

Falcon Heights Environment Commission

April 11th, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

1) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 14th, 2016 meeting of the Environmental Commission were approved.

2) News and Announcements

Parks Liaison, Tim Sandvick, wants to make the Falcon Heights Ice Cream Social a low waste event. A handout on low waste event planning was provided to the Commission. There were questions raised on how to define or quantify a low waste event. Commission discussed first focusing on refuse reduction. Liaison Moretto recommended that the Ice Cream Social organizers provide a list of items used during the event to evaluate what could be composted or recycled. This item will be discussed again at future meetings.

3) MPCA Event Sponsorship

Falcon Heights was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the MPCA to host an event for resiliency education and outreach. This event will be co-hosted with the Great Plains Institute by June 2016.

4) EA Grant Update – Letter of Support

Liaison Moretto requested a recommendation from the Commission to the City Council for a letter of support from the Commission to be sent to the MPCA stating it's commitment to sustainability planning. This commitment letter will be used in the application for a \$15,000 grant from MPCA that would go sustainability planning and outreach. See Paul's recent email.

Motion was passed to allow the Chair to craft a letter to be sent to the City Council.

5) Smart Climate Grant- Updates

Application has been submitted and accepted. Evaluation will be made shortly.

6) Sustainable City Award

The Chair has prepared a portion of the award application to be reviewed by the

subcommittee, which was created at the last commission meeting.

7) Solar Garden meeting with CERT - Update

The meeting with Cert was held on April 5th at City Hall. It is estimated that over 40 residents attended. The Commission discussed the event and information provided.

Motion was passed to recommend that the event's success and meeting details should be included in the City's electronic newsletter with links to more information.

The Commission would like to find ways to get resident feedback and encourage those who attended to share the meeting information with their neighbors.

8) Public Comments

Vice Chair Montgomery asked Liaison Moretto if there had been any follow up to the January meeting presentation on urban forest resiliency planning. Moretto said that there has not been available staff time for follow up due to all the recent grant applications. Moretto will follow up and report status at the next Commission meeting

Secretary Olson asked about the City ordinance regarding bees. Olson had heard interest expressed by community members.

Secretary Olson suggested the Commission look into Capitol Region Watershed District grants for the city. A 2016 special grant application was available to cities and businesses in August 2015 and awarded in October 2016. The same timeline might be expected this year

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, May 10th, 2016