

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the Falcon Heights - Community Engagement Commission
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

MINUTES
January 25, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Note: This meeting was held by web conference.*

A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 pm

B. ROLL CALL:

Larrabee X Cooley-Kistler X LaDouceur X
Ebbesen X Dumbacher X

COUNCIL LIAISON:

Gustafson X

STAFF PRESENT:

Walter X

C. PRESENTATION:

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. November 16, 2020

Motion by Commission Member LaDouceur to approve the minutes;
Approved, 5-0.

E. DISCUSSION:

1. Officer Elections

Motion by Commissioner Ebbesen to appoint Dena Larrabee as chairperson;
Approved, 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner LaDouceur to appoint Julie Ebbesen as vice chairperson;
Approved, 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Larrabee to appoint Dana Dumbacher as secretary;
Approved, 5-0.

2. Community Conversations

- First conversation focused on the topic of inclusion. There is a gap in how the city engages renters. There are also differences in engagement between the four quadrants.

- Second conversation was about equity. Discussion was about how people can spread news in neighborhoods.
- Third conversation focused on public safety, and what the City can do to improve on its public safety services. Discussion of police contract. Among residents, there is a want for more communication and transparency. Overall, residents reported that they felt safe in Falcon Heights.

3. CEC End of Year Survey

- The CEC End of Year Survey was done in December 2020 and asked commissioners about their experience on the CEC, which events they would like to continue in 2021 and if there are events they would like to retire.
- There was a discussion of planning events post-COVID.
- Staff Liaison Walter said that it was uncertain when the City would be reopening and when in-person events could resume, but that it would likely be sometime in summer or fall that some form of in-person
- Vice chair Ebbesen suggested that members bring 2-3 ideas for events that could be virtual (assuming continued COVID-19 restrictions) and 2-3 ideas for events that are in-person (assuming loosened restrictions).

4. City Communications

- Staff Liaison Walter mentioned that the CEC is charged with advising staff and Council on ways to improve the City's communication strategies. The City has heard that communications can be improved, but staff are looking for more information on what residents want.
- Commissioner Larrabee mentioned that in the past, there was an idea floated for an electric message board outside City Hall, this could be a good way to engage residents in upcoming dates and events
- Liaison Walter referenced the comment received in the CEC End of Year survey about the website being difficult to navigate. The website was redone in 2020, there may be ways to improve but its much simpler and cleaner than it was prior to this.
- Liaison Walter mentioned that the City was looking into requiring training for owners of rental buildings in conjunction with licensing. This could be an opportunity to provide owners information on City communication channels and how to engage tenants.
- It's very difficult to reach everyone. We should focus on using limited resources wisely to engage residents who are interested in learning more but are currently not being reached by current channels.

F. INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

G. ADJOURNMENT: 8:32 pm