

## Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**May 12, 2016**

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Dianne Benjamin, Bob Elgin, Jeff Mishkin, Scott Eidson, Lois Sechrist,  
Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison)

Absent: Richard Juang, Tim Michels

1. Meeting called to Order, Roll Call at 6:12 p.m.
2. Opening Round
  - a) Dianne attended a University City Citizen Volunteer Corps Meeting. A new action group, “Lions against Litter” will be performing cleanups around the City. They will meet at parks, almost every Saturday. They will begin in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and the Olive Business District.
  - b) Lois attended the St. Louis Regional Chamber Green Business Challenge meeting. There was focus on biodiversity, specifically bat surveys and bird strikes. The Missouri Botanical Garden has a new program, BiodiverseCity, which recognizes the region’s reliance on biodiversity. University City should consider taking the BiodiverseCity Pledge.
  - c) Jenny discussed the Electronics Recycling Event on May 7<sup>th</sup>. EPC, the vendor collecting the materials, did not anticipate the volume of electronics that would come in from this event.
  - d) Jenny also requested discussion of the weed ordinance to be added to the agenda.
  - e) Steve Kraft indicated that this was his last meeting with the GPC. He complimented the group for being engaging, effective, and well-run.
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a) April 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved with two revisions.
4. Special Presentations
  - a) None
5. New Business
  - a) Wash U Ackert Walkway/Greenway South proposed changes – the proposed changes include widening the bridge and adding an element to slow down cyclist and skateboarders. In addition, greenspace below the bridge will replace the concrete which is currently present. LED lighting will also be added. Approximately 20 trees will be removed, but 55 trees will be added by the end of the project. Jenny will ask the following questions to Cheryl Adelstein of Washington University:
    - What types of trees will be added?
    - What will be planted in the greenspace, possibly natives/low maintenance plantings?
    - Will there be a detailed commission presentation?
  - b) Weed Ordinance – there has been a suggestion to add verbiage to the ordinance. The current ordinance states: *[occupants shall keep] the lot, land or premises free from such noxious weeds and vegetation...*  
It was suggested to include “invasive plants and nuisance plants” in addition to “noxious weeds”. This addition was suggested to make it conducive to the City meeting the Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) regulations which include the

removal of such plants. The Commission did not agree to this change; this would put a heavy burden on occupants in regards to honeysuckle, winter creeper, and other invasive plants that are in heavy abundance throughout University City.

6. Old Business

- a) Finalize Date for Council Meeting and Study Session – The commission suggested adding this to the June 13, 2016 Council meeting agenda. Scott and Jenny will work with Lois to prepare.
- b) Finalize Commission Goals – Jeff felt the Commission needed to look through notes and decisions that were made in the past regarding the breakdown of the subcategories and the mission statement. The following tasks need to be completed:
  - i. Find notes of suggested commission categories
  - ii. Revisit and study mission, vision, and values
  - iii. Consider eliminating categories, become more project based.
  - iv. Take list from work session, turn into SMART goals.
  - v. Ask for input at the Council PresentationJeff and Tim will be rotating off of the commission in August. It is important to recruit new qualified members.

7. Reports – None

8. Closing Round

- a) Dianne had asked about updating the Parks Master Plan from 2008. This plan will not be updated; instead each park will have its own Master Plan specific to its amenities and function.
- b) Scott asked to be on the July agenda to discuss the recycling ordinance.
- c) Jeff has had several local speaking engagements about energy savings.

9. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm