

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2024
6:30 p.m.

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

B. ROLL CALL: Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) _X_
 John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) _X_ Jared Mehlhaff _X_
 Emma Kostecki _A_ Amy Christiansen _A_
 Pedro De Filippo Vannucci _X_ OEN

 Staff Liaison Lynch _X_

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 8, 2024

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2024. Minutes were approved by consent.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024 Officer Nominations

Commissioners discussed officer nominations. Commissioner John Pellegrini nominated Commissioner Beth Mercer-Taylor for Chair, Commissioner Pedro De Filippo Vannucci nominated Commissioner John Pellegrini for Vice-Chair, and all Commissioners decided to have Staff Liaison Lynch continue recording minutes as Secretary. A motion was made by Commissioner Mercer-Taylor for these nominations. Motion was approved by consent.

2. Minnesota GreenCorps Discussion

Commissioners discussed the potential for the City to apply to receive a Minnesota GreenCorps member for the next 11 months to work on environmental-related projects. This is expected to be a 40-hour work week with at least 4-hours of supervision required. Projects must fall within one of four categories: Community readiness and outreach, energy conservation and green transportation, stormwater and forestry, or waste reduction and recycling. After discussing each option and potential projects for each, Commissioner Mercer-Taylor made a motion to direct Staff Liaison Lynch to apply for the Minnesota

GreenCorps Program with the focus on community readiness and outreach, seconded by Commissioner De Filippo Vannucci. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

3. Bee Lawn Discussion

Staff Liaison Lynch stated contact was received by Kari Logan from Minnehaha Falls Landscape about an educational opportunity for Falcon Heights residents about bee lawns. Russ Henry and James Wolfen are bee lawn experts and offer a one-hour bee lawn presentation for community groups. Commissioners discussed the opportunity and directed Staff Liaison Lynch to find out more about the form of the presentation, and the possibility of holding a community event. They also discussed potentially offering starter kits for these lawns, or partnering with another city to make it a larger event. Staff Liaison Lynch will discuss this with Kari Logan and bring more information back to the March meeting.

4. Partners in Energy Update

Staff Liaison Lynch gave an overview of the current status of the Partners in Energy program. She reminded Commissioners of upcoming meetings including an Open House on Wednesday, February 21 from 6-8 PM at City Hall, Workshop on Monday, March 18 at the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment LES-R370 from 6-8 PM, and a second Open House on Wednesday, April 17 from 6-8 PM location TBD.

5. Nature Newsflash Calendar

Staff Liaison Lynch went through Nature Newsflash article ideas again to fill in more of the calendar and advised she would keep it up to date and email it out periodically to Commissioners.

F. Information and Announcements

1. Staff Liaison Report

Staff Liaison Lynch stated City Hall would be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024 for President's Day. She also let Commissioners know about two upcoming public hearings at the Planning Commission meeting on February 27, 2024 regarding updating City Code to include EVSE language and changing Hollywood Ct. to resident permit parking. Finally, she told Commissioners about the Plastic Free February program currently being held by Washington and Ramsey Counties.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: March 11, 2024