



## Green Practices Commission

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### Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

#### November 12, 2015

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Lois Sechrist, Dianne Benjamin, Tim Michels, Jeff Mishkin, Steve Kraft (Council Liaison), Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison)

Absent Excused: Richard Juang, Scott Eidson  
Guests: Mayor Shelley Welsch  
Rich Wilson  
Jana Flora (Resident)

1. Meeting called to Order, Roll Call at 6:00 p.m.
2. Opening Round
  - a) Tim learned about a quasi-pyrolysis process which generates hydrogen gas.
  - b) Lois reported that there is a planning/zoning educational hearing on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a) September meeting minutes were approved with two amendments
4. Special Presentations
  - a) No special presentations.
5. New Business
  - a) Municipal Solid Waste to Fuel - Material Lifecycle Management Company (MLMC) – Jenny discussed possibly working with MLMC for recycling plastic film and other non-recyclable materials. Plastic film is to be added as a material at the recycling center.
  - b) Sebright Products Waste to Energy System - Sebright Products, Inc. has teamed up with Tom Dunne (formerly with Waste Management) proposing creating a plant in St. Louis which takes solid waste and converts it to Diesel fuel. Jenny will request that a Sebright Products representative and Tom Dunne will be requested to speak to the Green Practices Commission at a future meeting.
  - c) EPA Green Power Community Challenge – The City would purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from Pure Power, or any other REC provider (must be Green-e certified RECs) and install onsite solar power, from Microgrid Solar or any other solar installer. Based on a calculation of total energy used, the City would have a required number to achieve. The Commission overwhelmingly felt that this was not a good program for the City to be involved, Tim suggested rather than paying for RECs, the City could put money into a fund for projects to generate its own renewable energy.
  - d) 25x20 Energy Benchmarking Campaign – This is a challenge to determine how much energy a building consumes, aiming for a 25% reduction in building energy consumption by the year 2020. The City would need to collect utility bill cost and usage for a year; better yet from 2011 when we had a greenhouse gas inventory completed. A summer intern would be needed to get this done. This would be congruent with the ICLEI Compact of Mayors. Jenny will propose this to the Public Works and Parks director.

6. Old Business
  - a) State Loan Update – HVAC in City Hall is in the design process. Several lighting projects have been completed and several still need to be done. Pool pump replacement is out to bid.
  - b) Compact of Mayors – The GPC endorses the mayor's request to join the ICLEI compact of mayors.
  - c) Green Cities Challenge Update – This item is tabled.
7. Reports
  - a) Ecosystems/ Habitat
    - i. Dianne indicated that the butterfly garden, planted by Monarch Waystation Citizen Volunteer Corps, one of the University City Volunteer Corps founded/led by Mayor Shelley Welsch at Midland and Vernon was recognized by the North American Butterfly Association. Mayor Slay was the first mayor to sign the "Mayor's Monarch pledge"; this is something the City should consider.
    - ii. Linda Fried, with the Monarch Waystation Citizen Volunteer Corps, will set up a blue collection box at Centennial Commons for people to fill with non-shiny newspaper to be used to prepare gardens for planting monarch friendly plants. The newspaper is used instead of chemical weed killer.
  - b) Water/Stormwater – No report.
  - c) Air Quality/Transportation – No report.
  - d) Waste and Resource Conservation – No report.
8. Closing Round
  - a) Lois reminded everyone of America Recycles Day on November 15.
  - b) Steve Kraft would like GPC to present at council.
    - i. The City should have a say in what U City in bloom plants and possibly plant more natives. Can the City create a policy on this? This could be coordinated with the Parks Department.
    - ii. Steve also asked if the Joyce has a waiting list for the GPC.
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm