

## **Falcon Heights – Community Engagement Commission Minutes of the May 18, 2015 Meeting**

Members Present: Chair Melanie Leehy; Commissioners Dick Carlson, Jay Colond, Ahmed Hassan, Clem Kurhajetz, Gary Kwong, Shirley Reider;; Staff Liaisons Tim Sandvik, Katie Thrasher; Police Liaison Chief John Ohl; Fire Liaison Assistant Chief Anton Fehrenbach; Council Liaison Mayor Peter Lindstrom

Members Absent: Commissioners, Amino Mohamed, Gwen Wilems, Felicia Turner

Call to Order: 7:02pm

1. Approval of 3.16.15 Minutes
  - a. Clarification and edits
2. Agenda Items
  - Helen Foster has resigned
  - When presenting please keep it to 5 minutes
  - Thank you cards for door prizes: Topper's Pizza and Dino's
3. Update commissioner contacts: city hall contact information and public brochure
  - a. Encouraged to be a neighborhood liaison or express interest in CERT program
  - b. If there is already a liaison, you can collaborate with the current liaison(s)
4. Review Community Engagement Commission Purpose
  - a. Reading of Purpose from Ordinance No. 15-01 which merged the Human Rights and Neighborhood Commissions. "2-119 Community Engagement Commission: The community engagement commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the city council regarding the effective, meaningful and equal involvement of Falcon Heights residents in their community. The commission will identify opportunities to collaborate with community, educational, business and social services groups and organizations; identify ways to improve the city's public participation, identify under-represented groups, remove any barriers, and engage and promote increased participation for all residents, businesses, community and neighborhood organizations; review and recommend ways to improve the city's communications efforts so as to facilitate effective two-way communication between the city and all residents, businesses, community and neighborhood organizations; review and recommend ways to help improve resident emergency preparedness and crime prevention programs. The commission shall review complaints of alleged human rights violations occurring within the city and secure equal opportunity for all residents of the city regarding public services, public accommodations, housing, employment and education."
5. House Keeping Items

- a. "Good email flow"
  - o Please cc Melanie, Tim, and/or Katie on all emails regarding CEC
- b. Heavy interest in Outreach and Events which reiterates the need to merge
- c. Review Committee purpose: Strategizing is for the Commission meetings
  - o Prevention/Incident Committee:  
This team will deal with incident review, safety, CERTs and crime prevention.
  - o Events/Outreach Committee:  
This team will work on the logistics of decided events, and apartment connectors outreach.
- d. Procedures for becoming a Liaison: will be sent a link and provided a handbook
- e. Will be meeting with Kris Graangard about CERT procedures so as not to overwhelm with emails

6. Little Free Library Report

- a. Report from Clem: No new ones in the ground, there's currently 4 or 5
- b. Review: Lions club donated money and helped build the LFL
- c. LFL purpose is to increase literacy for any age
- d. It's another way for people to recycle their books with purpose

7. Music for Block Parties Plan

- o Update from Dick: Plans to make contact with Tim Cheesebrow at Underground Music Café. He has committed to talk with him and participate. Would like to get the word out soon to the city in how to reach out to Dick if they have interest in performing music on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Also plans to select a few songs that he feels will work well.
- o A Block Party Packet goes out to all of the Liaisons: Suggestion to add a spot if interested in music and a time slot

8. CERT Cultural Services Unit and Other Things

- o Cultural Services Unit: a weekend training
- o If you'd like to be informed please check CERT on the contact list- these people will receive emails from Kris Graangard on these training opportunities whether or not you have gone through the CERT training

9. Prevention Incident Committee Report from April 23

- o Reviewed topics of Human Rights Violations, Crime Prevention, and CERT
- o Addressed the continuing education concern of CERTs. We can speak with Kris about requiring a refresher on all the categories covered in the CERT training
- o CEC has oversight of the CERT program- keeping the CERTs fresh is a valid concern to converse with Kris Graangard on

10. Apartment Relations

- o Chair in collaboration with Staff Liaisons needs to reestablish relationships with the apartment managers to have consistent communication

11. Upcoming event dates

Established Events:

- FHFD would appreciate help with the open house, particularly getting the communication out
  - They do some fundraising through the event and had big success with the chili cook off.
  - Request of having a table for the CEC to formally introduce themselves
  - Request to have chili ingredients listed for allergy/lifestyle purposes
  - FHFD: It's tough to commit to having the Fire Dept. visit block parties unless they are on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> (will be an update to the Block Party Packet- WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE NIGHT TO UNITE DAY)

Potential Events:

- Spring together event using the green space at City Hall: would have to be Monday, June 15 or Tuesday, June 16 in order to allow everyone an opportunity to participate.
- OR**
- Night to Unite: Hosting a block party for apartments on the green space at City Hall
  - Event cannot happen in June due to other Big City Events (Community Build Day)

12. Events & Outreach Committee Report

- Ice Cream Social
  - Tabling has been inefficient
  - Give away something? More effective
- Block Parties
  - Sign in sheet: please have bigger spaces for people to write in info
- Film Series in Sept. with Diversity focus with Ramsey County Libraries (Shirley motions, Clem seconds)
- Fire Dept. Open House
  - Maybe a fire extinguisher demonstration?
- Human Rights Day: December 10
- Annual CERTS meeting: January

13. Meeting Schedule Sept 21<sup>st</sup>

Announcement: Opening on council, applications can be submitted in July

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm