

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
City Council Special Workshop
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

MINUTES

September 21, 2022
6:30 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 p.m.
- B. ROLL CALL: ANDREWS ___ GUSTAFSON_X_ LEEHY_X_
MEYER_X_ WEHYEE_X_

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X_ SORENSEN_X_

- C. POLICY ITEMS:
1. Town Hall – State Fair Policies and Procedures Discussion

Jack Linehan, the City Administrator, starts the Town Hall Meeting off by explaining tonight's procedures and that residents are encouraged to give feedback on the City's policies, parking, and regulations regarding the State Fair. This forum is not about the State Fair itself (i.e. less pickle stands) or policing at the State Fair. Instead, this forum is to focus on city policies, parking, and regulations that happen outside of the State Fair. At the podium: one resident will speak at a time for three minutes or less. Please state your name and address for the record. If you want to speak at the podium more than once, you may do so once everyone has had an opportunity to speak. Staff have comment cards that you can fill out that can be read in to the record if you do not feel comfortable speaking. This is a friendly discussion with neighbors. We all want to work together to improve our community.

Linehan presented via PowerPoint the City's current policies. The policies regarding the State Fair were last addressed in 2007. The following are the current City policies regarding the State Fair:

Residential districts. No commercial activity is permitted in residential districts other than that permitted in the zoning code. Residential districts include both single family and multi-family dwellings. To clarify this, this includes:

No parking on front lawns.

No identifiable sales of parking or of State Fair parking permits. (License plates in driveways will not be checked for a local registration. However, the advertising of parking spaces for sale will be prohibited.)

No outside sales except garage sales as permitted in the zoning code and kids' "kool-aid" stands.

Commercial districts.

Businesses are permitted to sell parking spaces during the State Fair on paved surfaces designed for off-street parking. There shall be no parking on boulevards or rights-of-way.

Advertising for parking sales must be on ground signs or hand-held signs. It cannot be posted on trees, poles nor in residential neighborhoods.

No outside sales of merchandise that is not part of the adjacent business.

No inflated balloons that are mounted above the ground or go above the roof of a structure or are located in the right-of-way.

State Fair posted "no parking" and "permit parking only" areas:

The city shall post streets that may be heavily impacted from State Fair parking with no parking or permit parking only signs to eliminate hazards to public safety by protecting access by public safety vehicles. These streets and postings are included in the map at the end.

The State Fair parking postings are enforced from the first day of the State Fair, not from the first day that they are posted.

Parking permits and parking bags.

Residents of multi-family dwellings along the street sections posted for State Fair permit parking are eligible for State Fair residential permit parking during the State Fair.

State Fair parking permits will be issued to residents in these multi-family dwellings upon request at city hall by the resident and registration of their vehicle's license number at city hall. The vehicle's license number will be posted on the State Fair parking permit.

Regular temporary parking permits will be available for residents upon a special request for unique occasions such as family reunions, weddings, or pre-scheduled events. Temporary parking permits will not be available for residents who wish to park on the street for a non-unique occasion or who wish to have friends or family park on the street for a non-unique event. Emergency situations shall be accommodated.

"Parking bags" will not be available for covering parking signs during the State Fair.

Blocking of streets. The city will not issue wooden barricades to block streets for block parties or other events during the State Fair.

No Parking"

All of Northome, water side of street

All of Hollywood Court, water and alley

St. Mary's Street, Fry Street, Maple Knoll Drive, and Garden Avenue west of Snelling on both sides

Water side of all streets north of Larpenteur, between Snelling and Hamline running to Roselawn (Exceptions: Sheldon, Pascal and Simpson Streets north of Ruggles Avenue; Albert Street and Holton Street will not be posted)

Snelling Drive north and southbound both sides of Snelling Avenue

Tatum Street, water side

Lindig Street on water side, including cul-de-sac

Larpenteur Avenue from Snelling to Cleveland, both sides

Fairview Avenue 1,300 feet north of Larpenteur on both sides.

"Permit Parking Only"

East side of Arona from California to Crawford, except where presently posted
Hollywood Court

Iowa west of Arona

Idaho west of Arona
East Snelling drive from Idaho to alley between 1642 Snelling Drive and Pizza Hut
West side of Fry Street in front of the Fry apartments
Approximately two car lengths in front of the group home at 1746 Snelling Avenue

Linehan states the parking enforcement during the State Fair. Patrol provided by Ramsey County Sheriff.

Traffic deputy in unmarked SUV doing enforcement
188 parking citations/warnings issued during State Fair
Cars towed when parked in front of driveways / on streets where emergency vehicle access would be impacted
42 traffic stops
Parking Citation Fee: \$50/violation

Council Member Leehy says thanks to everyone for coming and participating. Encourages everyone to share their ideas.

Council Member Wehyee says thanks to everyone for coming and participating.

Council Member Meyer says thanks to everyone for coming as well.

Ryan Eichen, Moore St. says the State Fair has gotten much bigger, and the park and rides were reduced. Also, do we get anything from the state fair and maybe have a preview night before it opens?

Mayor Gustafson says the State Fair is exempt from paying state and county taxes, but they do pay for their lights, sewer, and policing.

Jerry, the State Fair Director, says we did not cut back park and ride lots. The metro transit has a driver shortage, making it difficult to maintain the park and rides. We are looking at building another transit hub on the north end of the fairgrounds.

Farook Meah, 1597 Hollywood Ct. says Amber Union sells their parking, causing a problem on Snelling Drive. The problem is Snelling and Larpenteur. You cannot make a left turn.

1611 Hollywood Ct. says the permits are making it more complicated for residents. Let us get a reasonable number, especially since we have to go to the city hall.

A resident stated that the City should invest in more signs.

Bob Tomlinson states one way in all north home and posts more signs.

Kirt Schaper, 1447 Iowa Ave., says the State Fair should offer free or reduced admission into the State Fair. In addition, the City should restrict parking to greater than 20 feet from all intersections and 5-10 feet from alleyways. Post signs indicating distance—also, no fireworks after 10 pm.

Bob Tomlinson, 1464 Iowa says one-way traffic in the North home area. Make traffic tickets hurt. Keep alleys closed to non-residents. Also, post more signs.

A resident says the State Fair is big business and should give some of the benefits to Falcon Heights.

A resident asks whether the State Fair contributes to the campaigns of any Falcon Heights members of the City Council.

Jerry and the Mayor said no.

Georgiana, California says all of the events at the State Fair are because of safety issues in North home. I do not support parking cars on the lawn. We should have temporary speed bumps in my Northhome.

Bev Larkin St. Mary's says I appreciate that people can't park on their lawns, and I am embarrassed that the businesses are charging so much to park for the fair. Also, the crossing guards were not good.

Jenifer Johnson, 1576 Snelling Dr. says the problem is that the tickets are insufficient to deter people from parking illegally. I am also worried about vandalism and theft.

Paula Mielke, Crawford says I would like to extend the sidewalk on Snelling.

Dale Huff, Fry St. says the entrance off of Larpenteur. It is closed more than it is open and should be open more often.

Katie Mariam says what are the procedures for drinking procedures at the state fair?

Mayor Gustafson says the fairgrounds are private property. Therefore, it is their right to close off their property.

Jerry says I do not know why that gate is locked. But I will look into that.

An anonymous resident says I support no parking in the yard.

An anonymous resident says I believe that owners should be able to sell parking spaces on their lawn and sell things on their lawn. I am in favor of doing something about parking at city parks for the state fair. There should be a two-hour period if a car is parked wrong and gets towed.

A resident from 1477 Iowa says 30ft should be from all corners of an intersection. Temporary turn every intersection into 4-way stops.

Chuck, St. Mary's says I believe that since we get taxed on the fair, we should get a discounted ticket or a free admission day.

Chris Moe, Ramsey County Deputy, gave a detailed report of the traffic stops and calls in Falcon Heights. Also, that the no parking no signs do help.

Danny Larson Hamline asked if the State Fair hired bus drivers because of the shortage of licensed drivers.

A resident asks what the State Fair will do about the shooting incident this year.

Jerry states we take this very seriously. We are looking at different kinds of fencing and perimeter patrols.

Silva of E. Snelling Dr. says I see no harm in parking cars in your yard and selling spaces.

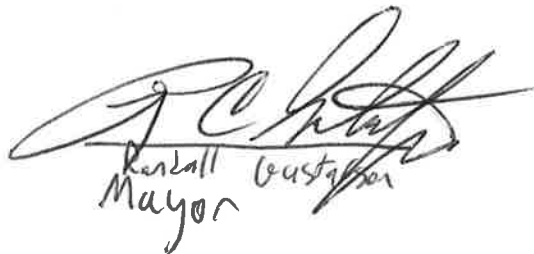
D. ADJOURNMENT: 8:18 p.m.

DISCLAIMER: City Council Workshops are held monthly as an opportunity for Council Members to discuss policy topics in greater detail prior to a formal meeting where a public hearing may be held and/or action may be taken. Members of the public that would like to make a comment or ask questions about an item on the agenda for an upcoming workshop should send them to mail@falconheights.org prior to the meeting. Alternatively, time is regularly allotted for public comment during Regular City Council Meetings (typically 2nd and 4th Wednesdays) during the Community Forum.



Jack Wynn

City Administrator



Randall Gustafson
Mayor