

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, May 13, 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 _X_ Amy Christiansen _A_
 Pedro De Filippo Vannucci _A_ Adam Keester _X_

 Staff Liaison Lynch _X_
 Council Liaison Mielke _X_

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the agenda by consent. All were in favor.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 12, 2024
2. March 11, 2024

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the minutes from February 12, 2024 and March 11, 2024 by consent. All were in favor.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Partners in Energy Update

Staff Liaison Lynch provided updates on the Partners in Energy program. They will have two tables set up at the upcoming Spring Together event on May 18, 2024 from 3-5 PM providing information to residents about the Energy Action Plan vision and goal. Feedback will be gathered, resources about energy efficiency will be shared, and there will be treats and activities for children.

Additionally the final workshop of the Energy Action Team will be held on June 11, 2024 from 6-8:30 PM to wrap up goals of the Energy Action Plan and go over the next steps. Council Liaison Mielke stated it would be nice to have this put in front of City Council for an update. Staff Liaison Lynch stated that is the plan, and she would talk to the Partners in Energy team about timing for that.

*Commissioner Keester asked about the Xcel Energy Renewable*Connect program which was asked about at a previous Partners in Energy workshop. He stated there is a waitlist and was previously told this was not accurate. Chair Mercer-Taylor and Staff Liaison Lynch agreed they both tried to sign up and there is a waitlist. Staff Liaison Lynch stated she would reach out to Xcel contact Sofia Troutman for more information.*

2. Boulevard Tree Replacement Discussion

Staff Liaison Lynch began the discussion about boulevard trees with background, stating for several years diseased trees have been removed from the boulevards around the City without being replaced. There used to be a policy and budget for this, but there is no longer. She stated she has been directed to begin creating a policy around the replacement of these.

The Commission discussed grant funding for trees, potential cost share with residents for the cost of the trees, and how to equitably distribute trees. There was discussion around qualifying for the Tree City USA program and forming a volunteer group to assist with tree maintenance around the City. Additionally, they discussed a tree survey to see exactly where trees have been removed over the years. A survey was done many years ago, but since then many trees have been removed.

Staff Liaison Lynch stated she would begin drafting a policy and budget plan with ideas for the volunteer group and bring it back to the Commission at the June meeting.

F. Information and Announcements

1. Staff Liaison Report

Staff Liaison Lynch reported the City of Falcon Heights has been granted a GreenCorps Member to begin in September 2024. She encouraged Commissioners to spread the word to get applicants. She also stated at the June meeting, there will be a presentation from Christine Chitambar regarding the declining tadpole population at the Community Park pond and encouraged commissioners to come to that meeting. Finally, she stated all Purple Air Quality Monitors that were purchased are officially up and running. The final was placed at Falcon Heights Elementary School on the roof and is going to be used by a science teacher there for educating students.

2. Council Liaison Report – None.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: June 10, 2024