



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

July 9, 2015

Location: Heman Park Community Center

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

Absent Excused: None

Guests: Janna White (Intern)

1. Meeting called to Order, Roll Call at 6:04 p.m.
2. Opening Round
 - a) Jeff attended a University City Chamber of Commerce meeting event.
 - b) Bob discussed a Dianne Rehm show, *New Challenges to Recycling in the United States*, which was very informative about recycling.
 - c) Scott will be working with Jenny on the GPC webpage soon. Scott and Richard have been in collaboration regarding the mandatory recycling ordinance.
3. June 11, 2015 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes approved with one amendment to item 6G and 6H.
4. Special Presentations
 - a) There were no special presentations.
5. New Business
 - a) Jenny discussed getting a cardboard compactor for loop Businesses. The GPC suggested starting with dumpsters for cardboard only and education for the local businesses instead due to possible safety hazard, the use of personal property, staffing for the maintenance and removal of cardboard bales, etc.
 - b) Washington University approached University City regarding hard to recycle items. Items discussed include soft plastics (plastic film), Styrofoam, wood pallets, furniture, and compost. The City is looking into the possibility of adding Styrofoam and soft plastics to its recycling materials. City staff will meet with Washington University staff to determine the financial responsibility and logistics of this.
 - c) The commission is in need of someone filling the secretary position. The secretary fills in for the chairperson and is responsible for meeting minutes. This will be added to the next month's agenda.
6. Old Business
 - a) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program-The commission discussed the possibility of joining multiple PACE programs instead of being limited to just

one. It was decided that this would be beneficial to do. The ordinance will be written up with multiple PACE programs. The GPC recommends that the economic development department be responsible for the PACE program once established.

- b) Yard Waste options – Tabled until August meeting.
- c) Commercial Recycling ordinance update – Richard and Scott are still working on this.
- d) Olive Streetlights/Northeast Neighborhood street lights – Jenny needs to review the data that was compiled by Janna White regarding spacing and light types for these lights.
- e) Website – Tabled until August meeting.
- f) Monarch Waystation update – Dianne indicated the waystation was weeded, it did not require watering, and is being maintained excellently.

7. Reports

- a) Ecosystems/Habitat: Dianne Benjamin was happy to see the Bring Conservation Home article in the ROARS. She also announced the U. City in Bloom Native Plant Landscaping Open House on August 29th from 5-7pm. This is in collaboration with St. Louis Audubon Bring Conservation Home. Dianne also discussed the 1994 President's Executive Order on Beneficial Landscaping specific to Environmentally and Economically Beneficial Practices on Federal Landscaped Grounds. Perhaps it is possible for the City to focus on this practice for City Properties. Jenny will check with staff about this, as well as the City's rules about what U City in Bloom should plant. Janna will check with neighboring municipalities if there are rules regarding native planting.
- b) Water/Stormwater: Richard Juang has reached out to several different organizations, like the river Des Peres Coalition, to find out more information regarding water/stormwater. It was suggested that Richard contact Karla Wilson, a private water quality consultant and the manager of the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance. Jenny will also connect Richard to Megan Fuhler who is the City staff responsible for water/stormwater issues. Questions arose about gutter disconnection for homes and businesses that are connected to the sewer system. Jenny will find out more information about this.
- c) Council Liaison Report: Councilmember Kraft was concerned about losing the expertise from commission member once terms have commenced. This may be avoided by having advisory commission members or subcommittees.

8. Closing Round – No reports.

9. Adjournment: 7:40 pm