

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

MINUTES

Monday, May 11, 2026
6:30 p.m.

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

B. ROLL CALL: Adam Keester (Chair) X David Smith X
John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) X Monika Chandler X
Nuz Sanidad (Secretary) A Erica Bjelland X
Beth Mercer-Taylor X

Staff Liaison Myhren X
Council Liaison May X

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Liaison May requested an item be added to the agenda – New Business #5, Lawn & Garden Tour Recruitment. Commissioner Mercer-Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda with this addition. Motion passed by consent.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 13, 2026

Chair Keester made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2026 meeting. Motion passed by consent.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Sustainability Fair Recap

Staff Liaison Myhren gave an overview of the Sustainability Fair. She stated, despite the cold and windy weather, it was very successful. Highlights included:

- 18 organizations tabled
- Repowered Electronics Recycling – 1,887 lbs of electronics recycled
- EcoShred – Eight 96-gallon carts of paper were shredded (around 2,400 lbs)
- Retold Recycling – Recycled 808 lbs of textiles

Commissioners discussed the outcomes and decided to potentially remove the speakers due to low attendance and to have a different giveaway than compost buckets (only gave out around 40 of 100). Another comment made was that several residents were concerned about the paper shredding, due to EcoShred taking the paper off-site to shred. This is due

to EcoShred's model of not having an idling truck, but this is something to consider for next year.

2. **Boulevard Tree Update and Tree Selection**

Staff Liaison Myhren presented the DNR 2020 Community Tree Report for the City of Falcon Heights. Commissioners reviewed and discussed the validity of the report, due to the large number of maples and "new" trees planted. It was considered these could have been planted on the University campus or State Fair property.

Staff Liaison Myhren asked Commissioners to review the list from the report and from the forester's suggested boulevard tree list and decide if any should be added or removed for boulevard trees. She stated boulevard tree signups are open currently and she will be letting residents know what was selected for their yard before planting begins.

3. **SolarApp+ Update**

Staff Liaison Myhren stated SolarApp+ is ready to be launched for the City, however there is some testing that needs to be completed. Unfortunately she was not able to give a demonstration at this meeting due to the test username and password she was given being invalid.

4. **Climate Action Plan / Energy Action Plan Implementation Subgroup**

Chair Keester explained the implementation of these plans may be better to keep internal to the Environment Commission. Commissioners discussed how to prioritize different focus areas and strategies. They also discussed potentially assigning a project for UMN students, such as reviewing and offering suggestions for revising City Code to remove barriers to more energy efficient multi-family buildings.

5. **Lawn & Garden Tour Recruitment**

Staff Liaison Myhren stated there is currently only one signup for the Lawn & Garden Tour in July. Commissioners discussed how to promote signups. Staff Liaison Myhren agreed to email all former participants. Commissioner Mercer-Taylor stated she would look into the Native American Medicine Garden. Staff Liaison Myhren stated she would also push the signups more in the newsletter starting next week, after Spring Together.

F. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Staff Liaison Report** – *Staff Liaison Myhren gave an update on the Fairway Commons development, the Get Pressed purchase, and reminded Commissioners of the Spring Together event.*
2. **Council Liaison Report** – *Council Liaison May gave an overview of the Community Advisory Committee for the Les Bolstad Golf Course Redevelopment and that their first meeting will be Wednesday, May 20. She also let Commissioners know about an event on July 6 at the Philando Castille Peace Garden followed by a picnic at Falcon Heights City Hall.*

G. ADJOURN

Commissioner Chandler made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed by consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Next regular meeting date: June 8, 2026