

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Community Engagement Commission
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

MINUTES

March 16, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:33 PM
- B. ROLL CALL:
Julie Ebbesen_X_ Denise King_X_ Sarah Caflisch____ Emily Schmall_X_ Emmett Fisher_X_ Signe Nestingen_X_
- STAFF PRESENT:
Elke Johnson_X__ Ainsley Brown_X__
- COUNCIL LIAISON:
Paula Mielke_X__
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- King suggests moving items 1 & 2 to the bottom of the unfinished agenda.
- D. WELCOME
- Introduction of new commissioner Nestingen.
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
- February 23, 2026 Community Engagement Commission Meeting Minutes
 - Schall motions to approve - unanimously approved
- F. AGENDA
- Unfinished business
 1. Every Meal Volunteering
 - a. Johnson suggests cancelling due to availability of commissioners
 - b. Mielke is comfortable participating and reporting back
 - c. Ebbesen suggests a google poll to gather availability of commissioners moving forward
 - d. King suggests looking into May or later for next opportunity
 2. Spring Together
 - a. Johnson - would like to include event information in the upcoming Spring newsletter.

- b. Johnson notifies the commission of the existence of the Falcon Heights Orchestra
 - c. Brown says that we have 7-10 people from the orchestra that will be willing to perform. They will plan to play music for approximately 30 minutes
 - d. Johnson reviews the food/snack items that were suggested
 - i. We could pop popcorn at City Hall and bring bags over
 - ii. St. Anthony police and St Paul Fire will be there
 - iii. St. Paul Water Wagon may be available but they have another meeting earlier in the day
 - iv. King suggests Neighborhood Energy Consortium
 - v. Mielke - 4/18 is the sustainability fair so those may compete
 - vi. Johnson is concerned about competition with the Xcel Energy Home Audit contract that is currently in place
 - vii. King suggests contacting Ramsey County Library and League of Women Voters
 - viii. Nestingen suggests Ramsey County Environmental Center
 - ix. Mielke suggests Every Meal and possibly Keystone
 - 1. Schmall suggests that Keystone may be a better options as it is more accessible
 - x. Mielke suggests Sigma International Institute
 - xi. Mielke suggest Good Acre as they may still have CSA sign-ups
 - xii. Youth Engagement - Fisher suggests bags/cornhole and soccer
 - xiii. Food options
 - 1. Popcorn
 - 2. Cotton Candy
 - xiv. In the event of inclement weather the event will be canceled and not rescheduled
 - xv. Ebbesen has a 10x10 and a 10x20 tent available if needed
3. Rebranding of Community Engagement Commission
- a. Johnson gives brief review of previous discussion
 - b. Review mission statements
 - i. Nestingen - found commonalities
 - ii. Schmall - agrees there are a lot of common themes. Suggests a shorter Mission Statement and support them with a list of core values
 - iii. King agrees that simplicity is an advantage
 - iv. Fischer - agrees that a concise mission statement
 - v. Mielke - strengthen communities finding meaningful ways to for residents to connect

- c. Proposed edit: The mission of the Falcon Heights CEC is to foster collaboration between the city and it's residents to create an inclusive community that promotes respect connectedness, equity and the safety and well-being of all.

4. Hosting Listening Session

- a. Johnson provides brief recap
 - i. Caflisch suggested hosting a test session with select individuals, commissioners agreed but would like King and Ebbesen input
- b. King – comfortable with a small and intentional group to test the format and content
- c. Mielke reiterates that we would like to have an “elevator pitch” for inviting residents to participate.
- d. King suggests not having the sessions at City Hall. Concerns regarding the neutrality of the space. The pilot may be will need to be here. King and Johnson will check availability for other spaces
- e. Johnson and Caflisch will provide date availability, hopefully mid to late April or in to May.
- f. After the listening session the commission will determine if the listening sessions will move forward.

G. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENT

- Report from Council Liaison Mielke
 - a. Request commission applications to golf course
 - b. 4/18 sustainability fair
 - c. 7/18 garden tour
 - d. Parks planning Grove park event and fall fest
 - e. State Fair marketing director has offered horticulture tours and historical tours
 - f. Senior living facility adjacent to Amber Union- Fairway commons 110 units
 - g. Study coming up for Larpenteur development from Highway 61 to 280. Proposed work in 2028 but planning will get started this year.
 - i. U good neighbor finds may be available next year. Mielke will review what is available and share it with the city.

H. ADJOURNMENT: 8:01 PM

- Ebbesen motions to adjourn – unanimously approved

Next Regular Meeting is on Monday, April 20 at 6:30 PM