

**LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025
LAUDERDALE CITY HALL, 1891 WALNUT STREET**

1. **CALL TO ORDER (Chair Williams)**
2. **ROLL CALL (Chair Williams)**
3. **APPROVALS (Chair Williams)**
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Minutes of the January 21, 2025 Meeting
 - c. Minutes of the February 18, 2025 Meeting
4. **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS**
5. **DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM**
 - a. Honey and Native Bee Discussion: Presenter Diane Galvin
 - b. Sustainability Fair Update and Volunteer Sign ups (Butkowski)
6. **SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**
 - a. Falcon Heights – Lauderdale Sustainability Fair Planning with Olivia Siebert
 - b. Pollinator Next Steps
 - c. Confirm Topics of Interest Schedule
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

To participate remotely:

Topic: March 18, 2025 Environment and Sustainability Commission

Time: Mar 18, 2025 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643612032?pwd=yaZ1pfopvqalQ9O7lfKvTO1qY5TsQo.1>

Meeting ID: 816 4361 2032

Passcode: 954782

Dial by your location

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**LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025
LAUDERDALE CITY HALL, 1891 WALNUT STREET**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Josh Keller; Ewa Prochniewicz; Greg Williams; Jess Winkelaar; Ann Sisel; and Bryan Carlson.

Council City Council Members Present: Jeff Dains and Mayor Mary Gaasch.

Members Absent: Mindy Nakamoto and Monika Davis

APPROVALS

Chair Williams asked if there were any proposed changes to the agenda or minutes of the December 17, 2024 commission meeting. There being none, the meeting proceeded.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM

A. Defining Grass Roots Work Together

Mayor Gaasch explained that the City Council was highly committed to and excited about partnering with the Commission. She said the City Council wouldn't set goals or a schedule for the Commission. Like the work of the City Council, the Commission will be driven by the mission and vision of the members and members' roots in Lauderdale. The City has limited financial resources to devote to the work of the Commission but the best work will be done in a grass roots fashion.

B. Topics of Interest

Commissioners were asked to send in three environmental topics of interest to them. Butkowski said the three most common responses were related to pollinator health, native plantings / forestry, and stormwater management. If the Commission agrees, staff could prepare a schedule for exploring those topics. Staff suggested inviting Russ Henry to the next meeting to kick off the discussion around pollinators and native plantings. The Commission agreed.

C. Sustainability Fair Partnership with Falcon Heights

Staff shared the materials sent by Falcon Heights staff regarding the sustainability fair scheduled for Saturday, September 26. Butkowski said the increase in funding from Ramsey County for recycling allows Lauderdale to be a financial partner in the event which will provide Lauderdale residents with access to the textile, electronics, and shredded paper recycling along with resources from vendors at the fair. Falcon Heights is offering their residents free food scrap containers paid for by the recycling funds. City staff will order some to distribute to Lauderdale residents. Commissioners offered suggestions for additional fair vendors that staff will share with Falcon Heights.

D. City Website and Information Sharing

Butkowski explained that the two primary systems the City has for sharing information is the City's website with email distribution list and the city newsletter that is published quarterly. The Commission has a page on the City's website. Information about events or opportunities can be posted there and then emailed through the website to those that have signed up to receive notices. Similarly, commission articles can be published in the city newsletter. Sharing information about the Sustainability Fair can happen through these channels. To get the word out and energize people to attend will take more effort. Ideas can be discussed at future meetings.

E. Establish Subcommittees

Some Commissioners expressed interest in devoting more time to environment and sustainability efforts in the city beyond the monthly meeting. So long as the subcommittees are limited to four commission members, meetings will not violate the open meeting law. The group discussed options for doing this when time during the meetings is not sufficient to complete the work of the Commission.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The agenda will include a presentation by Russ Henry regarding pollinator ecology and the Falcon Heights – Lauderdale Sustainability Fair.

ADJOURNMENT

**LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025
LAUDERDALE CITY HALL, 1891 WALNUT STREET**

CALL TO ORDER

City Administrator Butkowski called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Ewa Prochniewicz; Monika Davis; and Bryan Carlson.

Council City Council Members Present: Jeff Dains.

Members Absent: Jess Winkelaar, Josh Keller, Greg Williams, Ann Sisel, and Mindy Nakamoto.

APPROVALS

Without a quorum present, a vote on approval of the minutes was not taken. They will carry over to the next meeting.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM

A. Pollinator Health and Native Plants: Speaker Russ Henry

Butkowski introduced the guest speaker, Russ Henry. Henry owns Minnehaha Falls Landscape and Giving Tree Gardens and founded Bee Safe Minneapolis. Henry addressed the Lauderdale City Council in the winter of 2024 and they found his knowledge enlightening.

Jess Winkelaar and Josh Keller arrived.

Henry provided information on the soil degradation that has happened over time due to chemical use and how to recreate healthy soils. He also addressed the role soil health plays in pollinator health. After his presentation, the Commissioners asked questions and thanked him for his time.

B. Sustainability Fair Update and Volunteer Sign Ups

City staff sent around a sign-up sheet for jobs at the Sustainability Fair. Falcon Heights staff will attend the April meeting to finalize plans for the event.

C. Topics of Interest Schedule

Carried over to the next meeting.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

- a. Honey Bees Speaker / City Code
- b. Confirm Topics of Interest Schedule
- c. Continue Falcon Heights – Lauderdale Sustainability Fair Planning

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC FORM

Meeting Date March 18, 2025

Agenda Item Honey and Native Bees

Action Requested

Consent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Action	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Session	<input type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC:

Lauderdale resident Diane Galvin agreed to share her knowledge of honey and native bees at the meeting. Diane is the only person in Lauderdale history to apply for a permit to have a honey bee hive and start a colony. She agreed to share her experiences and knowledge about bees. At the April meeting, the Commission can synthesize the information learned from Diane and Russ and decide on any next steps to improving pollinator health in Lauderdale.

LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC FORM

Meeting Date March 18, 2025

Agenda Item Sustainability Fair

Action Requested

Consent ☐ Public Hearing ☐ Discussion ☒
Action ☐ Resolution ☐ Work Session ☐

DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC:

We will touch base during the meeting about the Sustainability Fair. A few spots are open for volunteers. Falcon Height's Green Corps Member Olivia Siebert will be at the April meeting to go over final plans for the Sustainability Fair.