

Falcon Heights Environment Commission

March 14th, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

1) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 9th, 2016 meeting of the Environmental Commission were approved.

2) News and Announcements

Commissioner Hartman will be resigning from the Commission. The Commission discussed adding a youth position.

Ramsey County is offering discount compost bins and rain barrels. This will be advertised on the list serve.

3) Water Conservation- Mark Miazga

Chair Miazga found a potential grant that the Met Council offers to help with water efficiency. Commission will prepare ideas for the future when the grant application becomes available.

4) Regional Indicators Initiative- Mayor Lindstrom

Mayor Lindstrom gave a brief summary of the Regional Indicators Initiative. The City collected data for a number of metrics (e.g. water usage, energy consumption, etc) from 2008 to 2014. This data has been used in Council decision-making. The Mayor will present more to the Commission in the future.

5) Grants- Updates

- MPCA Sponsorship Grant- \$3000 was granted to the City to host an information meeting on resiliency and other topics. Meeting will be held in June.
- The City did not receive the grant to work with a partner city in Germany. However, the City was granted "Affiliate Status," which will allow Falcon Heights to benefit from the information exchanges that will occur.
- The City received money from the Good Neighbor Fund. This money has

been put towards bike fix-it stations and racks.

6) Low Waste Events

Tim Sandvig and Liaison Moretto have drafted a letter to the City Council on the intentions to provide a low waste event at the Ice Cream Social. The Commission discussed a number of ideas on how to balance financial and low waste priorities.

7) Low Cost Trees

The Commission discussed pursuing a subsidized tree purchase event next fall or spring. It was suggested that money from a potential Good Neighbor Fund again could be used towards subsidies. The City would need to procure a Nursery Stock Certificate to distribute the trees.

8) Forestry and Climate Change

The Commission discussed the ongoing exchange between Leslie Brandt and City Staff on a potential workshop to complete an urban forestry assessment worksheet. The Commission would like to involve other nearby cities, but priority should be to get this done sooner than later.

9) Public Comments

No public comments.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, June 13th, 2016