development.

Motion by Board Member Salami and seconded by Board Member Hagerty to recommend approval of the Landscape and Tree Preservation Plans contingent upon compliance with Staff review comments.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Salami, Hagerty, Fetterley, and Vikander. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

5.03: Zoning Code Update

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that City staff is in the process of rewriting the City's Zoning Code. The current drafts of the Landscaping and Tree Preservation sections were included in the packet for review. Staff has also created a separate chapter for Shade

Tree Diseases and Pests. Much of the language in the new chapter was simply moved from the Tree Preservation section. Staff has also added new language including a paragraph summarizing the intent of the standards, standards for tree contractors (licensing requirement), a declaration of what constitutes a tree nuisance, specific standards that would support issuance of a "Notice to Take Action" and preventative measures.

Chairperson Moore commented that the additional language is great and necessary and would be fine to see it included in either the Shade Tree section or licensing. She believed that this location would be the best location as a tree contractor looking up information would see the licensing requirement in this section.

Board Member Vikander asked if it would be possible to place the licensing requirements in the licensing section and simply make reference to it in this section.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that could be done.

Chairperson Moore agreed and confirmed the consensus of the Board to include the licensing requirements in the licensing section with a link provided in the Shade Tree section.

Senior Planner Anderson provided more language suggested for the Shade Tree Diseases and Pests section. He noted that he is still awaiting input from the City Attorney related to the hazard tree language.

Chairperson Moore stated that she agrees with all the additions. She asked if additional information could be added when appropriate.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that an ordinance amendment could be used to add additional information.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Spring Recycling Day Event Recap – May 6, 2023**

Senior Planner Anderson stated that the spring recycling event was held on May 6th noting that it was a bit slower than typical. He noted that typically there are 400 to 500 vehicles whereas there were about 300 vehicles for this event. He provided a recap of the event. He noted that the oil collection vendor continues to recommend a permanent drop off location for Ramsey. He stated that could be a future agenda topic if desired.

Chairperson Moore agreed that the oil drop off would be well used by the community. She stated that she did hear comments that the lines were long, perhaps because the oil drop off was first in the layout.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that there was a backup because of the oil drop off location but that could have been bypassed if the resident was not dropping off oil. He commented that there has been discussion about moving that location, or if there was a public oil drop location in Ramsey, that would alleviate that backup.

Board Member Fetterley commented that was the weekend of the first city-wide garage sale as well, so perhaps that played into the lower attendance numbers. She commented that she believes that O'Reilly's also collects oil.

Board Member Salami asked if the event is open to only Ramsey residents or other residents.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that while the event is geared to Ramsey residents, the recycling coordinators work together within Anoka County and residents from those communities are able to attend the events in those cities.

- **Arbor Day Planting Recap – May 3, 2023 at North Commons**

Senior Planner Anderson commented that this was an Eagle Scout project that was completed and provided a recap of the event where six fruit trees were planted in North Commons.

- **Compost Bin Distribution Event – May 16, 2023, 3pm to 6 pm – Public Works Campus – 14199 Jasper St NW**

Senior Planner Anderson commented that there are 19 bins that have been sold which would leave a couple left. He stated that he may post something on the City website offering the last few for sale.

- **June EPB Meeting – Reschedule due to Juneteenth holiday (MN adopted and could potentially go into effect yet in 2023); Staff suggests June 12th as the alternative date**

Senior Planner Anderson suggested rescheduling the June meeting from June 19th to June 12th. The Board agreed. It was noted that if a quorum could not be obtained for that date, staff would work to find a different date.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

Dana Verbeek
Planning Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.