



## Green Practices Commission

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### Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**April 9, 2015**

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Lois Sechrist, Dianne Benjamin, Bob Elgin, Richard Juang, Tim Michels, Scott Eidson, Jeff Mishkin, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Steve Kraft (Council Liaison)

Guests: Bryan DeLear, Tom Applebaum, both with Energy Equity Funding, LLC

1. Meeting called to Order, Roll Call at 6:09 p.m.
2. Opening Round
  - a) Scott will schedule a meeting with Jenny to update the Green Practices Commission website.
  - b) Tim attended the “Advancing Renewables in the Midwest” in Columbia, Missouri.
  - c) Lois attended the RCGA Green Business Challenge Kickoff meeting.
  - d) Jenny asked to add a “Yard Waste” discussion to the agenda (per Mr. Kraft’s suggestion). The request was approved.
  - e) Dianne reminded everyone about the Recycling Extravaganza the last weekend in April at Forest Park Community College.
3. March 12, 2015 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes approved with two amendments.
4. Energy Equity Funding (EEF) presented developing a PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program for University City.
  - a) PACE is a program to provide funding for energy efficient building upgrades and renewable energy.
  - b) The financing is similar to a tax that would be included on the real estate tax bill. The amount of the payment is directly related to the energy cost savings that will be achieved based on the energy efficiency upgrade. The "tax" is associated with the property instead of the owner and is transferred to the new owner when the property is sold.
  - c) The financing is determined by a Clean Energy Development Board. The City of St. Louis has its own program. Jefferson City has a program with multiple intercity agreements.
  - d) Jeff noted that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are not supportive of PACE for residential property.
  - e) The group discussed if University City would be duplicating efforts if programs are already available to join (Jefferson City). EEF suggested that University City begin its own PACE program to lead the way.
  - f) Tim indicated that capital is the major hurdle for energy projects. He expressed concern that it could take too long to develop an agreement with St. Louis City or County. Tim believes it would be beneficial to have local control of the financing.
  - g) Richard was not in favor of local control, and would rather collaborate with other communities.
  - h) EEF was asked how their fees would be funded. They indicated their company

would be funded by fees from the project.

## 5. New Business

- a) National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation
  - i) Richard spoke about the challenge.
  - ii) For the month of April, residents would be asked and encouraged to take an online pledge to conserve water.
  - iii) Because April has already started, it would be good to get the word out and get our feet wet this year, but really push the challenge next year.
  - iv) Richard will send a letter via email to the commission to extend to groups and council next week.
- b) Dianne indicated March 22 was World Water Day.
- c) Yard Waste – The group discussed possible ways to encourage residents to recycle their yard waste.
  - i) Questions brought up: How much revenue is gained on yard waste? Could there be a number of yard waste bags set out without stickers each week? Could there be a number of free stickers given to residents? The City of St. Louis uses the same rollout carts for trash and yard waste, and yard waste dumpsters in alleys. Could U City do that?
  - ii) Mr. Kraft will investigate other alternatives.

## 6. Old Business

- a) State Loan Update
  - i) The projects approved in the previous loan cycle are moving ahead.
  - ii) The Civic Plaza (City Hall) lighting retrofit project will go to City Council on May 11th, unless Jenny can get it into the April 13th agenda. The project has been reviewed with the Historic Preservation Commission. The other lighting projects will be out for bid soon.
- b) PACE program (see Item 4, above)
  - i) The City could also consider joining the established program in Jefferson City. Jeff Mishkin will check into this.

## 7. Reports

- a) Dianne reported on Ecosystems/Habitat.
  - i) Bring Conservation Home – Mitch Leachmann from Bring Conservation Home (BCH) provided information to Dianne. Prior to the U City newsletter publication in May 2014, there were 18 BCH consultations in U City since the program started in 2012. Since the article hit the streets, there have been 8 BCH consultations in U City -- in just 9 months. That is a significant increase in frequency. An article and a photo were submitted for the next issue of ROARS.
  - ii) Monarch Waystations:
    - (1) A Monarch Waystation is planned near the Firehouse on North and South; specifically in the wetland area at Hanley and Shaftesbury. Dianne encouraged U City in Bloom to use Missouri native plantings in this area. There will be a need for signage and certification. A fund should be created for this.
    - (2) Another Monarch Waystation is to be installed at 170 and Midland as a "Gateway to the City". Dianne will send the information out on the projects. This information will also be sent to the Parks and Forestry Commissions.
    - (3) A Waystation could be privately planted for certification as well.

- b) Richard covered the Water/Stormwater reporting earlier in the meeting regarding the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation.
  - i) Richard will provide Councilmember Kraft with information to send to Council.

8. Closing Round

- a) Jeff announced that Circus Flora is coming to St. Louis – he is on the board.
- b) Jenny announced a University City Electronics Recycling event May 27th.
- c) Lois reminded everyone that Earth Day is April 22.
- d) Scott and Richard will talk about the legalities of mandatory commercial recycling at the next meeting.

9. Adjournment: 7:38pm