

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Environmental Policy Board (EPB)
Monday, November 20, 2023
6:30 pm
Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

Remote Attendance available at www.cityoframsey.com/meetings.
Those joining remotely and requesting to speak are asked to use a webcam when speaking.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Citizen Input**

3. **Approve Agenda**

4. **Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve Meeting Minutes Dated August 21, 2023

5. **Policy Board Business**
 1. Consider Natural Resources Aspects of Proposed Site Plan and Plat for Storyteller Cafe (Project No. 23-118); Case of Stories Foundation
 2. Update on Water Efficiency Grant Program
 3. Consider the Environmental Policy Board Meeting Calendar for 2024

6. **Board/Staff Input**

7. **Adjournment**

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

Meeting Date: 11/20/2023

Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:

Information

Title:

Approve Meeting Minutes Dated August 21, 2023

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to approve the August 21, 2023 Environmental Policy Board meeting minutes.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approving the meeting minutes dated August 21, 2023.

Outcome/Action:

Motion to approve meeting minutes dated August 21, 2023.

Attachments

Meeting Minutes Dated August 21, 2023

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 11/16/2023

Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Date

11/16/2023 09:00 AM

Started On: 11/14/2023 12:44 PM

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

On Monday, August 21, 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 Reid Bernard
 Board Member Thomas Hagerty
 Board Member Mike Heifner
 Board Member Hassan Salami
 Board Member Jessica Vikander

Members Absent: Board Member Melissa Fetterley

Also Present: Senior Planner Chris Anderson
 Councilmember Woestehoff

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 Salami to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated June 12, 2023

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Bernard to approve the regular meeting minutes dated June 12, 2023.

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

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Natural Resources Aspects of Proposed Site Plan for Jam Hops at 14165 Ramsey Boulevard NW (Project No. 23-113)

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received an application from Kinghorn Construction on behalf of Jam Hops for Site Plan review of a proposed new indoor commercial recreation facility located at Ramsey Boulevard NW. Jam Hops is currently operating in a building just across the border in Anoka, however, they have been informed that they will need to vacate their existing building. This site remains convenient for existing clients while also providing an opportunity to grow the business. The subject property is currently owned by the City and the applicant is working with the City's Economic Development Manager on the land sale.

Board Member Salami asked if the applicant could be required to plant more trees once the highway project is completed.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the City would not come back to the business after this review and approval process to require additional trees. He stated that the recommendation in this review would be the final landscaping recommendations. He stated that it is his understanding that there will not be any impact to this property as a result of the highway project. He stated that the applicant and county are communicating to determine the location of the retaining wall to determine how that will interact with this site.

Motion by Board Member Salami and seconded by Board Member Vikander to recommend approval of the Tree Preservation and Landscape Plans, contingent upon compliance with staff's review comments.

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

5.02: Consider the Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the Haviland Fields Project Located at 14501 Nowthen Boulevard NW (Project No. 23-110); Case of Presbyterian Homes Housing and Assisted Living

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that Presbyterian Homes Housing and Assisted Living is contemplating a potential residential development of the Lord of Life Lutheran Church property located at 14501 Nowthen Boulevard NW. The church would remain, but the two existing single-family homes would be removed. Per Minnesota Rules 4410, any proposed project consisting of 375 or more attached units is subject to an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). The conceptual development consists of 476 dwelling units (split between 22 townhouse units and three multi-family buildings). On August 8, 2023, the City Council denied the applicant's request for financial assistance (TIF) and the developer is currently rethinking funding strategies. However, an EAW is a planning document not intended to be used to approve or deny a project. Additionally, EAWs are valid for five years, so should construction costs decrease, it is possible that this project could proceed without funding assistance. Thus, it makes sense to complete the review of the EAW should the applicant decide to move forward without assistance in the future.

Chairperson Moore commented that she appreciated receiving the EAW in July as it was a long document and that allowed more time for review. She stated that she does not have any comments that she would like recorded with the document. She confirmed that no members of the Board had comments to submit.

5.03: Consider Multiple Grant Opportunities Related to Community Forestry Activities

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the purpose of the case is to review and consider two Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) grant opportunities available through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). One is a shade tree program bonding grant and the other is a ReLeaf community forestry grant. There is approximately \$10,000,000 available through the bonding grant program and a little less than \$7,000,000 via the ReLeaf grant program. The two grant programs are fairly similar (intentionally designed this way to simplify and streamline applying for both grants) in terms of eligible/ineligible expenses and timeframes.

Chairperson Moore asked if the funds could be used on any services if approved, such as hiring a contractor or placing additional staff in the parks department, or whether the funds could only be used for planting trees.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that funds could be used to hire a contractor as long as the contractor has certified professional staff. He stated that the funds could also be used to certify City staff as tree inspectors or arborists.

Chairperson Moore asked if EAB treatment would be ongoing and whether funds could be set aside to pay for those treatments for multiple years.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that treatment would not have to be continued for the life of the tree. He stated that if a round of injections were done in 2024, they could also do another round of injections in 2025 or 2026. He noted that most treatments are annual or biannual. He stated that once they are outside of that four-year grant window, it would be the decision of the City whether to continue with treatments at its own cost.

Chairperson Moore asked if this grant would only apply to trees on public property or whether funds could be used for trees on private property.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the intention is to focus on public land. He noted that the grant does have a provision that would qualify certain properties that qualify as low income but noted that the City would intend to focus on public land and rights-of-way.

Chairperson Moore asked if the City would be willing to look into spaces that are not a park, but are City owned.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the City owns quite a bit of land, noting that a handful is dedicated parkland but currently unimproved. He stated that could potentially be explored but some of the challenges with those unimproved parks is the difficulty in the survival of trees in those locations. He stated that they have done plantings in unimproved park lands before, but it

was not successful due to lack of irrigation and challenges with animals. He stated that they could look at those opportunities if grant funds are received.

Board Member Heifner asked the average grant award amount.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the maximum grant award is \$500,000. He commented that there is not a grant minimum.

Board Member Vikander asked if a plan would be written as to how the funds would be spent if this is approved by the Board and the City Council.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that would be part of the grant application.

Board Member Vikander asked if that plan would be brought back for review.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the grant deadline occurs prior to the next Board meeting. He stated that he could send out a copy of the plan once completed if the Board is interested in reviewing the document.

Councilmember Woestehoff noted the mention of right-of-way and asked if the intention would be to handle trees that are within the right-of-way as that would also assist property owners.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that trees within the right-of-way are the responsibility of the City and therefore these funds could be used to manage the trees within those corridors.

Councilmember Woestehoff referenced the 20/10/5 formula mentioned in one of the applications and asked how the City compares to that currently.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that is not specific to City land and applies to the overall makeup of the city. He noted that three species that would not be eligible for purchase with grant funds. He commented that the state is encouraging some species for a trial because of the warmer climate that has been experienced. He noted that if those trees do well, the City could incorporate those into the preferred tree list.

Board Member Vikander asked if the City would be requesting the maximum grant amount or whether that amount is yet to be determined.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that he would not want to request more than could be accomplished. He noted that once the plan is developed, he would have the target amount but did not believe it would be close to the maximum amount of \$500,000.

Motion by Board Member Bernard and seconded by Board Member Vikander to recommend that City Council support staff preparing and submitting applications for both grant programs.

Further discussion: Board Member Salami stated that he would like to see the City experience the benefit of the grant funds and is interested to see the plan in more detail.

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

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Planting Event: Pollinator Garden Planting Update**

Senior Planner Anderson commented that there was a pollinator project partially implemented along Veterans Drive, converting that into a native landscape/pollinator setting. He stated that the timing did not work out for a planting event in the spring because and therefore there is a planting opportunity the Board could participate in the night of the September meeting, prior to the meeting time. He noted that the planting would likely begin around 5 or 5:30 and they would still begin the meeting at 6:30. He commented that the Board is not required to participate but is invited to do so.

Chairperson Moore commented that she will plan to attend the event.

- **Other**

Senior Planner Anderson stated that the curbside recycling held August 1st through August 15th has wrapped up and seemed to be a success. He noted that the vendor handled all calls and payments, noting that over 10 tons of material was picked up curbside during the event. He believed that they would pursue this again next year.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

Dana Verbeek
Planning Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**Meeting Date:** 11/20/2023**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Promote economic growth and development.**Information****Title:**

Consider Natural Resources Aspects of Proposed Site Plan and Plat for Storyteller Cafe (Project No. 23-118);
Case of Stories Foundation

Purpose/Background:

The City has received an application from Stories Foundation (the "Applicant") for Site Plan and Final Plat consideration for a proposed 3-story building located at the southeast corner of Yolite Street and Sunwood Drive (the "Subject Property"). This project was originally reviewed and approved in 2021 (with contingencies, including plan revisions). However, those approvals have since expired.

Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:**Project Summary**

The Applicant is proposing a 3-story building that would include both restaurant/cafe and retail space on the first floor, office space and three (3) apartments on the second floor, and a rooftop deck on the third floor. The proposed building would be approximately 6,900 square feet in size, with parking on the south side, and the potential for a ground floor patio area along Sunwood Drive. The proposal is very similar to what was previously approved (including previously identified plan revisions that have now been incorporated).

Natural Resources Information

The City's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) does not identify any native plant communities on the Subject Property. Furthermore, the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) does not identify any significant vegetative cover on site either. The Subject Property is categorized as 'Urban with Little Vegetative Cover' within the MLCCS. Per the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), there are no wetlands present. Finally, there are no floodplain designations on the Subject Property.

Tree Inventory and Preservation Plan

There are no existing trees on the Subject Property. Therefore, there is no tree inventory or preservation requirements.

Landscaping

The submittal does include a Landscape Plan. However, the Landscape Plan layout does not match that of the current Site Plan. The plantings include a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees, some shrubs, as well as perennial and decorative plantings. Revisions to the plan are required as there are no streetscape plantings along Yolite Street, nor is there any screening of the parking lot along Veterans Drive or Yolite Street. There are also other more minor revisions needed as outlined in the attached Landscape Plan.

As the Environmental Policy Board knows, the COR Design Framework puts a greater emphasis on streetscape plantings than plantings internal to a site. Furthermore, there are specific species 'pools' to choose from depending on the classification of the street (Yolite Street is classified as a Local Street in the Framework). When Yolite Street was constructed, Accolade Elms were planted on the west side. Accolade Elms should now be installed in the boulevard along the east side of Yolite Street to create a symmetric appearance.

The COR Design Framework also stresses a build-to line rather than a more traditional setback. The purpose is to have buildings near the right-of-way boundary to encourage more pedestrian-oriented development rather than

parking lots. When there are multiple frontages, such as the case with this project, the COR Design Framework states that screening, such as a decorative wall, railing, hedge, or some combination thereof, shall be installed. The Landscape Plan must be revised to include screening along Veterans Drive as well as a portion of Yolite Street.

Funding Source:

The Applicant is responsible for all costs associated with this application.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the Landscape Plan contingent upon compliance with Staff's review comments.

Outcome/Action:

Motion to recommend approval of the Landscape Plan, contingent upon compliance with Staff's review comments.

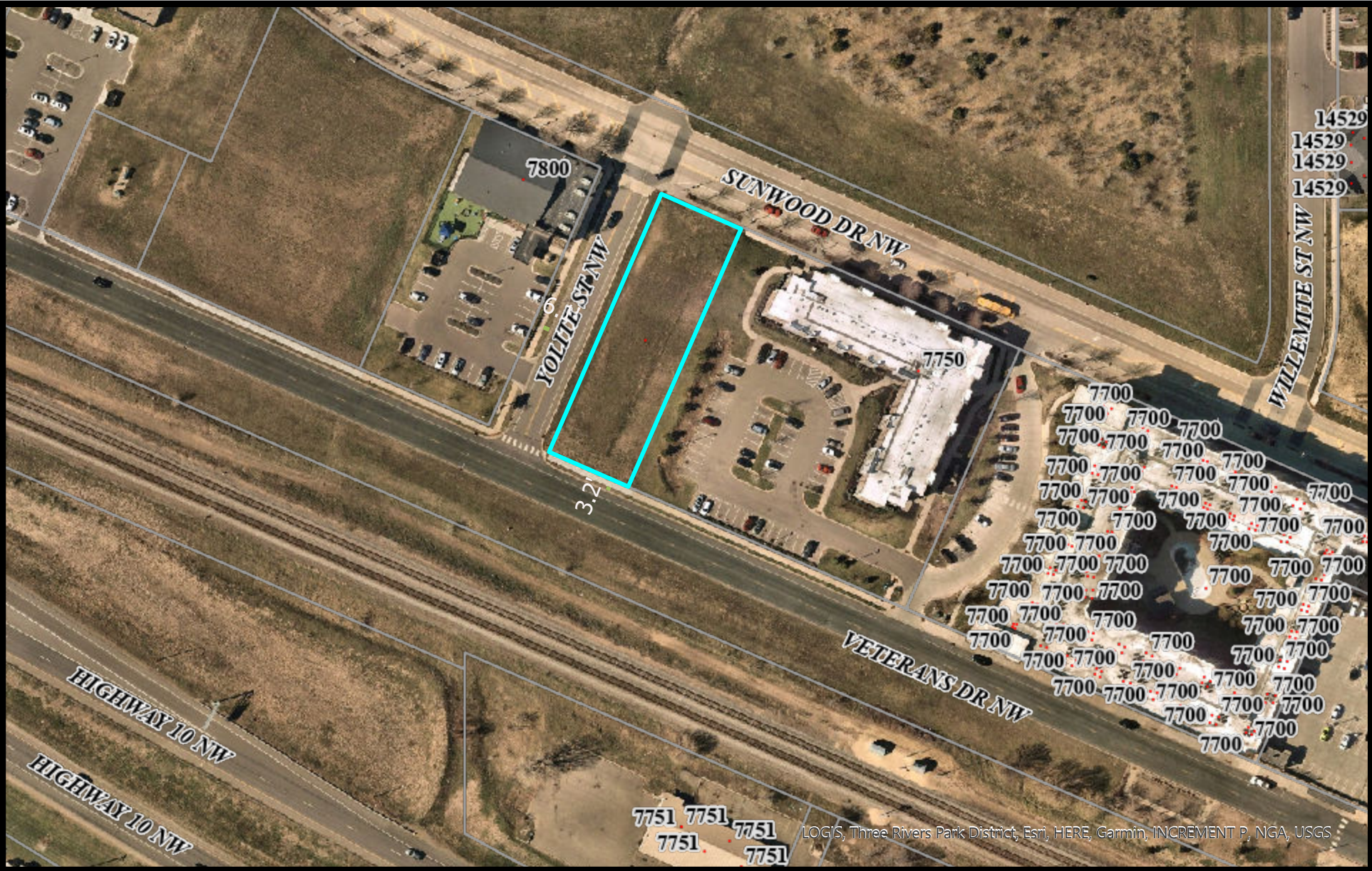
Attachments

Site Location Map
Site Plan
Final Plat
Color Rendering
Landscape and Lighting Plan with Changemarks

Form Review

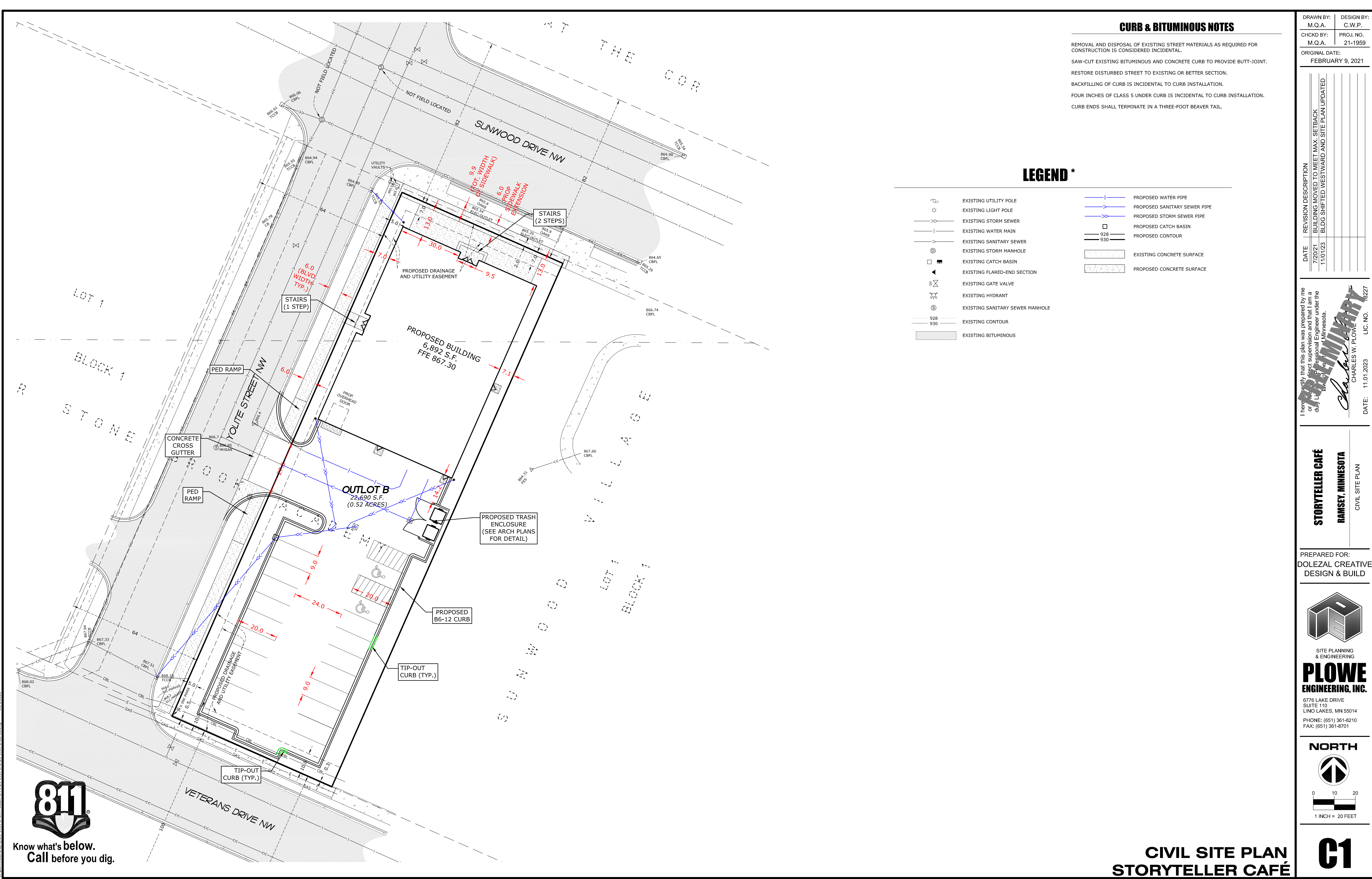
Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Brian Hagen	Brian Hagen	11/16/2023 08:59 AM
Form Started By: Chris Anderson		Started On: 11/13/2023 10:28 AM
Final Approval Date: 11/16/2023		

Site Location Map for Storyteller Cafe



Print Date: September 20, 2023

0.00 0.01 0.03 0.04 0.06 mi



CURB & BITUMINOUS NOTES

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF EXISTING STREET MATERIALS AS REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION IS CONSIDERED INCIDENTAL.
 SAW-CUT EXISTING BITUMINOUS AND CONCRETE CURB TO PROVIDE BUTT-JOINT.
 RESTORE DISTURBED STREET TO EXISTING OR BETTER SECTION.
 BACKFILLING OF CURB IS INCIDENTAL TO CURB INSTALLATION.
 FOUR INCHES OF CLASS 5 UNDER CURB IS INCIDENTAL TO CURB INSTALLATION.
 CURB ENDS SHALL TERMINATE IN A THREE-FOOT BEAVER TAIL.

LEGEND *

- EXISTING UTILITY POLE
- EXISTING LIGHT POLE
- EXISTING STORM SEWER
- EXISTING WATER MAIN
- EXISTING SANITARY SEWER
- EXISTING STORM MANHOLE
- EXISTING CATCH BASIN
- EXISTING FLARED-END SECTION
- EXISTING GATE VALVE
- EXISTING HYDRANT
- EXISTING SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE
- EXISTING CONTOUR 928
- EXISTING CONTOUR 930
- EXISTING BITUMINOUS
- PROPOSED WATER PIPE
- PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER PIPE
- PROPOSED STORM SEWER PIPE
- PROPOSED CATCH BASIN
- PROPOSED CONTOUR 928
- PROPOSED CONTOUR 930
- EXISTING CONCRETE SURFACE
- PROPOSED CONCRETE SURFACE

DRAWN BY:	M.Q.A.	DESIGN BY:	C.W.P.
CHKD BY:	M.Q.A.	PROJ. NO.:	21-1959
ORIGINAL DATE:	FEBRUARY 9, 2021		
DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION		
7/20/21	BUILDING MOVED TO MEET MAX. SETBACK		
11/01/23	BLOG SHIFTED WESTWARD AND SITE PLAN UPDATED		

I hereby certify that this plan was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly Licensed Professional Engineer under the laws of the State of Minnesota.
Charles W. Plowe
 CHARLES W. PLOWE
 LIC. NO. 16227
 DATE: 11.01.2023

STORYTELLER CAFE
 RAMSEY, MINNESOTA
 CIVIL SITE PLAN

PREPARED FOR:
 DOLEZAL CREATIVE
 DESIGN & BUILD

SITE PLANNING & ENGINEERING
PLOWE ENGINEERING, INC.
 6776 LAKE DRIVE
 SUITE 110
 LINO LAKES, MN 55014
 PHONE: (651) 361-8210
 FAX: (651) 361-8701

NORTH

 0 10 20
 1 INCH = 20 FEET

C1

811
 Know what's below.
 Call before you dig.

**CIVIL SITE PLAN
 STORYTELLER CAFE**

S:\Drawings\21\1959\STORYTELLER CAFE\21-1959 SITE PLAN.dwg 11/2/2023

STORYTELLER CAFE ADDITION

City of Ramsey
County of Anoka
Section 28, T32, R25

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS: That the City of Ramsey, a Minnesota municipal corporation, owner of the following described property situated in the City of Ramsey, County of Anoka, State of Minnesota:

Outlot B, COR STONE BROOK ACADEMY, Anoka County, Minnesota.

Has caused the same to be surveyed and platted as STORYTELLER CAFE ADDITION and does hereby dedicate to the public for public use the drainage and utility easements as shown by this plat.

In witness whereof said City of Ramsey, a Minnesota municipal corporation, has caused these presents to be signed by its proper officers this ___ day of _____, 20__.

By _____ By _____

Mayor Clerk

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF _____

This instrument was acknowledged before me this ___ day of _____, 20__ by _____, as Mayor and _____, as City Clerk, of the City of Ramsey, a Minnesota municipal corporation, on behalf of the corporation.

(Signature)

(Print Name)
Notary Public, _____ County, Minnesota
My Commission Expires _____

I Jason E. Rud do hereby certify that this plat was prepared by me or under my direct supervision; that I am a duly Licensed Land Surveyor in the State of Minnesota; that this plat is a correct representation of the boundary survey; that all mathematical data and labels are correctly designated on this plat; that all monuments depicted on this plat have been, or will be correctly set within one year; that all water boundaries and wet lands, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 505.01, Subd. 3, as of the date of this certificate are shown and labeled on this plat; and all public ways are shown and labeled on this plat.

Dated this ___ day of _____, 20__.

Jason E. Rud, Licensed Land Surveyor
Minnesota License No. 41578

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF _____

This instrument was acknowledged before me this ___ day of _____, 20__ by Jason E. Rud.

(Signature)

(Print Name)
Notary Public, _____ County, Minnesota
My Commission Expires _____

CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF RAMSEY, MINNESOTA

This plat of STORYTELLER CAFE ADDITION was approved and accepted by the City Council of the City of Ramsey, Minnesota at a regular meeting thereof held this ___ day of _____, 20__, and said plat is in compliance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 505.03, Subd. 2.

By _____ Mayor By _____ Clerk

COUNTY SURVEYOR

I hereby certify that in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 505.021, Subd. 11, this plat has been reviewed and approved this ___ day of _____, 20__.

David M. Ziegmeier
Anoka County Surveyor

COUNTY AUDITOR/TREASURER

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 505.021, Subd. 9, taxes payable in the year 20__ on the land hereinbefore described have been paid. Also, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 272.12, there are no delinquent taxes and transfer entered this ___ day of _____, 20__.

Property Tax Administrator

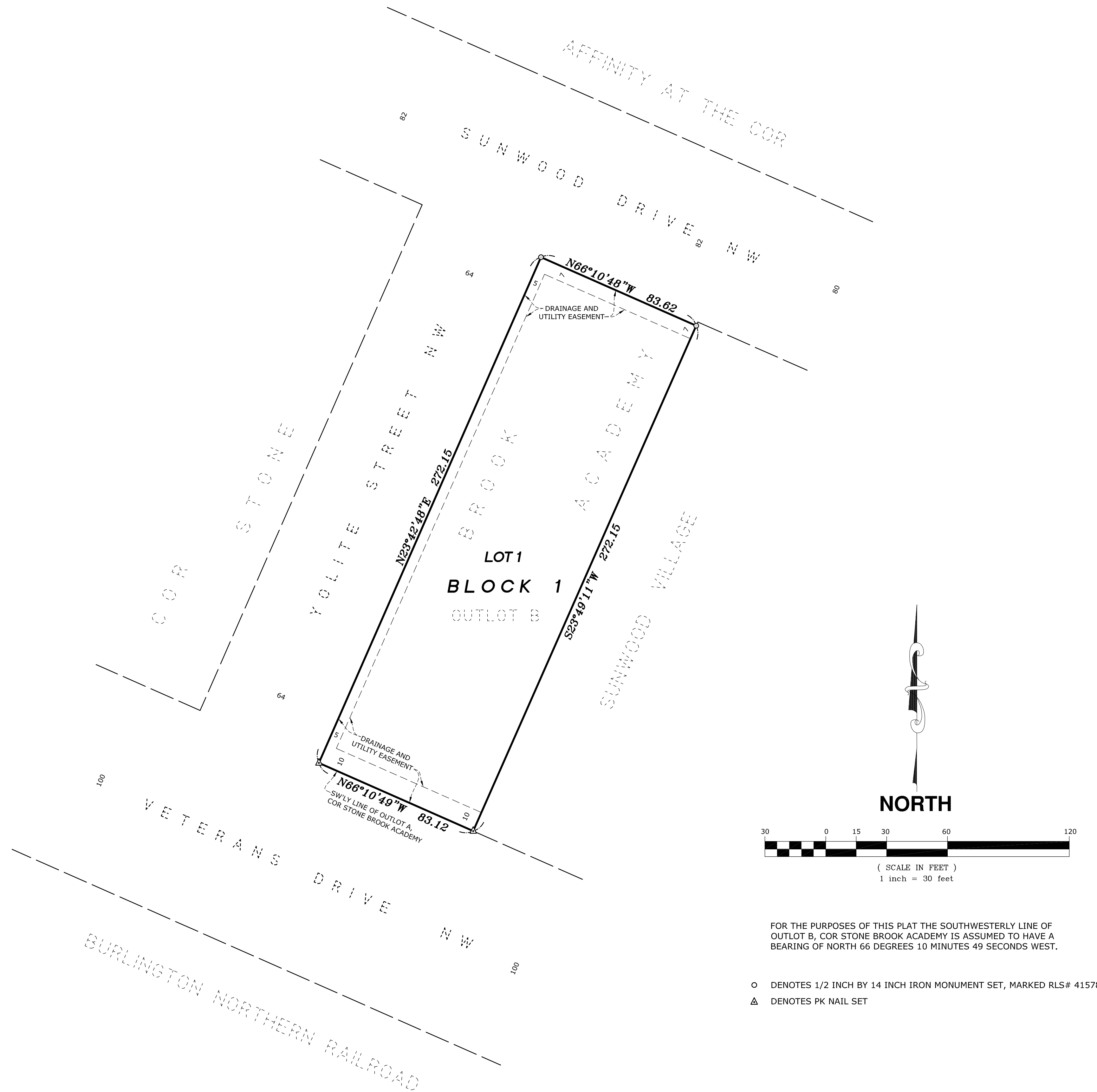
By _____, Deputy

COUNTY RECORDER/REGISTRAR OF TITLES
COUNTY OF ANOKA, STATE OF MINNESOTA

I hereby certify that this plat of STORYTELLER CAFE ADDITION was filed in the office of the County Recorder/Registrar of Titles for public record on this ___ day of _____, 20__, o'clock __M. and was duly recorded in Book _____ Page _____, as Document Number _____.

County Recorder/Registrar of Titles

By _____, Deputy

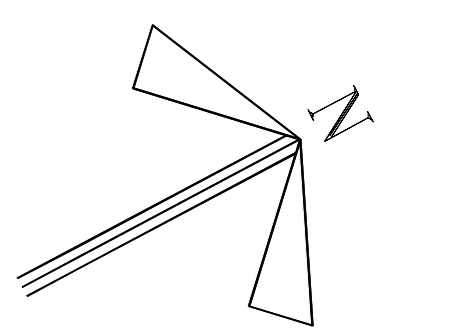


FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PLAT THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF OUTLOT B, COR STONE BROOK ACADEMY IS ASSUMED TO HAVE A BEARING OF NORTH 66 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 49 SECONDS WEST.

- DENOTES 1/2 INCH BY 14 INCH IRON MONUMENT SET, MARKED RLS# 41578
- △ DENOTES PK NAIL SET



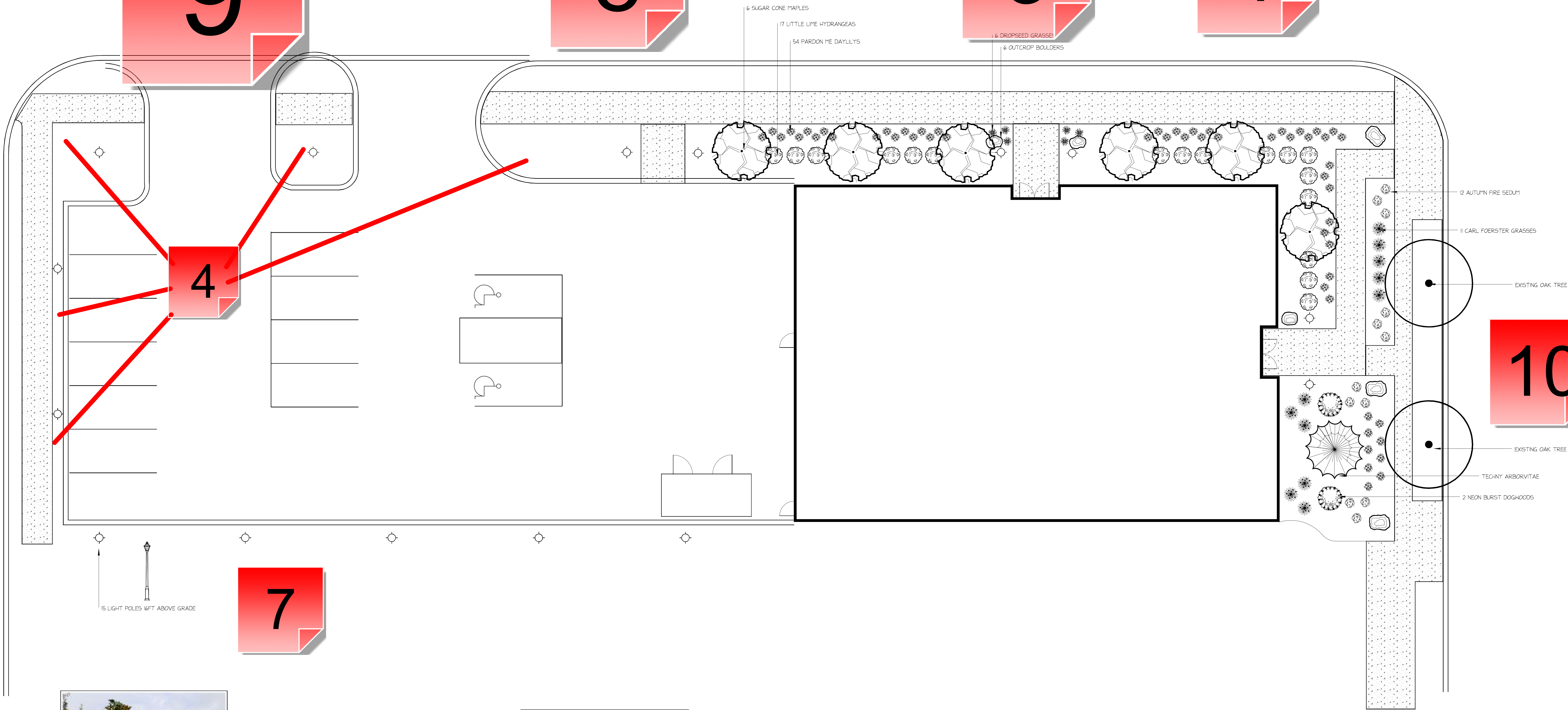
STORYTELLER CAFE



SCALE IN FEET
NORTH



STORYTELLER CAFE
RAMSEY, MN
SCALE 1"=8'
DATE 9/14/2023
DRAWING #



SUGAR CONE MAPLE



LITTLE LIME HYDRANGEA



PARDON ME DAYLILY



PRAIRIE DROPSEED



NEON BURST DOGWOOD



TECHNY ARBORVITAE



KARLFOERSTER

1 - Boulevard Width

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/08/2023 03:43 PM

Update to reflect blvd width of 6 feet.

----- 0 Replies -----

2 - Does Not Match Site Plan

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/08/2023 03:44 PM

The Landscape Plan layout must be updated to match that of the Site Plan.

----- 0 Replies -----

3 - Streetscape

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/08/2023 03:45 PM

Need to provide street trees at a spacing of 30-35 feet on center. Species shall be Accolade Elm to match plantings on west side of Yolite Street. Keep trees out of the vision clearance triangle as defined here:

https://library.municode.com/mn/ramsey/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOR_CH117Z_OSU_ARTIIZO_DIV6PEST_SDIINGE_S117-348NEERBULOGREL

----- 0 Replies -----

4 - Screening

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/08/2023 03:50 PM

Per the Design Framework, screening is required to screen the parking area from Veterans Drive. Screening shall consist of a decorative wall, railing, hedge, or a combination thereof, and shall be between 3 feet and 4.5 feet.

[https://www.ci.ramsey.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/669/The-COR-Design-Framework-PDF?bidId=#page=\[134\]](https://www.ci.ramsey.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/669/The-COR-Design-Framework-PDF?bidId=#page=[134])

----- 0 Replies -----

5 - Species Pallet

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/08/2023 03:54 PM

Please provide a species pallet or planting schedule that identifies species, quantities, sizes, and root stock.

----- 0 Replies -----

6 - Planting Detail

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/08/2023 03:54 PM

Please provide a Planting Detail for both trees and shrubs.

----- 0 Replies -----

7 - Spec Sheet

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/13/2023 12:26 PM

Please provide a spec sheet or cut sheet on the proposed lights.

----- 0 Replies -----

8 - Boulevard Ground Cover

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/14/2023 09:58 AM

Boulevards along Yolite Street and Veterans Drive shall be finished with add. Please add label to Landscape Plan.

----- 0 Replies -----

9 - Topsoil

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/14/2023 10:00 AM

4 inches of topsoil, with no more than 35% sand content, is required over all disturbed areas nor otherwise finished with impervious surfacing. Add note to Landscape Plan.

----- 0 Replies -----

10 - Protect Existing Streetscape

Created by: Chris Anderson
On: 11/14/2023 10:01 AM

Physical barriers shall be in place to protect existing streetscape.

----- 0 Replies -----

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**Meeting Date:** 11/20/2023**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Identify and implement operational efficiencies, cost savings and additional funding sources.**Information****Title:**

Update on Water Efficiency Grant Program

Purpose/Background:

In 2022, the City of Ramsey was awarded \$19,800 in grant funding, through the Metropolitan Council, to implement a rebate program for certain water-efficient devices. The program went into effect July 1, 2022, and runs through June 30, 2024 (or until grant funds are exhausted if that is sooner). Eligible replacement devices include WaterSense® certified irrigation controllers and toilets, as well as Energy Star® certified dishwashers and washing machines. All City of Ramsey water customers that are current on their utility account are eligible to apply for a rebate of up to \$200, per eligible device, with a maximum cap of \$500 per address (rebate cannot exceed the cost of the device). As of November 14, 2023, approximately \$13,000 in rebates have been issued. This opportunity has been promoted through the City's website, social media, Ramsey Resident, Ramsey Recycler, and on the City's dynamic display sign along Highway 10 and seems to be appreciated by residents. Staff will continue to promote this opportunity throughout the remainder of the grant cycle to ideally fully exhaust the grant funds.

Funding Source:

Funding for the Water Efficiency Grant Program consists of three sources: the grant award from the Metropolitan Council, the City's required 20% match comes from the City's Water Fund, and rebate recipients cover the sales tax on the purchase of the device (thus satisfying the requirement for the rebate participant to have a financial contribution in the program) plus any amount that exceeds the per device cap.

Recommendation:

Should the Metropolitan Council offer this type of grant funding in the future, Staff would recommend submitting a new application.

Outcome/Action:

This case is really meant to serve more as an update on this grant program. However, if the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) supports this program, a motion to recommend that Staff pursue additional water efficiency grant funds, should there be another grant cycle, would be helpful. Staff can provide an update to the EPB if this opportunity arises in the future and if there are any program changes (e.g. additional eligible devices) as well.

Attachments*No file(s) attached.***Form Review**

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Brian Hagen	Brian Hagen	11/16/2023 09:00 AM
Form Started By: Chris Anderson		Started On: 11/14/2023 11:44 AM
Final Approval Date: 11/16/2023		

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**Meeting Date:** 11/20/2023**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Not Applicable**Information****Title:**

Consider the Environmental Policy Board Meeting Calendar for 2024

Purpose/Background:

Annually, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) reviews their meeting schedule and identifies alternate meeting dates when there is a conflict, such as with a holiday in which city offices are closed or if there is a date that multiple board members identify as problematic. Attached is the 2024 meeting schedule. The January and February meeting dates will need to be adjusted due to the Martin Luther King Jr and Presidents Day holidays (city offices are closed). The remainder of the year, it does not appear that there are any other conflicts. The EPB will need to select either January 8 or January 22, 2024 as the January meeting date and either February 12 or February 26, 2024 for the February meeting date. The meetings will still be held in the Council Chambers and will begin at 6:30pm.

Recommendation:

Identify alternate meeting dates for the January and February EPB meetings and approve the 2024 meeting calendar.

Outcome/Action:

Motion to approve the 2024 meeting calendar with the January meeting held on [January 8 or January 22] and the February meeting held on [February 12 or February 26].

Attachments

2024 Meeting Schedule

Form Review**Inbox**

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 11/16/2023

Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Date

11/16/2023 08:59 AM

Started On: 11/13/2023 01:15 PM

Meeting Date	Alternate Date 1	Alternate Date 2
January 15, 2024 (MLK Day)	January 8, 2024	January 22, 2024
February 19, 2024 (Presidents Day)	February 12, 2024	February 26, 2024
March 18, 2024		
April 15, 2024		
May 20, 2024		
June 17, 2024		
July 15, 2024		
August 19, 2024		
September 16, 2024		
October 21, 2024		
November 18, 2024		
December 16, 2024		