

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

On Monday, February 12, 2024, 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 Melissa Fetterley  
                          Board Member Thomas Hagerty  
                          Board Member Mike Heifner  
                          Board Member Hassan Salami  
                          Board Member Jessica Vikander

Members Absent:     None

Also Present:         Senior Planner Chris Anderson  
                          City Council Liaison Matt 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 Fetterley to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated November 20, 2023**

Motion by Board Member Bernard and seconded by Board Member Salami to approve the regular meeting minutes dated November 20, 2023.

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

## **5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Consider Natural Resources Elements of the Harmony Farms Preliminary Plat (Project No. 23-111); Case of U.S. Home LLC dba Lennar**

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received an application from Lennar for Preliminary Plat review of a proposed single family residential development north of 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue and east of Nowthen Boulevard on Outlots B & C, Harmony Farms.

Chairperson Moore referenced the concern from the neighboring residents related to screening and recognized the plantings were suggested. She asked if noise canceling fencing had been considered.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the Planning Manager did make the comment to consider fencing along the back property line to assist with buffering noise and also providing a more consistent look along CR 5. He stated that the Code does not require that element and therefore it is more of a recommendation than a requirement.

Chairperson Moore referenced the comments received from the property to the east and asked if the property to the south expressed concern with the road running through their driveway(s).

Senior Planner Anderson stated that staff and the developer have reached out to those two property owners. He stated that those property owners have been made aware of the road location. He stated that the original Harmony Farms plat identified the road that would ultimately be developed, and the driveways would be reoriented. He explained that the improvement and relocation of the driveways would be at the expense of the developer and not those property owners.

Board Member Salami asked if the school would have need to expand to the southeast in the future.

Senior Planner Anderson commented that while he cannot speak to the needs of the school in the future, there is space on the school site where expansion could occur if that were necessary. He stated that the developer has been in contact with the School District in order to determine the best place for easement placement.

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

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

### **5.02: Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale and Distribution Event**

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) reached out to City staff about the possibility of the city serving as a distribution site again in 2024 for RAM's Rain Barrel and Compost Bin sales. He provided background information on the event, which the City has participated in during 2022 and 2023. Staff would

like to hold the distribution event earlier than in past years and has selected Wednesday, May 1, 2024 as the date for distribution. The distribution would run from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Public Works Campus.

Commissioner Heifner volunteered to assist with the distribution event. He asked if there is educational material that is provided to residents about composting.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that there is some educational material provided to those purchasing compost bins. He stated that for Ramsey residents he does provide more information on the organics drop off program. He noted that most residents just want to pop in to pick up their items.

## **6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT**

Senior Planner Anderson commented that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is in full swing, noting that Public Works has removed 12 to 24 ash trees recently and more have been marked for removal. He stated that staff is attempting to remove as many of the infected trees as possible before May 1<sup>st</sup> when the adult borers become active, and the spread can become worse. He stated that he receives about 12 calls a week from residents concerned with EAB infestation in their trees. He noted that he does meet with those residents to look at their trees and make the determination if desired. He commented that EAB has been found city-wide and commented that if residents desire protection of their ash trees, they should begin treatments as soon as leaf-on conditions begin.

Commissioner Heifner asked if the warmer weather will quicken the pace for that May 1<sup>st</sup> date.

Senior Planner Anderson commented that staff follows the U of M guidance, but confirmed that if the weather holds up with the warmer temps that will most certainly expedite that timeline.

Commissioner Fetterley commented that she did notice the stumps along Sunwood and asked if the stumps would also be removed and whether those trees would be replanted.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that staff would be grinding out those stumps along Sunwood and would replant where it makes sense. He commented that there are stretches where the boulevard is too narrow and trees should have never been planted to begin with. He commented that the City will utilize the community forestry fund for the trees that will be replanted. He noted that planting would likely not take place until the fall in order to better plan the replanting locations.

Senior Planner Anderson noted that at the next meeting will be elections for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and reminded the Board of the limitation for a member to only serve two consecutive terms as Chairperson. He noted that Chairperson Moore would then not be eligible for Chair for the next terms.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

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Dana Verbeek  
Planning Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*