

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the City Council City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

AGENDA

February 13, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

B. ROLL CALL: LINDSTROM X LEEHY HARRIS X
 MIAZGA X GUSTAFSON X

STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH X

C. PRESENTATION

1. Inclusion Events

The city received \$20,000 from the St. Paul Foundation to continue inclusion work. The city used the grant to fund ongoing or completed activities such as Cultivating a Caring Community event, Rec on the Go, Survey and Service on the Spot, Community Survey, and the mural at Falcon Heights Elementary.

A. "Cultivating a Caring Community"

City Administrator Thongvanh

The event took place on October 5, 2018. Michelle Vilchez and Thomasina Russaw attended the Kettering Learning Foundation in Dayton, OH, and we asked them to be our guest speakers and share their experiences and skills. We used the grant for their flight tickets and hotel. We also had Ken Morris, who was the co-facilitator for the task force, and did a mini inclusion training. The Working Styles Wheel (aka Lakota Medicine Wheel) was the main activity of the event and concentrates on how cities and organizations deal with their employees, community, and interacts with people during a big incident.

After the event, we sent out a survey, and 85% stated that they would attend future events. Everyone enjoyed the Lakota Medicine Wheel, speakers, and interacting with members of the community. Our guests wished it were in a diverse neighborhood, more interactive time with each other, and a lack of acknowledgment of the oversight of shooting. The things we can improve from this event are to add more time for interactions and a different day of the week to hold the event.

Mayor Lindstrom

It was a great event. I enjoyed it thoroughly especially the medicine wheel. I want thank John Thompson for attending the Kettering Foundation. It was a big commitment to attend all the three sessions.

Council Member Gustafson

It was a great event and an excellent opportunity to get the community together and bond with each other.

John Thompson

It was nice to see City Administrator Thongvanh, Council Member Gustafson and other council members outside of the city and see them work towards a goal. It was my first time participating and doing the work. The last time I was here, it was a lot of complaining, but now we are doing the work to try to cultivate this community. I also want to let you know that Ramsey County Sheriff's Office is doing a great job in Falcon Heights and the culture of policing is changing.

I want to recap a few things when my friend Philando was murdered. There were many people at City Hall who were angry. Mayor Lindstrom spoke about wanting to change the city, and I want to thank you for staying true to that statement and changing how we view police in Falcon Heights. This city has done a 360, and I owe it all to the work. You have changed my perspective on government, and we are getting better. I want to thank everyone for allowing me to connect with them and working towards cultivating a caring community. We built a relationship out of a tragedy. Thank you for believing in me.

B. "Survey and Service on the Spot"

City Administrator Thongvanh

The purpose of this survey was to get feedback. Council Member Leehy stated Falcon Heights is a "Tales of Two Cities." City One: people that live, work and play in the City, and City Two: commuters driving past Falcon Heights every day on Snelling Ave and Larpenteur Ave. The survey had six questions and on the back it had resources around the City. Council Member Leehy and I worked with Slick Text to do a text code. When people texted the code, they could take the survey and received a coupon to get \$2 off a food item from the food truck at City Hall.

Initially, we were going to ask Community Engagement Commission to help, but with limited time, we decided to ask city staff, council members, and Ramsey County Sheriff Deputy Brian Goodspeed to volunteer and pass out fliers. There were 294 responses, and 151 coupons were redeemed. The breakdown percentage is 45.92% live in Falcon Heights, 11.90% work in Falcon Heights, 6.12% visitors, 33.67% drive through Falcon Heights, and lastly, 2.39% live and work in Falcon Heights. People would like more coffee shop, enhanced safety on Snelling Ave and Larpenteur Ave, clean community, more housing, and fix parking during State Fair.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. January 2, 2019 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
2. January 23, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved 4-0

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 2/06/19 \$72,588.85
Payroll through: 1/31/19 \$18,688.74
2. SafeAssure Service Agreement for OSHA Training
3. Amendment to the 2019 City Fee Schedule for Boring Fee
4. Appointment of Nalisha Nandkumar to the Position of Assistant to the City Administrator

Nalisha Nandkumar

I am currently in my last year in graduate school and am pursuing a degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in City-County Management. I am excited to continue this program because I can bring my background and help the Falcon Heights community. In my experience, I worked at the City of Sartell as an assistant, and at St. Cloud State University I worked closely with administrations and research policy. I am currently at Sterns County and work with the County and Assistant Administrator with various projects to improve the community. I am very excited to be in this position and my first day will be on March 4th. Thank you.

Mayor Lindstrom asked what type of projects Ms. Nandkumar has been working on and Ms. Nandkumar answered that she has worked on various budgeting projects with the County Commissioners and updating administration projects.

Council Members and Mayor welcomed Ms. Nandkumar to Falcon Heights.

Council Member Harris Moved, Approved 4-0

G: POLICY ITEMS:

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Miazga

- City Administrator and I are still working on the Community Survey. Right now, we are putting the PowerPoint together. We will present it on March 13.
- I officially moved on to NYFS and will start on February 28.
- Continue to work with the U of M about the Community Park lease. I met with City Administrator Thongvanh and discussed how we could align a plan regarding the needs of the park as a city. I am also putting a bonding proposal together, and it will be nice if we can get the funds for the park.
- I signed up to testify the State on House File 113, which is a bill by Rep. Becker Finn that would provide more equity in distribution of proceeds from fines and fees. Currently we have around 50% instead of 67%. The public hearing went well; it will give us about \$13,500, and it will help law enforcement efforts.
- Regarding the Cultivating a Caring Community, I am excited to start the kickoff with Ron Rabinovitz who as a child was a pen pal to professional baseball player Jackie Robinson. His parents were very close to the Kennedy campaign in the 60s. There is a lot of cross-cultural communication and how he applies those unique skills to his daily life. He will be here on March 18.

Council Member Harris

- Planning Commission meets next week on Tuesday, February 26, at 7PM City Hall.

Council Member Gustafson

- Community Engagement Commission met on January 28, and we discussed goals for the year. We are trying to gain more information on the census and make sure we count everybody.
- As the city continues to create “Cultivating a Caring Community” events, we will have guest speakers come quarterly. It will look like a community training. The first event will be on Monday, March 18, 2019, City Hall and Ron Rabinovitz will be the speaker. The event is on the same day as the Community Engagement Commission regular meeting; therefore, we will move it to March 25. We also have an offer from Ellie Krug who creates community training programs. She does these training across the country and has offered to do it free for our city. She was also one of the co-facilitator for our community conversation at Falcon Heights church from Bureau Mediation Services. Ellie was an attorney and is now a transgender activist. In addition, the U of M is offering some training programs for the community.
- Spring Together will be held on June 8, because we do not want to interfere with the weather, school and surrounding cities events, and Ramadan.
- The phone scam is a big issue right now, and it is common towards grandparents. Please be cautious. Also remember that agents will never call you and ask you to pay with gift cards. If you do lose money to a scam, please call 911, and a deputy will come and help you with the process.

Mayor Lindstrom

- February 22, at Falcon Heights Elementary School, is Family Fun Night and is a fundraising event for a good cause. I will be tap again like last year. I encourage everyone to attend the event.
- Thursday, February 28th, 6 pm, the community can paint the Cultivating a Caring Community Mural at Falcon Heights Elementary School. I want to invite John Thompson to attend the event and witness the art mural that is going to be painted by the 4th graders.
- I was approached by the City of Minneapolis’ City Council, and they are going to the legislature to request the ability for cities to pass the stretch building code. Right now, cities are prohibited from enacting a code that is stronger than the statewide building code. Minneapolis’ City Council is saying that if our 2040 Comprehensive Plan has energy goals and if we are going to come close to any of those goals that deal with our building codes such as installation, windows, and more then it will need to be stronger. Therefore, cities should have the option to adopt a stretch code. Environment Commission passed this recommendation on Monday, and it will be presented to City Council in a couple of weeks.


City Administrator Thongvanh

- On February 28th, at 6pm the community, students, and parents can help paint the mural at the Falcon Heights Elementary. I will send out emails when I receive a confirmation date and time from the school. We will also post it on our E-weekly newsletter and social media.
- I want to thank all the businesses and residents for being patient with our snow emergency. I appreciate residents moving their vehicle(s) off the road and shoveling their sidewalk during the snow emergency.

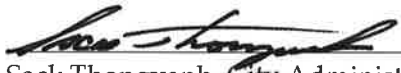
- The Council Retreat will be in March and we will recap what staff has done, priorities for the council and details on 2019 goals. We will also discuss future speakers, inclusion efforts, community trainings, and cultivating a caring community. These trainings are for city staff, city council members, and the community. Also, we will talk about workshop and inventory ideas so that everybody knows what is going on in the city. We will create a dashboard on the website, so the public has access to it.
- I also want to thank the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Fire department, and Public Works for helping with snow emergency this winter season. Public Works has logged in many hours clearing the roads. Thank you everyone, for your hard work.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

J. ADJOURNMENT: 8:02 PM


Peter Lindstrom, Mayor

Dated this 13th day of February, 2019


Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator