

**City of Falcon Heights  
Environment Commission  
Monday, March 11, 2019  
6:30 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Wassenberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Jim Wassenberg, Nick Olson, Farook Meah, Martin McCleery, and Patrick Mathwig

Absent: Ned Mohan and Jordyn Bucholtz

Also present: Justin Markon, Staff Liaison

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

October 8, 2018, December 10, 2018, and February 11, 2019

McCleery requested a change to the February 11, 2019 minutes to include that his proposal for a one pass trash hauler was referred to the City Council for consideration at their retreat in March.

McCleery moved, Olson seconded to approve the minutes from October 8, 2018, December 10, 2018, and February 11, 2019 as amended. Motion carried.

**D. AGENDA**

1. Update on projects since February meeting

Commissioners discussed the progress of agenda topics since February. A beekeeping ordinance and green building code were priorities from former Mayor Lindstrom, and will be discussed at the upcoming March City Council retreat. Markon shared that the stretch code was discussed at the March City Council workshop. Markon read an email from Bucholtz regarding progress on her Meatless Monday project, which may move forward with the South St. Paul school district. Wassenberg noted that a contact list will not be possible moving forward because of the open meeting law regarding serial meetings. He also shared that he reached out to the St. Anthony Village Parks Commission to share information and possibly collaborate on a sustainability fair. Wassenberg also noted that visit with Commissions in New Brighton and Shoreview are also in the works.

Commissioners also discussed a native landscaping proposal. McCleery shared that he discussed the idea with a friend who works professionally in the area,

and he suggested a yearly application possibly requiring consultation with neighbors. Olson said that he sees three main components to a native landscaping program: allowable cover, height and setback rules, and expectations of maintenance.

2. Update on available grant programs

Markon shared information related to two upcoming grant opportunities. First, the Minnesota Department of Commerce is accepting applications for initiatives that promote clean energy education. Mathwig suggested focusing the application on ice dams, which are a nuisance particularly this winter. Education could focus on providing discounts for residents to have a home energy audit. Commissioners believed this was a good idea to move forward.

The second grant is the AARP Community Challenge. Commissioners discussed a number of possibilities, including rapid flasher beacons, tree sales, and studies related to code enforcement and street lights. Wassenberg asked Commissioners to bring ideas to the April meeting.

3. Environment/sustainability column in City newsletter

Markon noted that the upcoming City newsletter will be printed at the end of March, and it may include some general information about green initiatives in the City. A column in the weekly e-newsletter will be discussed at future meetings.

**E. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wassenberg shared that there might be opportunities in the future to partner with University of Minnesota students on thesis projects focusing on sustainability efforts.

**F. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2019