

Falcon Heights- Community Engagement Commission

June 20, 2016

7:00 pm

Minutes

Members Present: Commission Chair Melanie Leehy; Commissioners Clem Kurhajetz, Gary Kwong, Jay Colond, Ahmed Hassan, Shirley Reider, Felicia Turner, Gwen Willems, SAPD Liaison Sergeant Jon Mangseth, Council Liaison Tony Fischer, Staff Liaison Katie Thrasher

Members Absent: FHFD Liaison Anton Fehrenbach

1. Call to Order - 7:03

2. Approval of May 16, 2016 Minutes Shirley moves, Clem seconds

3. Fire and Police Updates -

Remind potential FHFD recruits that there is a pension benefit. The FD raised about 5-6k for Muscular Dystrophy at a the Back to the 50s event.

Sgt. Mangseth will attend the Ice Cream Social. They are taking block party registrations for Night to Unite. Two new officers are in training.

4. Block Parties

a. Calls & Packets to Liaisons

The list of former block party hosts will be reviewed. Commissioners are invited to make the calls to apartments from City Hall.

Block party packets are going out this week. Hosts are encouraged but not required to hold the parties on MN Night to Unite.

Commissioners are asked to continue to recruiting neighborhood liaisons.

b. Apartment Outreach

Requirements for apartment outreach were emailed. Let the Chair know hours of availability to meet with an apartment caretaker/manager within the next two weeks. The East and the West side of the city have about the same amount of buildings and managers.

The senior units should be visited at least once a year. FHFD visits sprinkled buildings such as 1666, 1550, and 1530 regularly to let residents know to stay in place in the case of a fire or fire alarm. SAPD has partnered with FHFD to speak on safety to residents at 1666. Sgt.

Mangseth would like to host a coffee-with-a-cop event at 1530. 1530 has regular events and Jon Mangseth will schedule a coffee-with-a-cop-event for this fall. He is also following up on events for Night to Unite.

Jay volunteered to help make calls.

5. Citizen of the Year Award

There was a recommendation to utilize the St. Anthony form for the award. The topic was tabled. There was a recommendation for a volunteer recognition event. The commission would like the city to do something to recognize volunteers, rather than a potluck. The recognition would honor volunteer commissioners, active liaisons/block party hosts, CERTS, parks & rec volunteers, Councilmembers, etc. This would tentatively happen next year. The options to consider are merging a recognition event with another event, hosting a separate event, or to tag on to a council meeting.

6. Events Updates

a. Ice Cream Social

The table with resources, signup sheets, and a potential raffle will be outside under a tent. Tony will take the place of Shirley at the 7-8pm shift.

b. International Human Rights Day Observance

The League of HR Commissions legal rep was asked about licensure, and they claim as long as we are not making money we shouldn't need an educational sponsor. Staff will talk to the City Admin to clarify next steps. The Chair suggested we make PBS series Eyes on the Prize our fallback. Selma is the first choice. We will make a decision next month on the movie and the date.

7. Updates and Announcements from Commissioners

For the August 2nd block party at 6pm at City Hall, we will ask apartment contacts if they cannot host a block party that they consider attending the City Hall alternate block party. It will be a potluck with ice cream provided, and the city has a grill that can be utilized. Gwen and Melanie will attend (possibly Shirley). Volunteers will arrive at 5:30 to setup.

Melanie has lined up a guest speaker to conduct a diversity workshop from 7-8pm on our August meeting. We also have a guest speaker at our September meeting.

8. Meeting Schedule and Adjourn - 8:23pm. Our next meeting is July 18

Melanie Leehy, Commission Chair

Dated this 20th day of June, 2016

Katie Thrasher, Staff Liaison