

**City of Falcon Heights  
Environment Commission Minutes  
February 8th, 2016  
6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Commissioners Hall, Holmes, Vice Chair Montgomery, Chair Miazga, and Secretary Olson, Staff Liaison Moretto and Council Liaison Mayor Lindstrom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chair Miazga

**1) Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting of the Environmental Commission were approved.

**2) News and Announcements**

**3) Presentation- Tree Trust by Karen Zumach**

Karen Zumach gave a presentation on Tree Trust, a non-profit that seeks to increase the urban tree canopy through a subsidized tree purchase program and education. Tree Trust started as a response to Dutch Elm Disease in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and is now helping to respond to Emerald Ash Borer.

The Tree Trust purchase program is helped by subsidies from cities to increase tree cover on private properties. There are a variety of trees available for residents to purchase, estimated at about \$25 per tree. Residents who purchase a tree will receive a color-coded postcard in the mail, indicating the time and location to pick up their tree. Karen stated that tree purchase program is a scalable model and can be run in the Fall or Spring.

The Commission passed a motion recommending that the City explore a tree purchase pilot program through Tree Trust this Fall.

**4) Exchange Program- Germany**

Mayor Lindstrom spoke about an exchange program in the works that matches up a Minnesota city with a German town to learn about each other's energy system. This is a grant program being done with the University of Minnesota. If selected, representatives from the City would tour Germany as part of the learning reciprocity.

The Commission passed a motion to create a subcommittee to apply for the grant program. The subcommittee will consist of Chair Miazga, Staff Liaison Moretto, and Council Liaison Mayor Lindstrom.

### **5) Discuss GreenStep Cities- Next Steps**

Staff Liaison Moretto will be participating in a webinar to explore the next level in the GreenStep Cities Program. Paul will present this information to the Commission at the next meeting.

There is also a \$3000 grant that can be applied for to implement Best Management Practices as outlined in the Program. The deadline is the end of February. A motion was passed by the Commission to encourage the City to follow up and apply.

### **6) Discuss Solar Garden meeting with CERT**

Commissioner Holmes updated the Commission on the status of scheduling the meeting with CERT. Saturdays are possible, but not during the upcoming Easter holiday weekend. The City does not need to meet the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Holmes will work with City staff to schedule the meeting.

### **7) Organic Starter Kits**

Tara Roffler from Ramsey County sent the City an email stating the availability of organic starter kits. The kits contain a plastic bin for compost storage and a biodegradable trash bag. The Commission expressed interest in having these materials available at the pending solar garden meeting.

### **8) Quarter Letter from the Commission in the Newsletter**

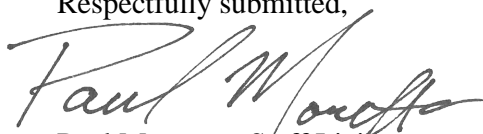
Staff Liaison Moretto has requested the Commission highlight its activity during 2015 for inclusion in the City Newsletter. Moretto will send an example. The newsletter will print in March.

### **9) Public Comments**

An interested citizen, Serena, attended this Commission meeting. She was interested in knowing the sourcing of the trees from the Tree Trust Program, as well as any treatment that may be applied to the trees.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Moretto – Staff Liaison