

**City of Falcon Heights
Environmental Commission Minutes
January 11th, 2016**

PRESENT: Commissioners Hall, Holmes, Montgomery, Miazga, and Olson, Staff Liaison Moretto and Council Liaison Mayor Lindstrom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Chair Holmes.

The minutes of the December 14th, 2015 meeting of the Environmental Commission were approved.

Welcome new Council Liaison Mayor Lindstrom

Mayor Peter Lindstrom replaces Council Liaison Beth Mercer-Taylor. Mayor Lindstrom has previously served as the Council Liaison and is excited to participate again.

Assign Commission Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

The Commission nominated and voted for new Commission Officers. Mark Miazga was selected to be the new Chair, Rebecca Montgomery, Vice Chair and Nick Olson, Secretary. The Secretary is a new position that will assist the Staff Liaison in keeping meeting minutes.

Presentation – Leslie Brandt USDA Urban Forestry

Leslie Brandt, USDA Urban Forestry presented *A Framework for Managing Our Urban Forests in a Changing Climate*. The USDA is a partner with the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS), which provides information, resources, and technical assistance related to forests and climate change. Leslie shared the framework process and a pilot project in Chicago. She also provided the Commission with options for Falcon Heights to work with NIACS to assess vulnerability and develop adaptive strategies.

The Commission asked how the process would work and what resources (City staff time, etc) would be required. Leslie works on the U of M St. Paul Campus and could facilitate the process at no cost to the City. She thought that working through the framework worksheets would take a minimum of two days. The Commission was interested in exploring further and suggested the City Arborist participate in the process should it proceed.

Discuss GreenStep Cities

Staff Liaison Moretto will be participating in a webinar tomorrow to explore the next level in the GreenStep Cities Program. Paul will present this information to the Commission at the next meeting.

Discuss Solar Garden meeting with CERT

Staff Liaison Moretto requested any comments or question to bring during the meeting with CERT.

Mayor Lindstrom discussed Falcon Heights' participation with the Met Council and several other cities in an RFP to obtain community solar energy for Falcon Heights facilities. A decision in awarding Falcon Heights has not been made. The City could be presented with a time sensitive offer to participate. It would be the Commission's preference to review any offer in order to make a recommendation to the City Council.

Discuss Roseville-Falcon Heights Solar Meeting through Midwest Renew

Roseville Public Library will be hosting presentations on solar energy for homeowners on March 2nd and March 9th from 7-8 pm. The Commission is interested in getting the event published for free in a local paper.

Discuss Recycling outreach and marketing for the Newsletter and Website

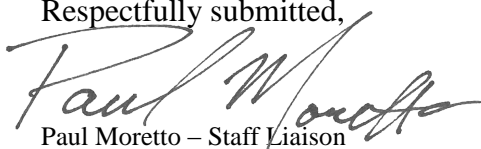
Staff Liaison Moretto opened up a discussion about how to increase recycling participation. This discussion was tabled and will continue at the next meeting.

Community Forum:

No community forum was held.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Moretto – Staff Liaison