

**City of Falcon Heights
Environment Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2012**

Present: Commissioners Diane Ross, Nina Semmelroth, Peggy Hall, Isaac Mielke, Rebecca Montgomery, Mayor Peter Lindstrom, Deb Jones (Staff).

Absent: Brian Goodspeed, Jeff Connell, Ethan Wagner

1. The meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. by the co-Chair, Diane Ross. The minutes for October were approved. Diane Ross was thanked for her two terms of service on the Environment Commission.
2. **Prairie Grass Update from Mayor Lindstrom.** City Council discussed this topic again in workshop and decided to request more research from staff on whether cities restrict this type of landscaping by percentage of the lot.
3. **Beekeeping Update from Mayor Lindstrom.** This did not have majority support in the City Council. Among the reasons given were that lot sizes in the city are too small, “we don’t need any more bees in the community,” at least one Council member is fearful of bees, and the provision requiring permission of neighbors would create dissension in neighborhoods.
4. **Recycling Innovation Grant Update from Staff Liaison Jones.** Falcon Heights is moving ahead with a grant application in collaboration with the City of Lauderdale. The proposed project is a pilot voucher system to aid residents in disposing of bulky waste (e.g. mattresses, furniture, appliances). The Council will be asked to confirm a resolution of support.
5. **Chickens.** Commissioners worked through the model ordinances provided by staff and selected Stillwater’s as the preferred model for a Falcon Heights chicken ordinance, with additional elements from Maplewood and Eagan. Commissioners were in favor of requiring a permit but not requiring neighbor permission or notice. Staff will work with the City Attorney to create a draft ordinance. The Mayor said this will go to the Council after the January workshop.
6. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at about 8:40 p.m.