

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

On Monday, March 17, 2025, 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 Nick Burgess
 Board Member Thomas Hagerty
 Board Member Paula Houts
 Board Member Hassan Salami

Members Absent: Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Laura Moore

Also Present: Senior Planner Chris Anderson
 City Council Liaison Eric Peters

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 Houts and seconded by Board Member Burgess to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 10, 2025

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Salami to approve the regular meeting minutes dated February 10, 2025.

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

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Appoint Chair and Vice Chairperson

Senior Planner Anderson stated that annually a Chair and Vice-Chair are appointed.

Chairperson Fetterley commented that both she and Vice-Chair Moore would be willing to serve another term in their positions.

Chairperson Fetterley opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair.

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Burgess to appoint Melissa Fetterley as Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board.

There were no other nominations.

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

Chairperson Fetterley opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Salami to appoint Laura Moore as Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board.

There were no other nominations.

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

5.02: Consider the Natural Resources Aspects of a Site Plan for a Parking Lot Expansion at 7900 Riverdale Drive (Project No. 250102); Case of Pleasureland RV

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received a land use application from Pleasureland RV Center – North Metro for a proposed parking lot expansion at 7900 Riverdale Drive NW. Part of this project also includes connecting the building to the City’s sanitary sewer and municipal water systems. If the subject property did not abut land with existing residential uses, this would have qualified for an Administrative Site Plan Review.

Board Member Burgess asked and received confirmation that there is an existing stormwater basin at the southeastern corner. He asked if that is, or would be tied into the stormwater system.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that basin is already tied into the stormwater system. He explained that the new basin is needed to manage the additional impervious surface that would be added.

Councilmember Peters asked if there would be a light survey completed.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that there is existing lighting on the site and with the zoning code update from just over a year ago, a photometric plan will need to be submitted. He explained that this request has come forward in the past, noting that this is a resubmission of the 2018 plans. The

applicant has been made aware of the new requirement for the photometric plan, and they are currently working on that item.

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Salami to recommend approval of the natural resources aspects of the Site Plan contingent upon staff's review comments.

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

5.03: Consider the Natural Resources Aspects of a Ground-Mounted Solar Energy System Proposed at the Closed Landfill (Project No. 25-100)

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received a land use application from Cedar Creek Energy to construct a ground-mounted solar energy system on two parcels (PID #27-32-25-14-0003 & 27-32-25-11-0004) on the closed landfill site. The State of Minnesota, as the property owner, has joined in the application.

Board Member Burgess recognized the intentions of the applicant to relocate trees on the site and asked if those trees would be replaced if they did not survive.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that he would work with planning staff to include that condition in the development agreement.

Chairperson Fetterley stated that she likes the concept of relocating trees and the added condition to ensure survival or replacement. She asked if there would need to be more buffering along Sunwood.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that there is a natural berm and a significant stand of trees that also provide screening.

Board Member Hagerty asked if the sidewalk would go down the middle of the panels.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that there are no internal sidewalks proposed for this site. He stated that there is an interior service road used by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for accessing the landfill.

Chairperson Fetterley commented that she is excited about the project for both the solar power that will be generated as well as the pollinator-friendly plantings that will be added.

Motion by Board Member Burgess and seconded by Board Member Hagerty to recommend approval of the natural resources aspects of this Site Plan.

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

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Arbor Month Planting Activity**

Senior Planner Anderson provided additional details on the planting activity being proposed and hoped that members of the EPB and Parks and Recreation Commission would participate in the activity. He noted that the event would qualify for the Tree City USA recertification and would also help to address replacing lost canopy cover due to the continued removal of EAB infested ash trees.

Chairperson Fetterley commented that this is a great idea and asked the number of trees that are anticipated to be planted.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the intention would be to replant the same number of trees that were removed. He noted that he would assess the site to ensure there is sufficient spacing and that trees would not block sightlines. He estimated that six or seven trees would be planted. He stated that staff are still discussing whether the holes would be dug prior to the event to make the process run smoother.

Senior Planner Anderson commented that at the April meeting, the group will be discussing outdoor wood boilers, which can be used for heating in the winter months. He stated that the City has received some complaints and therefore they will be reviewing the current regulations.

Councilmember Peters stated that he has not thought about this in the past when he has seen them. He stated that he received a complaint and visited the property of the person who made the complaint and he immediately noticed a burnt plastic smell. He stated that there is an education piece needed for these systems. He stated that they want to maintain the rural character of the city while also ensuring that they are not allowing something that could be toxic. He stated that the Council does want the input of the advisory commissions and boards and suggested that perhaps the members of the Board review information on the systems prior to the next meeting.

Chairperson Fetterley asked if a permit is required to have this system, which would allow the City to track where these are being used.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that it is his understanding that a mechanical permit is required, but acknowledged that he is unaware of whether permits have been properly obtained for any of the existing wood boilers.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Board Member Houts and seconded by Board Member Burgess to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

Katie Schmidt
City Clerk

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.