

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue W.

Monday, January 13, 2020
6:30 p.m.

A G E N D A

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL: Jim Wassenberg _____ Nick Olson _____
 Martin McCleery _____ Patrick Mathwig _____
 Jordyn Bucholtz _____ Esha Seth _____
 VACANT
 Council Liaison Andrews _____ Staff Liaison Markon _____

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 9, 2019

D. AGENDA

1. Finalize 2020 work plan

E. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Native landscaping update
2. Resilient Roseville updates
3. Upcoming events/meetings
 - February 13 - Environmental Commissions gathering - RV library
 - April 18 - 2020 EC conference - Hennepin Ave UMC
 - April 22 - Earth Day - 50th anniversary!

F. ADJOURN

Next Meeting: February 10, 2020

If you have a disability and need accommodation in order to attend this meeting, please notify City Hall 48 hours in advance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 651-792-7600. We will be happy to help.

City of Falcon Heights
Environment Commission
Monday, December 9, 2019
6:30 pm Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

Chair Jim Wassenberg called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Jim Wassenberg, Jordyn Bucholtz, Martin McCleery, Esha Seth, Patrick Mathwig, Nick Olson

Also Present: Justin Markon, Staff Liaison

Absent: Mark Miazga, City Council Liaison

3. Approval of Minutes: September 9, 2019

Motioned by McCleery, seconded by Bucholtz, motion passed.

4. Agenda:

a. Begin 2020 work plan

- i. Chair Wassenberg said that the FHEC was referenced many times as a good commission at the recent strategic planning session. Chair Wassenberg reflected on the accomplishments of the commission in the past year: Sustainable Actions Fair, Native Landscaping, Food Scraps site, outreach and interaction with other cities.
- ii. Chair Wassenberg encouraged commissioners to choose a topic they feel passionate about to focus their efforts on in the next year. Chair Wassenberg shared a list of possible projects to take on next year, assigning a lead to each one.
 1. He emphasized previous Mayor Peter Lindstrom's desire to implement a beekeeping ordinance, as well as a Planned Urban Development (PUD) ordinance in light of the recent developments in Falcon Heights.
 - a. Commissioner McCleery will be lead on the bee project.
 - b. Commissioner Olson will be lead on the PUD project.
 2. In terms of the Sustainable Actions Fair, the commission talked about partnering with Roseville, St. Anthony Village.
 3. Chair Wassenberg emphasized his interest in sustaining outreach to other Environmental Commissions in the Twin Cities.
 4. Chair Wassenberg discussed following up on opportunities for funding for an EV charging station in Falcon Heights through the MPCA looking to place over 50 dual-level charging stations and up to \$75,000 in 2020-2023.
 - a. The commission discussed the lack of charging stations in Falcon Heights.
 - b. Chair Wassenberg said he would be the lead for this project.
 5. The commission discussed continuing their efforts to improve communication to Falcon Heights residents with an EC "Corner".
 - a. There have been two posts from Commissioner Bucholtz and Commissioner Mathwig. The commission discussed future posts about solar, bee keeping, home energy audits, weatherization.
 - b. Commissioner Bucholtz will be the lead on this project.

6. The commission discussed hopes to obtain funding to help finance home energy audits for Falcon Heights residents and businesses.
 - a. \$2,500 of funding has been approved by the City Council for home energy auditing.
 - i. Considering the total cost is \$100 for a total audit, the commission hopes the financial assistance by the City will incentivize residents to choose the full audit.
 - ii. The Commission discussed the most effective way to disperse the funds to maximize the reach and impact.
 - iii. The Commission decided it will be first-come first-served.
 - iv. The Commissioner talked about loans provided by CEE.
 - v. The website will be available at the end of January, and the Commission decided to begin advertising once the website is complete.
 - vi. Commissioner Mathwig said he will be the lead on this project and will write a post for the environment corner related to this topic.
 - vii. The task of the Commission is to promote the program.
 - viii. Commissioner Seth said she would write a post on individual sustainability actions.
 - ix. The Commission talked about a post on best practices for using salt as a deicer.
 1. MPCA, MNDOT would be good references.
 - x. The Commission created a schedule for EC posts.
 1. Salt de-icing best management practices:
January
 - a. Olson
 2. Weatherizing, ice dams, home audits:
January
 - a. Mathwig
 3. Food scraps: February
 - a. References from county
 - b. Lead: Markon and county
 4. Winter energy efficiency:
 - a. Seth
 5. Native landscaping ordinance: April/Spring
 - a. Olson
 6. Flooding: May/Spring (how to prepare for more extreme rainfall)
 - a. McCleery
 7. At work recycling:
 - a. Wassenberg
 8. Biking, transitways and maintenance:
Summer
 9. Summer energy efficiency A/C cooling:

- a. July
 - 10. Electric vehicles
 - a. Wassenberg
 - b. Write when funding opportunities come out, say we are applying for the grant
 - 7. The Commission discussed adding a youth commissioner to the FHEC; Commissioner Wassenberg plans to lead this project.
 - a. City staff created a flyer and the Commission has contacted the high school.
 - b. Commissioner Wassenberg said he will continue his efforts to reach out to the high school. He will find out if there are clubs or classes relevant to the Environment Commission.
 - c. Commissioner Wassenberg said he will be the lead on this project and is hoping to find someone by February.
 - 8. The Commission discussed organizing an Earth Day cleanup.
 - a. The Commission discussed contributing to the Roseville Earth Day cleanup. The Commission recognized their past contributions to the Como Park cleanup. The Commission talked about tentatively hosting a cleanup on April 25, 2020.
 - b. The Commission recognized the value in hosting a cleanup in Falcon Heights in addition to, or replacing, helping at a cleanup in Roseville.
 - 9. The Commission discussed the next steps for Sustainable Actions Fair planning. The Commission clarified that the set-date is September 12, 2020. The Commission discussed the possibility of hosting the fair in St. Anthony next.
 - a. Commissioner Mathwig will be the lead on this project.
- 5. News and Announcements:**
- a. Food scraps collection update
 - i. Staff Liaison clarified that the food scraps bin will now be located at City Hall per request of the City Council. The food scraps bin will be usable by January.
 - b. Native landscaping feedback
 - i. City staff reviewed the ordinance and the subcommittee met in November to make updates to the ordinance. Now there are two-foot set back requirements around houses. Now the ordinance is open for public comments. The planning commission will hold the official public hearing on January 28, 2020. The final recommendations will go to council on February 12, 2020 for final approval.
 - c. New City website
 - i. City Liaison recommended commissioners begin thinking about links and other interactions to include on the website regarding the environment commission.
 - d. Two-day strategic planning meeting
 - i. Chair Wassenberg gave updates from the meetings
 - 1. Moderated event by two consultants
 - 2. Six council members were in attendance and three commission heads (Planning, Community Engagement, Environment)
 - 3. In order for FH to be a “city that soars” in 25 years, they need to:

- a. Created six overarching goals, and roadblocks
 - 4. Developed action items
 - 5. There was a lot of discussion around certain themes:
 - a. Communication
 - i. Ensuring messages got to all residents
 - ii. Outreach to businesses
 - b. Empowering residents to take action themselves (beyond the commissions)
 - i. The city should foster and help organize smaller community groups
 - 1. Ex) citizen landscaping committee
 - ii. Learning groups and meetings around the city
 - c. The City needs to be welcoming to ideas from citizens
 - d. Actions need to be multi-generational
 - 6. Actions for 2020-2021 will come out in a report and be taken up by City Council
 - 7. Very active discussion
 - 8. To discuss execution and prioritization, a third day would have been beneficial
 - 9. Should make all city events zero waste
 - 10. Focused a lot on the work of the CEC, not as much on EC
 - ii. The Commission discussed pursuing a single-use plastic ban, styrofoam
- 6. Adjourn:**
 - a. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

2020 FHEC Calendar and Projects List

| |
|---|
| January 13 |
| <p>Jan 28: Landscaping Public Hearing with Planning Commission Nick: EC Corner: Use of Ice Melting Salt Patrick: EC Corner: Home Energy Audit and discount opportunity</p> |
| February 10 |
| <p>Feb 12: City council review/approval of landscaping ordinance Feb 13: East Metro Environment Commission gathering 6:30-8:30 Roseville Library Jim and Justin: Identify Youth Commissioner Justin: EC Corner: Food scraps and composting</p> |
| March 9 |
| <p>Jim: EC Corner: Workplace Recycling</p> |
| April 13 |
| <p>April 18: Environmental Commission Conference Hennepin UMC Nick: EC Corner: Native Landscaping</p> |
| May 11 |
| <p>Marty: EC Corner: Rainfall and Stormwater</p> |
| June 8 |
| <p>June 6: City wide cleanup at fairgrounds Esha: EC Corner: Bicycling</p> |
| July 13 |
| <p>TBD: EC Corner: Raingardens Esha: EC Corner: Summer energy efficiency</p> |
| August 10 |
| <p>Jim: EC Corner: EVs and Hybrids</p> |
| September 14 |
| <p>Sept 12: Sustainability Fair. Silverwood Park</p> |
| October 12 |
| |
| November 9 |
| <p>Esha: EC Corner: Winter efficiency</p> |
| December 14 |
| |

| Project | Lead | Update |
|---|-------------|--|
| Implement a bee keeping ordinance via City Council | Marty | |
| Draft a Planned Urban Development ordinance to encourage developers to implement positive measures in their developments when requesting City funds. | Nick | |
| Hold a Sustainability fair in 2020, possibly in cooperation with Roseville and St Anthony CFS groups | Patrick | September 12, 2020 Resilient Roseville will participate. Point of contact is Sherry Hood. 651 633 1434 sherryhood@icloud.com |
| Develop guidelines and resources for landscaping that is native/pollinator friendly/storm water wise. | Nick | Draft Out for Public Comment (12/09/19) |
| Sustain outreach to other Environmental Commissions in the Twin Cities | Jim | Plan to attend a Roseville and a St. Anthony CFS meeting in Q1 2020. |
| Follow up on opportunities for funding for an EV charging station in FH through the MPCA | Jim | Phase 2 funding plan comment period closes Dec 20, 2019. \$3.5M additional planned for EV charging stations in 2020-2023. Including 52 Level II stations. Need to review previous application requirements to be ready when RFPs are opened. |
| Improve communication to FH residents with a EC "corner" in the City Newsletter and twice monthly online mailer 250 words for a topic on EC corner | Jordyn | |
| Add a Youth Commissioner to the FHEC. | Jim | |
| Obtain funding and finance Home Energy Audits for FH Residents and Businesses | Patrick | |
| Work with Roseville to Organize Earth Day Cleanup (2020 is 50 th anniversary!) | | Ramsey County gathering list of events |
| Raingarden ordinance | | |
| Plastic Bag disposal and Elimination in FH | | |
| Getting a GreenCorp volunteer for the city | | |