

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpentour Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, October 13, 2025
6:30 p.m.

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

B. ROLL CALL:

Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Georgiana May	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adam Keester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nuz Sanidad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monika Chandler	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Staff Liaison Lynch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Council Liaison Mielke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 8, 2025

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025 minutes. Motion passed by consent.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Green-To-Go Ordinance

Staff Liaison Lynch went through the drafted Green-To-Go ordinance. She explained this is heavily taken from the City of Roseville, but it may be good to have similar language amongst the cities doing this to make it easier for businesses who have locations in multiple cities. She explained food trucks should probably be removed since these are regulated by the State of Minnesota and we do not currently have regulations for them in City Code. She explained a potential timeline for implementation, including speaking with City Council, an introductory letter to businesses, an Open House at City Hall, individual meetings at businesses, adoption of the ordinance, then several months before compliance is expected and enforced. Businesses should be allowed time to use of their existing supply of non-compostable/non-recyclable goods before forcing them to purchase compliant versions.

She mentioned she is concerned around the financial impact to businesses but that BizRecycling could help with this. She asked for advice from Nuz Sanidad who worked on Green-To-Go in St. Paul. Sanidad explained a lot of the existing products that businesses are

using are recyclable and thus already in compliance, but agreed that BizRecycling can help. She also stated she did outreach with sample bags of materials for the businesses to test, feel, etc.

Commissioners discussed compliance and how to ensure compliance, and Staff Liaison Lynch explained the current code enforcement process at the City. Currently it can be a long process involving letters back and forth and discussions with the property owner before a harsher solution is sought. She explained compliance is what is wanted, not necessarily punishing someone. Council Liaison Mielke suggested rewarding compliant businesses by featuring them in the newsletter or perhaps offering a decal window cling to showcase their compliance.

Staff Liaison Lynch stated the next steps would be to make a few more changes to the drafted ordinance before taking it to City Council for an initial review.

2. Landscaping Updates to City Code

Staff Liaison Lynch went through drafted updates to landscaping requirements in City Code. Commissioners discussed boulevard plantings and the best way to regulate these. It was determined the Environment Commission wants to promote and encourage native landscaping instead of turf grass, but that raising the height of turf grass to 8" to match other cities would be a good option. However it would also be good to match the ordinance to what is currently being seen in Falcon Heights, which includes many longer native plantings and no-mow lawns that may have longer grass, all things the Commission supports.

F. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Staff Liaison Report

Staff Liaison Lynch gave an update on GreenCorps Member Siebert's new service assignment for Great Plains Institute. She also advised the City Hall solar panels will be fully installed in the next few weeks, boulevard trees will be delivered to roughly 20 homes in the next week or two, and gave an overview and update on the Les Bolstad Golf Course sale by the University.

2. Council Liaison Report

Council Liaison Mielke asked Commissioners about adding a transportation component to the Environment Commission. Commissioners were in support and mentioned the Climate Action Plan advises on transportation and this would be a good fit for the Environment Commission to discuss.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: November 10, 2025