

Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

January 14, 2016

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

Absent Excused: Richard Juang, Scott Eidson
Guests: Lori Goodman (resident)

1. Meeting called to Order, Roll Call at 6:04 p.m.
2. Opening Round
 - a) Lois reminded the commission about the goal setting meeting on January 23rd.
 - b) Jeff attended the University City budget planning meeting.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a) November meeting minutes were approved with three amendments.
4. Special Presentations
 - a) Public Comments: Lori Goodman, resident of 8001 Teasdale in University City, recently moved to University City. She discussed two topics:
 - i. Interest in the Green Practices Commission
 - ii. Problems with Center Drive from Delmar to Teasdale. This section of Center Drive is in poor condition. Lori would like attention given to maintenance of the street. Jenny will inform Public Works Department staff of the concern.
5. New Business
 - a) 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (2015 IECC)
 - i. The Green Practices Commission encourages University City to evaluate and adopt the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code.
 - ii. "The City supports the adoption of 'modern codes', as demonstrated by our adoption of 2012 ICC codes in 2013. The most recent 2015 energy code has not been fully evaluated by our staff. It is my suggestion that we do not support this until we fully understand the impact the code will have on our residents and community in whole." Per Bryan Kopp, Deputy Director / Building Commissioner.
 - iii. Jenny will ask Bryan about next steps in the process to evaluate the 2015 IECC.
 - iv. The Sierra Club will host a meeting to discuss St. Louis County's process to review the IECC on Wednesday, January 27, 6:00 pm at the Sierra Club office, 2818 Sutton Blvd.
 - v. The Sierra Club representative is Gretchen Waddell Barwick, Gretchen.waddellbarwick@sierraclub.org.
6. Old Business
 - a) The Goal Setting Workshop is scheduled for January 23, 2016 from 9 am - Noon at the Heman Park Community Center.
 - b) EPA Green Power Community Challenge
 - i. The GPC voted to decline to join the EPA Green Power Community Challenge.
 - ii. Kathleen Beebe with 3 Degrees Inc. (company that markets Ameren's Pure Power program) would like to speak to the GPC about the program.
 - iii. The Commission agreed to invite Kathleen to provide a brief presentation at the

February meeting.

- c) Ice Carnival
 - i. 12 of the 45 new Delmar Loop public space containers with separate compartments for recycling and trash have been installed along Delmar.
 - ii. The City enlisted Recycling on the Go (RotG) to provide temporary recycling containers adjacent to the remaining trash-only containers.
 - iii. RotG will sort trash and recycling through the course of the day.
 - iv. Recycling will also be provided for the 5K and 10K Frozen Buns Runs.
 - v. Maximum waste diversion is anticipated.
- d) Commercial Recycling Update
 - i. 3 Kings, Market Pub, and the Long Acres Farmer's Market have changed to City service and are now recycling.
 - ii. Jenny has engaged in conversation with Joe Edwards and Steve Stone, two prominent building owners, about converting to University City service.
 - iii. Several other businesses have expressed interest as well.
 - iv. The commercial recycling initiative is proceeding successfully.
 - v. Jenny is working with the Green Dining Alliance (GDA) to make the Delmar Loop a Green Dining Alliance District.
 - vi. Steve Kraft asked about composting opportunities. The City is unable to provide composting due to vermin, contamination, education, etc.
 - vii. Jenny will invite St. Louis Composting to speak at a Commission meeting about their services.
- e) Recycling Center Update for plastic film and other materials
 - i. Upgrades to the existing recycling center on Pennsylvania are proceeding according to plan.
 - ii. Jenny received proposal for a 5-year contract from MLMC including accepting plastic film collected at the recycling center.
 - iii. A trial period is desired before committing to a 5-year contract term. Plastic film collection will require a trial before it is designated as a standard material collected at the center.
 - iv. Jenny sent questions to MLMC concerning the contract length as well as other contract requirements.

7. Reports

- a) Ecosystems/ Habitat
 - i. Dianne suggested a goal to require using only native and adaptive plants on University City-owned property. This needs to be discussed with the Parks Department and U City in Bloom on behalf of the Green Practices Commission.
 - ii. The Monarch Waystation Citizen Volunteer Corps (MWCVC) would like the Mayor to sign the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Mayors must commit to implement at least three of 25 pledge action items within a year of signing. A full description of the action items can be found at www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Mayors-Monarch-Pledge_Action-Items.pdf. The MWCVC would like multiple Commissions to back the pledge, including the Parks Commission and the Urban Forestry Commission in addition to the GPC. Dianne will ask the MWCVC how the GPC can help.
- b) Council Liaison
 - i. Steve Kraft expressed his satisfaction in the success of the GPC's topics, projects and objectives. He conveyed his concern about the Commission's future success once the experienced members with years of expertise in their areas are gone. Lois indicated that one of the goals of the commission should be to train the incoming members so they can carry on the success.

8. Closing Round

- a) Tim Michels
 - i. Congressman Lacey Clay announced that parts of North St. Louis, including parts of University City, have been designated "Promise Zones". The City/GPC should learn more in order to be proactive and to be included in the program.

- ii. Sustainability is not currently addressed in the City's Comprehensive Plan update. Jenny has discussed the issue with Ray Lai. The concerns have been passed on through the proper channels to resolve the omission.
 - b) Lois Sechrist
 - i. The GPC will request a Study Session and City Council update at an upcoming meeting to review achievements and goals. This has not been done in 3 to 4 years.
 - c) Jenny Wendt
 - i. Sebright Waste to Energy group will be invited to speak at the February or March GPC meeting.
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm