

## **Falcon Heights Environment Commission**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**6:30 p.m.**

### **Meeting Minutes**

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

#### 1) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting of the Environmental Commission were approved.

#### 2) News and Announcements

Falcon Heights' most recent email newsletter has a website link to purchase discount rain barrels and compost bins, amongst other items.

The new Bell Museum will break ground on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am in the City.

#### 3) Community Solar- Sack Thongvanh

City Administrator, Sack Thongvanh, announced that the City of Falcon Heights has been awarded a contract with Geronimo Energy to provide solar energy to the City through a solar garden within the County. This process was done through an RFP with the Met Council. Falcon Heights will receive a \$0.01 discount per KWH of electricity. Based on the 125 KW contract award, the City will receive an estimated savings of \$25,000 over the 25-year contract. The City Attorney must still review the contract prior to being sent to the City Council for approval. It is anticipated that the solar garden will be in operation by 2017.

A motion was passed by the Commission to recommend the City approve the contract.

#### 4) Smart Climate Grant- Updates

Chair Miazga and Staff Liaison Moretto updated the Commission on the application progress for the Smart Climate Grant. Miazga asked the Commission to review and comment on the draft application. The current idea in the application is to highlight the City of Falcon Height as a "living laboratory" because of the City's unique proximity to the University of Minnesota and Hamline University. Liaison Moretto will send an email of the current draft to Commissioners. The application is due by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### 5) Sustainable City Award

The City is eligible to apply for a \$1000 award through the GreenStep Cities Program. A subcommittee was formed to help complete the application. The subcommittee includes: Chair Miazga, Secretary Olson, Mayor Lindstrom, Liaison Moretto, and Commissioner Wassenberg. Last year's winner was Oakdale. The application is due May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A motion was passed to encourage the City to apply for this award.

Secretary Olson asked for an update on the \$3000 grant mentioned at the last Commission meeting. Liaison Moretto said that there is still time to complete the application and he will follow up.

#### 6) Green Step 4- BP29 Fulfilling the requirements

Staff Liaison Moretto is currently documenting and tracking the City's progress on the 29 steps. There was a debate on whether or not the submitted data/metrics should include the State Fair and U of M properties.

No action was taken by the Commission.

#### 7) Solar Garden meeting with CERT- Update

Commissioner Holmes passed out a press release for a proposed solar garden meeting with CERT. The City had asked that CERT should pay \$200 rental fee to host the event at City Hall, but CERT stated that they were unable to pay. If the Commission hosts, it may be able to get this fee removed. But, if the Commission hosts, meeting minutes must be kept if the 3 or more Commissioners are present and speak in an official capacity.

A motion was passed to recommend that the Environmental Commission should host this meeting in April.

#### 8) Public Comments

No public comments.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016