

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

On Monday, August 17, 2026, 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 Daniel Payne  
                              Board Member Hassan Salami

Members Absent:     Board Member Reid Bernard

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

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated July 20, 2026**

Motion by Board Member Burgess and seconded by Board Member Salami to approve the regular meeting minutes dated July 20, 2026.

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

**5.     POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

**5.01: Consider the Natural Resources Aspects of a Proposed Residential Subdivision Located South of the Intersection of Erkium Street and 177<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Project No. 26-106); Case of Sundance Woods, LLC**

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City received a Land Use Application from Sundance Woods, LLC for a proposed Major Plan Subdivision of the properties known as 17400 and 17650 Erkium Street. The proposed subdivision would create 15 residential lots, although the existing home at 17400 Erkium Street will remain, meaning the subdivision will result in 14 new homes. The subject property is located in the Rural Residential zoning district and is guided as Rural Developing in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, the parcel currently addressed at 17400 Erkium Street is within the Scenic River Protection Overlay District, which includes additional standards.

Board Member Hagerty stated that he appreciates that the developer is attempting to preserve trees to the extent possible, especially with the impacts of EAB and other tree removal that is occurring in the community because of that.

Chairperson Fetterley also appreciated the developer's efforts to preserve as many trees as possible. She commented that she was disappointed that the first several lots will be clear-cut and hoped that the developer could put effort into preserving mature trees on those properties.

Board Member Payne noted that it would appear that many of the trees proposed to be saved would be within building pads for the homes and asked for more information.

Senior Planner Anderson explained the preliminary and final plat processes and noted that within the Development Agreement, they would require a specific inventory of trees that will be removed from each site to support building. He noted that the plan would be updated on a lot-by-lot basis as they move forward with the custom grading, and staff would ensure that the applicant would remain within the 60 percent threshold.

Board Member Payne asked if the developer has answered any of the questions posed by staff.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that the developer has been very responsive to questions and comments. He recognized that there still are comments that need to be addressed as this moves forward.

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

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

**5.02: Consider Natural Resources Aspects of a Site Plan for Scooter's Coffee (Project No. 26-110); Case of Harlow Beckett Enterprises**

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received a Land Use Application from Harlow Beckett Enterprises for a Minor Plat and Site Plan for a proposed

Scooter's Coffee to be located along the west side of Ramsey Boulevard, south of Sunwood Drive and the existing Casey's store.

Motion by Board Member Burgess and seconded by Board Member Payne to recommend approval of the natural resources aspects of the Scooter's Coffee Site Plan.

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

### **5.03: Protect Community Forests for Community Resiliency Grant Opportunity**

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) has issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for a new grant opportunity aimed at reducing the impacts of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) through tree management and maintenance, education, and engagement efforts that will enhance community forest health and resiliency. There is a total of \$1,700,000 available to fund projects that manage and/or reduce the impacts of EAB through forestry activities on public, non-State lands, and residential land for low-income residents. There is no minimum amount that must be requested, and matching funds are not required.

Chairperson Fetterley stated that this is a wonderful opportunity. She asked if the City would be able to decide how funds are allocated between City property and residents and whether guidelines would be set up for applicants.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that the City would need to outline those details in the grant application. He commented that there will need to be coordination with Public Works, but ideally, a large portion of the funds would be set aside for private property. He commented on the frequency with which he receives requests from residents asking for help with diseased tree removal.

Chairperson Fetterley asked if residents who have already removed trees could request assistance for replanting.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that, per the grant, the City would need to replace each removed tree with a new tree planted on site. He did not think they would want to open it up to requests for additional tree planting on private property where no tree removal occurred.

Chairperson Fetterley agreed that this would be a great program that could provide assistance to residents in the community.

Board Member Burgess stated that this is an exciting opportunity, as this is a large issue in the community.

Board Member Hagerty commented that his son removed two diseased trees from his own property and is waiting to grind the stumps because of the cost. He appreciates the opportunity for the grant to assist residents in removing dead trees. He commented that he is impressed with the number of grants the City receives and how they advertise those opportunities to residents.

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Burgess to recommend City Council authorize staff to apply for the Protect Community Forest for Community Resiliency.

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

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

- **Recap of EPB's Participation in the Farmers Market**

Senior Planner Anderson thanked the Board Members who assisted in filling shifts at the farmers market and provided a recap. He welcomed input from the Board.

Chairperson Fetterley stated that it was great to see the market busy and the plantings for the kids were a highlight that drew in visitors to the booth. She stated that they did get to talk to some community members, which was great.

Board Member Salami hoped that as they move forward, there will be more vendors and visitors.

Senior Planner Anderson reminded the Board that this is a new event for the City that will likely have increased participation from vendors and attendees as they move forward.

Board Member Hagerty commented that he enjoyed participating and commented that the coloring books and native seed giveaways were popular with residents. He proposed that they continue participation in the event in the future.

Chairperson Fetterley agreed and stated that perhaps the Board could participate in two nights next year.

- **Other**

Senior Planner Anderson noted that the curbside recycling event wrapped up last Friday and he received input from the vendor that there was a lot of participation. He noted that he can share the final information once he receives it from the vendor. He noted the upcoming fall recycling event on September 26<sup>th</sup> and stated that the event will be advertised in the newsletter and on the City website.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 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.*