



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

March 12, 2015

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Lois Sechrist, Dianne Benjamin, Bob Elgin, Richard Juang, Tim Michels, Scott Eidson, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Steve Kraft (Council Liaison)
Guest: Callie Vail, Amanda Wycinowski
Absent Excused: Jeff Mishkin

1. Meeting called to Order, Roll Call at 6:04 p.m.
2. Opening Round
 - a) Lois commented on the Recycling Extravaganza at Forest Park Community College on April 26.
 - b) Tim has been working with the USGBC developing a “Tech Talk” regarding community solar.
 - c) Bob attended a meeting on upgrading St. Louis from the 2009 to the "2015 International Residential Code" of the ICC (International Code Council). He indicated procedures for reviewing the regulations with the public are still like the 1970s; no computers or projectors to help the audience follow the details, committee members still reviewed massive volumes of code books. There was no comment regarding the ICC Green Construction Code. Bob will check into the strategy for implementing the International Green Construction Code.
 - d) Jenny sent a request to Rich Wilson to remind staff of the no-idling policy. She also sent a request to change the no-idling ordinance as follows:

No person shall cause or permit the engine of a motor vehicle, other than an emergency vehicle, to idle for longer than three (3) consecutive minutes while parking or stopped as defined in this Title, ~~except when the local temperature as reported by the U.S. Weather Bureau is below ninety degrees Fahrenheit (90°F).~~ This provision shall not apply to engines in motor vehicles being used to operate a loading, unloading or processing device.
 - e) Mr. Kraft indicated the ordinance regarding mosquito control has changed so that there will be no mosquito spray allowed by the City or the County in University City. Only larvicide is allowed to be used. He also suggested reaching out to other municipalities and to the St. Louis County reps to encourage a larvicide only policy.
3. February 12, 2015 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes were approved with minor changes.
4. Special Presentations
 - a) Public Comments: Calli Vail discussed a need to clean up the area on Olive, vacant lots, and the Musick neighborhood. She would like to organize clean-

up events but needs support from the City through donations of gloves and bags, and trash bag collection. She would also like to know of any other possible organizations that could help in this. Mr. Kraft and Jenny will put Calli in contact with the Chamber of Commerce.

5. New Business

- a. The group brainstormed ideas for the upcoming state loan opportunity which opens in April 2015. The group came up with the following ideas to look into to determine feasibility:
 - 2 more pool pumps
 - Solar panels at the firehouses, library, and parking garage
 - Retrofit historic street lights with LED
 - Retrofit Ameren owned street lighting with historic poles
- b. The City applied for a KAB (Keep America Beautiful) grant for recycling containers.
- c. The group discussed the recycling Drop-Off area design/flood study. It was suggested to contact a civil engineer or Architect. SWT (landscape architecture firm) was recommended.

6. Old Business

- a. The group discussed the Loop commercial recycling program start-up/St. Louis County Grant opportunity. Creating a city-wide mandatory commercial recycling program was discussed. Scott and Richard will look into this from a legal standpoint.
- b. The weed ordinance was passed by City Council on February 23, 2015.

7. Reports

- a. Lois Sechrist did not report on Land Use/ Open Space/ Parks.
- b. Tim Michels suggested passing an ordinance to create a "Clean Energy Development Board" in conjunction with the Property Assessment Clean Energy Act (PACE). The goal of the ordinance would be for the City to stand as an example proving that investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy are cost effective. A goal of the City and the UC-GPC should be to become Net Carbon Neutral by 2025. An example ordinance was viewed by the group. It was suggested to compare this ordinance with the City of St. Louis PACE ordinance. Richard will gather info on PACE and advise from a legal standpoint.
- c. Councilmember Kraft discussed the roundabout and trolley project. The roundabout is to be completed first. The whole project should take 12 – 14 months (weather permitting). Track work will start in May. Then there will be a testing phase and the trolley is planned to be operational September/October 2016.

8. Closing Round

- a. Mr. Kraft congratulated the commission on its success.
- b. Bob indicated he would like an energy walkthrough of his home.

9. Adjournment: 7:42pm