

Falcon Heights Environment Commission
November 10, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Agenda

- 1) Approval of Minutes from October 13th Meeting
- 2) Check in on Do Green in Falcon Heights - David Murphy
- 3) Car-2-Go - Josh Johnson
- 4) Sustainability Fair
- 5) Information and Announcements

Next Meeting: Monday, December 8, 2014

If you have a disability and need accommodation in order to attend this meeting, please notify City Hall 48 hours in advance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 651-792-7600. We will be happy to help.

**City of Falcon Heights
Environment Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2014**

Present: Commissioners Rebecca Montgomery, Peggy Hall, Kathryn Hartman,
Councilmember Beth Mercer-Taylor, Staff Liaison Chelsea Petersen

Absent: Patti Holmes (with notice), Jeff Connell

Other Attendees: David Murphy, Tyler Lande, Ashley Dalton, Laura Harreld

1. Do Green in Falcon Heights

David Murphy presented Commissioners with information regarding organized trash collection. He discussed the current use of multiple refuse haulers in all areas of the city, and suggested examining either a single hauler for the entire city, or keeping multiple haulers that each serve a specific area of the city.

Commissioners discussed a brief history on organized collection efforts in Falcon Heights and what other cities are doing now. Commissioners will look into the issues of a single hauler and organized yard waste collection in the future. David provided a list of references and resources that the Commission can utilize for research.

2. Sustainability Fair - Presentation

Tyler Lande, Ashley Dalton, and Laura Harreld presented on the Sustainability Fair on November 20th at Silverwood Park. This has become an annual event put on by University students and the cities of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, and St. Anthony Village. Students are working on capstone projects to help promote sustainability efforts that the communities and their citizens can easily adopt. In addition to the student projects and presentations there will be several outside vendors with resources that attendees can learn about. A Facebook event has been created to help advertise, and a website will be launched as well.

3. Sustainability Fair - Commission Involvement

The Commission would like to have a poster or pamphlet about the sustainability activities and promotions that they have brought to the community. Commissioners brainstormed several things they could highlight and will discuss the specifics on the display at the next meeting.

4. TechDump Event

The Cities of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, and St. Anthony Village are hosting an electronics recycling event with TechDump on Saturday, November 1st at both Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Village City Halls. This event is free to the public, with a small cost for some larger electronics.

5. **Recruitment of New Commissioners**

Commissioners would like to recruit at least two new members, at least one of which being a youth member. Beth will be reaching out to former youth commissioners and high school groups, while Chelsea will contact community gardeners and Commonwealth Terrace residents.

6. **Information and Announcements**

Beth recently attended a Sierra Club event about the EPA's Clean Power Plan and handed out information about smog pollution. She also presented a grant opportunity and asked for input from the group on potential project/study topics including:

- 1) planning for storms, hot weather as part of climate adaptation, resilience alongside St Paul, state fair and U of M campus
- 2) the perfect storm of aging buildings, infrastructure and population and increased vulnerability to storms (power outages, floods, tree damage) and challenges to clean up due to more seniors in the mix

Commissioners were supportive of the grant, and staff will investigate further and have discussions with Council about what to apply for.

Rebecca would like to investigate the possibility of timing fall street sweeping with the leaf drop of certain species of trees. She recommended having Larry Baker from Prior Lake come speak to the Commission in the future.

Rebecca and Beth expressed interest in having a representative from Transition Town St. Anthony Park come speak about their sustainability efforts.

October, 2014

Do Green in Falcon Heights

Icebergs melt. Forests disappear. Fossil fuels burn.

What can we do? Now?

We can act locally. We can be more efficient without making drastic changes in our lives, at least for a start.

This is a proposal to change trash collection to make it more Green, less wasteful, less harmful, and less expensive.

This is a proposal. You can improve it. Do that. This is meant to start us talking.

Falcon Heights has an Environment Commission whose duties include advising city council on waste and recycling. A dialogue there could lead to reducing the city's impact on the environment re: waste and recycling.

>During non-snow months, as with yard waste collection, we could reduce by half the trips of heavy vehicles by placing trash containers on one side of the street. The side should be opposite mailboxes. Snow drifts would make this next to impossible in winter. See the discussion below re: vehicle weight and resulting damage.

>Taking yearly bids for single-hauler trash collection would increase efficiency and significantly reduce costs to residents and to the environment. Again, see discussion below.

>The European model has residents carrying trash to a nearby receptacle such as a small dumpster bin. This might be considered as a longer term goal.

>Yard waste collection every second week instead of weekly would again reduce costs to residents and the environment.

The Cost of Trash collection in Falcon Heights

- >Approximately 15 miles of residential roads in FH are used for waste collection.
- >Rubbish hauling trucks travel both sides of each street – 30 miles per truck per day each week traveled within the city. No estimate re: travel costs from garage and to dump full loads outside city.
- >Estimated 5 miles per gallon per truck. Estimated 4 different haulers of trash in FH.
- >One additional truck collects recycling - both directions – 30 miles per day.
- >One more truck collects yard waste one day each week for ½ year.
- >6 gal. gas per truck per day, 5 ½ trucks.
- >33 gal. per day, 1,716 gal. fuel per year for waste collection in FH (over \$6000 fuel per year for fuel at \$3.50 per gallon).

This, of course, excludes the costs involved in disposal of waste outside the city's limits as well as the travel costs from the garage.

Other considerations

- >Noise and air pollution - direct negative effects on living organisms, even humans!
- >Greenhouse: damage to climate and weather caused by fossil fuels.
- >Partially full containers means wasted container space and wasted fuel.
- >Damage to streets resulting from heavy traffic – pavement (repaving, drainage corrections) and underground systems (water service, sewer, storm drains) (gross weights of trucks estimated @ 15 tons). The study cited below is focused on damage to road surfaces. It does not look at potential damage to underground services or to the impact of vehicle weight on sunken curbs.

Any attempted change in Falcon Heights' trash collection system should reduce the cost of trash collection!

David Murphy
Falcon Heights

- > "Assessing the Effects of Heavy Vehicles on Local Roadways", Dr James Wilde, PE, MN State University for MNDot Research Service Section.
- > "A Five Step Plan to Feed the World", Jonathan Foley, May 9, 2014 National Geographic Magazine. This article deals with feeding the world of our children and grandchildren and suggests that the time for thinking is past. It's time to DO. Here in FH we might begin with food at the other end.

PRESS CONTACT

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CAR
2GO

car2go North America, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Daimler and a brand of moovel GmbH, offers an innovative mobility solution in rapidly growing urban areas via a carsharing network of eco-friendly smart fortwo vehicles around the world. A flexible and “on demand” mode of transportation, car2go complements existing public transportation by bridging the gaps between the “first and last mile” of a member’s commute. Today, car2go has more than 850,000 registered members in 30 cities around the world.

Keep up with car2go by visiting <http://car2go.com> and <http://media.daimler.com/ms/car2go/e>.

OUR STORY

2009

car2go was designed by the Daimler Business Innovation Unit to address the issues that Modern North American cities face.

2010

car2go opened to the public.

2011

November: car2go launched two of the world’s largest electric carsharing programs – in San Diego, California and Amsterdam, The Netherlands – each with 300 smart fortwo electric drive vehicles (EV’s).

2012

December: car2go introduced an all-electric carsharing program to the City of Stuttgart with 300 EV’s.

HOW IT WORKS

BY THE MINUTE

- Members pay only for the time they used the car
- No annual or monthly fees
- Unrestricted, unlimited access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (no reservations required)

ON DEMAND

- Members can find the first available car2go via:
 - a smartphone app
 - car2go.com
 - calling the customer call center
 - physically in local area

FREE-FLOATING

- Members can pick up and drop off a car2go anywhere within the Home Area
- No commitment to a return time or location

DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE ISSUES CITIES FACE

- ALLEVIATE CONGESTION
- REDUCE EMISSIONS
- MAINTAIN QUALITY OF LIFE

AT A GLANCE

USA

Austin, TX (launched March 2010) has 375 vehicles with 47,000+ registered members, and a 50 sq. mile Home Area with more than 147 parking spaces.

San Diego, CA (launched November 2011) has 380 vehicles with 31,000+ registered members, and a 45 sq. mile Home Area with more than 20 parking spaces.

Washington, DC (launched March 2012) has 500 vehicles with 41,000+ registered members, and a 53 sq. mile Home Area with more than 2 parking garages.

Portland, OR (launched March 2012) has 400 vehicles with 28,000+ registered members, and a 52 sq. mile Home Area.

Miami, FL (launched July 2012) has 276 vehicles with 24,000+ registered members, and a 43 sq. mile Home Area with more than 52 parking spaces.

Seattle, WA (launched December 2012) has 500 vehicles with 53,000+ registered members, and a 52 sq. mile Home Area with more than 20 parking spaces.

Denver, CO (launched May 2013) has 400 vehicles with 24,000+ registered members, and a 50 sq. mile Home Area with more than 50 parking spaces.

Twin Cities, MN (Minneapolis – September 2013 ; St. Paul – July 2014) has 535 vehicles with 15,000+ registered members, and a 107 sq. mile Home Area.

Columbus, OH (launched October 2013) has 300 vehicles with 15,000+ registered members, and a 40 sq. mile Home Area with more than 65 parking spaces.

Los Angeles - South Bay (launched June 2014) has 115 vehicles and a 28 sq. mile Home Area.

CANADA

Vancouver, BC (launched June 2011) has 770 vehicles with 67,000+ registered members, and a 110 sq. kilometer Home Area with more than 75 parking spaces.

Toronto, ON (launched June 2012) has 425 vehicles with 34,000+ registered members, and a 110 sq. kilometer Home Area with more than 184 parking spaces.

Calgary, AB (launched July 2012) has 550 vehicles with 65,000+ registered members, and a 115 sq. kilometer Home Area with more than 75 parking spaces.

Montreal, QC (launched October 2013) has 340 vehicles with 19,000+ registered members, and a 61 sq. kilometer Home Area with more than 57 parking spaces.

(Updated October 2014)