

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, April 14, 2025
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 Sophie Nagel X
 Pedro De Filippo Vannucci X VACANT
 Adam Keester X VACANT

Staff Liaison Lynch X
Council Liaison Mielke A
GreenCorps Member Siebert X

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed by consent.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 10, 2025

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the February 10, 2025 minutes. Motion passed by consent.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Climate Action Plan Draft – Ted Redmond

Ted Redmond of paleBLUEdot gave an overview of the drafted Climate Action Plan. The planning process has taken nine months with over 100 community members involved. There have been two community events and two online community input surveys. A total of five foundational research documents were completed and there were 31 planning team members engaged in the process. The initial survey showed residents are concerned about climate change and have experienced the effects of climate change personally. Ted Redmond explained the different goals and actions to meet those goals and the strategy behind coming up with these goals. Baseline documents were established by paleBLUEdot and example goals/actions that helped to lead the Climate Action Plan team to make changes/remove/add goals as needed and as would be appropriate for Falcon Heights. The next steps for the plan will be for online review of the draft to continue online and there

will be an opportunity for input by residents at the Sustainability Fair on April 26. After that it will be finalized and go before City Council for review and adoption.

2. Undergraduate Leadership Program Students – Project Presentation

This agenda item was moved from E-1 to E-2.

Undergraduates Ethan Cederberg, Janelle Barlan, and Megan Cunningham presented a video they created for a leadership program at the University of Minnesota. The video described different strategies the City could use to incorporate green/eco-friendly housing throughout the City on currently vacant sites. It also described mitigation efforts that would need to be made on different sites, such as the dry cleaning site at 1407 Larpenueur. They spoke about eco-districts and highlighted other similar sites throughout the Twin Cities.

3. Tree Dashboard Update – Olivia Siebert

GreenCorps Member Siebert gave an update on the tree dashboard and boulevard tree mapping she has been working on. She has created a GIS map with a Survey123 form for Public Works to input when a new boulevard tree has been planted. It also enables staff to update trees when they are removed. The hope is that another version of this can be created for residents to input their own trees in their yards, outside of the boulevards.

4. Sustainability Fair Update

GreenCorps Member Siebert gave an update on the planning for the Sustainability Fair. The volunteer list will be sent out prior to the event so volunteers can confirm their start and end times and chosen stations. She discussed the collaboration with the City of Lauderdale and how the bingo cards will work for residents to receive food scrap bins. She also discussed the parking and traffic flow for the recycling events.

5. SolarAPP+ Discussion

Staff Liaison Lynch explained the SolarAPP+ program to the Environment Commission. This is a program that can be incorporated with the City's existing permitting system to handle building and zoning permits for solar installations. It is a free program for the City and there is state funding available for municipalities who incorporate it. The Environment Commission was interested and advised staff to move forward with talking with City Council about it.

F. Information and Announcements

1. Staff Liaison Report – *GreenCorps Member Siebert gave an overview of a waste audit that took place at City Hall for staff and the plastic bag recycling initiative that has been ongoing for around two months. 65 lbs of plastic was recently taken to Merrick for recycling. Staff Liaison Lynch reminded Commissioners of the R&E Center tour on April 30 at 3:30 PM in Newport for those interested. She also reminded them about the ongoing tree sale and let them know that Falcon Heights reached steps 4 and 5 of the GreenSteps program again for 2024.*

2. Council Liaison Report – *None.*

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: May 12, 2025