

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2024
6:30 p.m.

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

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

 Staff Liaison Lynch _X_
 Council Liaison Mielke _X_

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No quorum – approval of agenda not voted on.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. June 10, 2024

No quorum – approval of minutes not voted on.

E. NEW BUSINESS

No quorum – All items below were discussed but not voted on.

1. Roseville Area High School – Student Projects

The Environment Commission discussed possible projects for students from the Ros Progressives group at Roseville Area High School. These ideas included working on the pond at Community Park to address goldfish and other invasive species, and also working to keep it clean. Commissioners also suggested partnering with a group currently doing storm drain stenciling in the City (Como Park Lutheran Church, District 10, and the City), or possibly working to join the Adopt-A-Drain program. Finally, it was discussed that the Falcon Heights GreenCorps member could possibly partner with the students to work on a tree survey for the City.

2. Partners in Energy – Executive Summary

Staff Liaison Lynch gave a brief overview of the Partners in Energy Executive Summary and the strategies for the Energy Action Plan. It was noted the graph and the statement

about 65% savings is confusing. Lynch stated she would talk to the team about it. She announced the drafted Energy Action Plan would be presented to City Council on September 11 at 7 PM, to hopefully be adopted at the City Council meeting on September 25. She encouraged Commissioners to read through the plan and attend the meeting on September 11 if possible.

3. MN GreenCorps Work Plan

Staff Liaison Lynch gave an overview of the work plan for the GreenCorps member that will be beginning on September 23. She asked for additional ideas or comments on the plan. Commissioners suggested having the GreenCorps member also look into the Adopt-A-Drain program, looking into establishing informational signage about pollinator gardens throughout the City, or organizing a native garden and/or rainwater garden tour.

4. Charging Smart Program

Staff Liaison Lynch explained Falcon Heights was one of the nine first cities in the US to receive a certification through the Charging Smart Program. She stated Falcon Heights received Bronze certification, and explained the City is very close to being Silver. She stated she is looking for feedback from Commissioners to meet that, specifically needing input on how the City prevents EVSE adoption and how to expand these options to more diverse communities. Commissioners suggested looking into a ride-share program such as EVIE, establishing EVSEs at Curtiss Field, and establishing EVSEs at Community Park.

5. Climate Action Plan

Staff Liaison Lynch gave a brief overview of a proposal from paleBLUEdot LLC for a Climate Action Plan. She explained the City was the recipient of a grant from MPCA to fund a climate action plan. She encouraged Commissioners to look through the proposal and to be prepared for the planning process to begin as soon as possible.

F. Information and Announcements

1. Staff Liaison Report

Staff Liaison Lynch reminded Commissioners to keep their lawns mowed and to talk to their neighbors who may be interested in joining the Climate Action Plan workgroup.

2. Council Liaison Report

Council Liaison Mielke gave an overview of Code changes being proposed by the Planning Commission to City Council (parking minimums, trash cans, accessory dwelling units), updated the Commissioners on the status of the Community Park building and policing concerns, and talked about the butterfly tagging event that was recently held at Community Park by the Monarch Joint Venture.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: October 14, 2024