

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

On Monday, November 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 Reid Bernard  
                            Board Member Nick Burgess  
                            Board Member Thomas Hagerty  
                            Board Member Paula Houts  
                            Board Member Laura Moore  
                            Board Member Hassan Salami

Members Absent:     None

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 Bernard and seconded by Board Member Moore to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated October 20, 2025**

Motion by Board Member Moore and seconded by Board Member Bernard to approve the regular meeting minutes dated October 20, 2025.

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

**5.     POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

## **5.01: Review Draft Ordinance Amendment Related to Alternative Landscapes**

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the draft ordinance is related to the installation and/or maintenance of an alternative landscape. The EPB has previously provided feedback and input in terms of what should be included in updated regulations. Staff has attempted to incorporate that input and feedback into the draft Ordinance Amendment.

Board Member Hagerty appreciated the setback that was incorporated along with the signage requirement.

Chairperson Fetterley appreciated the clarification on what a resident would need to include in their management plan.

Board Member Moore stated that she works with people in other communities to develop alternative landscapes and had some concern with the language requiring establishment within three years, noting that it can often take five years.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that if there is hesitation on that, he would prefer to rethink the language used. He noted that Board Member Moore could also provide draft language that he could circulate via email to the Board for consensus.

Board Member Moore referenced a scenario in which a five-year timeline was identified within a management plan.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that if the language is adopted as presented, he would not have the authority to deviate from that timeline.

Board Member Bernard stated that he did not want to change the three-year timeline, but perhaps the establishment threshold could be changed, using the example of requiring 75 percent establishment at the three-year mark. He believed people would take advantage of a five-year timeline.

Chairperson Fetterley stated that she does not have the expertise to make that decision, but recognized that a deadline should be included. She stated that perhaps Board Member Moore could bring back additional documentation on this topic, given her expertise.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that perhaps he and Board Member Moore could work together to develop a solution to that uncertainty. He stated that he could either bring that back at a future meeting or send the proposed language in a blind copy email to the Board for consensus, as this is the only item being questioned in the amendment.

Board Member Moore confirmed that she could work with staff on that language.

Councilmember Peters noted the cost for the variance process and urged the Board to stay away from things that would require residents to apply for variances for this type of project.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that if someone wants to do a pocket pollinator garden, this would not apply, noting that this would apply to someone wanting to convert their entire yard or backyard. He asked if that should be clarified within the ordinance.

Chairperson Fetterley agreed that should be clarified. She asked if there would be a size threshold identified.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that he did not have a size threshold in mind to use.

Board Member Moore agreed that if a size threshold were identified, that would make things clearer and avoid the need for variances for most residents.

Board Member Bernard suggested that the exempt size be kept small, such as ten-by-ten.

Board Member Moore acknowledged that there are many different-sized yards in Ramsey, so a ten-by-ten may be appropriate for a small yard, but may not be large enough for a large yard.

Chairperson Fetterley clarified that the requirement for establishment within three years should be reviewed for alternative language, and a list/size for exemptions should also be identified. She confirmed that this item would return to the Board at a future meeting.

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

Senior Planner Anderson stated that he has been working with Anoka County on a couple future events, including both a Fix-It Clinic and a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event to be held concurrently on June 6, 2025, at the Public Works Facility. The events will be marketed to Ramsey residents as well as residents in neighboring communities. He stated that he met with the City's Recreation Coordinator to begin thinking about possible Arbor Day activities and potentially a revamped farmers market. He noted that there could potentially be a city table available that could be staffed by different Board/Commission members. He noted a potential opportunity for Board Members to attend a tour of the ACE Solid Waste transfer station in the spring or summer of 2026. He also noted the results from the fall recycling event. He noted that the January and February meetings will need to be rescheduled and asked for input from the Board on the preferred alternative dates for those meetings.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the January meeting on January 12, 2026, and the February meeting on February 9, 2026.

Senior Planner Anderson noted that the December 2026 meeting would likely be canceled, but if there were a time-sensitive case, the meeting would take place on December 14, 2026, rather than December 21, 2026. He noted that the final decision on that meeting would occur closer to that meeting date in 2026. He stated that there are no land use applications to consider for December 2025 and confirmed the consensus of the Board to cancel the December meeting.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

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Kalia Lor  
Planning Administrative Assistant

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