

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

On Monday, July 15, 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 Melissa Fetterley
 Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Nick Burgess
 Board Member Thomas Hagerty
 Board Member Paula Houts
 Board Member Hassan Salami

Members Absent: Board Member Laura Moore

Also Present: Senior Planner Chris Anderson
 City Council Liaison Matt Woestehoff

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Fetterley 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 Fetterley, Board Member Bernard, Salami, Burgess, Hagerty, and Houts. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Moore.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated March 18, 2024

Motion by Board Member Bernard and seconded by Board Member Hagerty to approve the regular meeting minutes dated March 18, 2024.

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

Chairperson Fetterley introduced the two new members of the Board. All members of the Board introduced themselves.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Natural Resources Aspects of Site Plan for U-Haul (Project No. 24-115); Case of U-Haul

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City received a Land Use Application for U-Haul for a Conditional Use Permit for a proposed U-Haul Moving and Storage Facility, located at 8725 Riverdale Drive. The Business operation would include the following uses on site: self-storage, truck and trailer rental, and related retail sales.

Board Member Burgess asked if light pollution is considered for the adjacent residential development.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the existing screening on the south side of the road would address those concerns. He noted that the zoning code was recently updated, including lighting regulations.

Motion by Board Member Salami and seconded by Board Member Hagerty to recommend approval of the Landscape Plan, contingent upon compliance with staff's required corrections.

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

5.02: Consider Natural Resources Aspects of Site Plan for Voice of Hope Church (Project No. 24-114); Case of Voice of Hope Church

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City received a Land Use Application from Voice of Hope Church for review of a proposed Site Plan and Final Plat regarding the property located at 15620 Armstrong Boulevard NW.

Board Member Salami asked if there was a public hearing for this project to allow residents near this property to provide input.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that notices have been sent for the public hearing to be conducted by the Planning Commission at their July meeting. He acknowledged that the residential property to the north may not be thrilled with this use, but it is a permitted use within the zoning district.

Chairperson Fetterley referenced the areas to the northwest and south and commented that those areas appear to remain untouched. She asked if staff is satisfied that the trees proposed to add shade to the parking would be adequate and whether tree islands would be a good addition.

Senior Planner Anderson commented that there are trees around the perimeter which would meet the parking lot landscaping requirements. He stated that a recommendation for parking lot islands could be made, but explained that is a tough growing environment for a tree.

Chairperson Fetterley commented that there appears to be a significant area to the north and east of the church which will be seeded and perhaps those would be areas where native seeding would be a better option than grass.

Senior Planner Anderson commented that there are some areas proposed for native seeding, and he has requested a three-to-five-year maintenance plan for those areas. He was also unsure that a native seed mix would be a good fit for the septic area.

Board Member Houts asked for more details on the things that are exempt from the tree preservation requirements.

Senior Planner Anderson reviewed the different things that are exempt.

Board Member Bernard asked if there would be a trail connection in the north, connecting to the Itasca Trail.

Senior Planner Anderson commented that there is an outlot identified where the trail corridor could be located, but no trail would be constructed as part of this project.

Board Member Burgess asked for details on the commercial septic system and asked if there would be a sprinkler component.

Senior Planner Anderson commented that the building division reviews proposed septic systems. He noted that the system would need to meet the septic requirements.

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

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

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Curbside Recycling Event – August 5 – August 16**

Senior Planner Anderson provided details on the upcoming curbside recycling event which will take place August 5th through August 16th.

Senior Planner Anderson also provided details on the rain barrel and compost bin distribution event which took place on May 1st, noting that there are still barrels and compost bins available and staff will continue to promote the items on its website. He stated that the City will be requesting that Board Members alert staff one week in advance if they will not be able to attend a meeting, noting that there have been a few instances where there have not been enough Board Members for a quorum on the meeting night.

Chairperson Fetterley commented that she, Board Member Hagerty, and Councilmember Woestehoff participated in the tree planting in May. She stated that in June she attended an energy awareness event at Connexus and provided an update.

Board Member Hagerty apologized that he was unable to attend the June meeting and forgot to provide that notice to staff. He asked for an update on a native planting that was done last year.

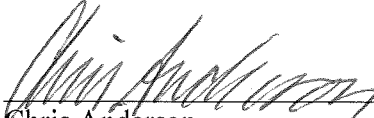
Senior Planner Anderson commented that planting was not as successful as had been hoped and provided additional details on the potential reasons. He also provided an update on Ash Tree removals.

7. ADJOURNMENT

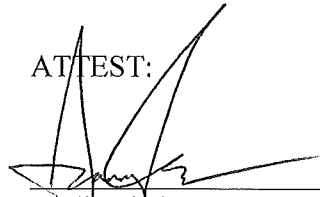
Motion by Board Member Salami and seconded by Board Member Hagerty to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Anderson
Senior Planner

ATTEST:


Abdi Sahal
Planning Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.