

**City of Falcon Heights
Environment Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2014**

Present: Commissioners Rebecca Montgomery, Peggy Hall, Kathryn Hartman,
Councilmember Beth Mercer-Taylor, Staff Liaison Chelsea Petersen

Absent: Patti Holmes (with notice), Jeff Connell

Other Attendees: David Murphy, Tyler Lande, Ashley Dalton, Laura Harreld

1. Do Green in Falcon Heights

David Murphy presented Commissioners with information regarding organized trash collection. He discussed the current use of multiple refuse haulers in all areas of the city, and suggested examining either a single hauler for the entire city, or keeping multiple haulers that each serve a specific area of the city.

Commissioners discussed a brief history on organized collection efforts in Falcon Heights and what other cities are doing now. Commissioners will look into the issues of a single hauler and organized yard waste collection in the future. David provided a list of references and resources that the Commission can utilize for research.

2. Sustainability Fair - Presentation

Tyler Lande, Ashley Dalton, and Laura Harreld presented on the Sustainability Fair on November 20th at Silverwood Park. This has become an annual event put on by University students and the cities of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, and St. Anthony Village. Students are working on capstone projects to help promote sustainability efforts that the communities and their citizens can easily adopt. In addition to the student projects and presentations there will be several outside vendors with resources that attendees can learn about. A Facebook event has been created to help advertise, and a website will be launched as well.

3. Sustainability Fair - Commission Involvement

The Commission would like to have a poster or pamphlet about the sustainability activities and promotions that they have brought to the community. Commissioners brainstormed several things they could highlight and will discuss the specifics on the display at the next meeting.

4. TechDump Event

The Cities of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, and St. Anthony Village are hosting an electronics recycling event with TechDump on Saturday, November 1st at both Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Village City Halls. This event is free to the public, with a small cost for some larger electronics.

5. **Recruitment of New Commissioners**

Commissioners would like to recruit at least two new members, at least one of which being a youth member. Beth will be reaching out to former youth commissioners and high school groups, while Chelsea will contact community gardeners and Commonwealth Terrace residents.

6. **Information and Announcements**

Beth recently attended a Sierra Club event about the EPA's Clean Power Plan and handed out information about smog pollution. She also presented a grant opportunity and asked for input from the group on potential project/study topics including:

- 1) planning for storms, hot weather as part of climate adaptation, resilience alongside St Paul, state fair and U of M campus
- 2) the perfect storm of aging buildings, infrastructure and population and increased vulnerability to storms (power outages, floods, tree damage) and challenges to clean up due to more seniors in the mix

Commissioners were supportive of the grant, and staff will investigate further and have discussions with Council about what to apply for.

Rebecca would like to investigate the possibility of timing fall street sweeping with the leaf drop of certain species of trees. She recommended having Larry Baker from Prior Lake come speak to the Commission in the future.

Rebecca and Beth expressed interest in having a representative from Transition Town St. Anthony Park come speak about their sustainability efforts.