

# City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall  
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, August 14, 2023  
6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair)	<u>A</u>	
John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair)	<u>X</u>	Jared Mehlhaff <u>X</u>
Emma Kostecki	<u>A</u>	Amy Christiansen <u>A</u>
Pedro De Filippo Vannucci	<u>A</u>	Stephanie Skarolid <u>X</u>
Council Liaison Meyer	<u>X</u>	
Staff Liaison Lynch	<u>X</u>	

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. July 7, 2023

*No quorum. Approval of minutes tabled to September meeting.*

E. AGENDA

1. Discussion – Falcon Heights Church, Patti Holmes

*Patti Holmes was present to speak with the Environment Commission about different sustainability and environmental accomplishments and plans at Falcon Heights UCC. She spoke about an upcoming produce exchange and potentially a second annual car show. Staff Liaison Lynch invited the church to send in event notifications for sharing in the City newsletter. Ms. Holmes also spoke about potential workshops and ideas for tree planting education and rain gardens.*

2. **Added Item** – Katherine Allen, Air Quality Monitoring

*Katherine Allen approached the Environment Commission about an idea for increasing the accuracy of air monitoring in the area. A company called Purple Air works with Google to offer hyperlocal air quality monitors for sale. Ms. Allen stated the reasoning behind this being with the recent Canadian wildfires, it's been difficult to determine if the air quality has been decent or not, with a wide difference in air quality figures across the cities at any given time. The Environment Commission discussed this and Staff Liaison Lynch stated she would do*

*research into the company and look more into the budget for the Commission and present at the September meeting on this.*

### **3. Discussion – Waste Management**

*Staff Liaison Lynch stated a citizen contacted her asking the Environment Commission to look into the issue around single-hauler trash management in the City. The Commission spoke about concerns and potential benefits of this. They determined to potentially look more into this at the October meeting. Staff Liaison Lynch will do research and present more information at that meeting.*

### **4. Eco Experience – State Fair**

*Staff Liaison Lynch presented information about the Eco Experience at the upcoming State Fair that Chair Mercer-Taylor will be attending to share information about the Falcon Heights Green Steps movement.*

### **5. Midwest Climate Resilience Conference**

*Staff Liaison Lynch presented information about the Midwest Climate Resilience Conference that will be taking place in October in Duluth, MN. Chair Mercer-Taylor will be attending. Staff Liaison Lynch included handouts on how to sign up for anyone interested in attending.*

## **F. Information and Announcements**

### **1. Staff Liaison Report**

*Staff Liaison Lynch reminded the Environment Commission of the next regular meeting on September 11, 2023 and the special meeting on September 18, 2023. The September 18 meeting will be a kickoff to the Partners in Energy program and will be held at the Institute on the Environment.*

*She also shared a brief updated on the BizRecycling program and stated a mailer was sent to all businesses and multifamily residences in the City to introduce them to the program. WasteWise will be reaching out to businesses and multifamily residences individually to speak with them more, and WasteWise will provide an update on the campaign in the next couple of months.*

*Finally, Staff Liaison Lynch shared an update on the Stop Food Waste Challenge that is going on for the month of August. The City of Falcon Heights is number 10 out of 61 teams.*

### **2. Council Liaison Report**

*Chair Liaison Meyer stated the Lawns to Legumes grant program has opened up applications for their Spring 2024 program. The deadline to apply for this is November 30.*

## **G. Adjourn**

*Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.*

*Next regular meeting date: September 11, 2022*