



## Green Practices Commission

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### Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**October 13, 2016**

**DRAFT**

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Lois Sechrist (Chairperson), Scott Eidson, Bob Elgin, Dianne Benjamin, Jenny Wendt (former Staff Liaison), Chris Kalter (Staff Liaison)

Absent: Tim Michels, Terry Crow (Council Liaison), Richard Juang

1. Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call at 6:05 p.m.
2. Opening Round
  - a) Scott reminded everyone of the Styrofoam and Electronics Recycling event on October 15, 2016.
  - b) Lois announced an upcoming Water Summit on Friday October 28 from 7:30 – 11:00 am, concerning regional water issues.
  - c) Bob reported that Missouri has increased its ranking on the list of sustainability of states in America. <http://www.renewmo.org/> He also provided an update of the Sierra Club's involvement in monitoring St. Louis County's progress on the energy efficiency code. The Home Builders Association wishes to weaken the new energy code to hold down initial costs rather than strengthen it to increase energy efficiency and create long-term savings for homeowners.
  - d) Jenny shared the following announcements:
    - i) The River Des Peres Trash Bash will be on October 22, meeting at 9:00 am at the Heman Park Community Center.
    - ii) Jenny and Chris will attend the "Using Compost to Create Sustainable Landscape Sites and to Manage Drought, Stormwater and Erosion" seminar on November 10 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Missouri Botanical Garden [https://www.mlina.org/\\_ccLib/attachments/events/Combined+Flyer+and+Registration+Form.pdf](https://www.mlina.org/_ccLib/attachments/events/Combined+Flyer+and+Registration+Form.pdf)
    - iii) The America Recycles Day event will be November 15 from 4:00 – 6:30 pm at the Heman Park Community Center.
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a) August 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved.
  - b) September 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved with one spelling correction on Item 2A.
4. Special Presentation/Visitors
  - a) University City Intern
    - i) The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for University City, which was to be completed at the end of the summer, remains incomplete. The intern hired to develop the Climate Action Plan will first complete the GHG Inventory.
    - ii) Tim Schmalz, the intern hired through the US Green Building Council (USGBC) was present. It was decided through conversation with USGBC that comparing 2005 and 2015 data was the most important aspect to complete the GHG inventory before proceeding with the Climate Action Plan.
    - iii) The Commission agreed that an executive summary with the data charted or tabled will be sufficient for the GHG Inventory so that the Climate Action Plan creation can begin.
    - iv) The Commission requested that data be normalized (per capita, for example) if possible.
  - b) Parks Commission Liaison
    - i) Ed Mass, Parks Commission President, discussed the importance of cross-Commission communication. He requested a formal Green Practices Commission liaison to the Parks Commission.
    - ii) The GPC agreed and will develop a plan, possibly including rotating attendance.
    - iii) Attendance at all Parks Commission meetings will not be required.
    - iv) The GPC will be included in Parks Commission formal communication.
    - v) Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6 pm, not including August and December.
3. New Business

- a) America Recycles Day Event
    - i) An event is being coordinated for the grand opening of the recycling drop-off area and recycling education for November 15 from 4:00 – 6:30pm.
    - ii) The event will include refreshments, giveaways, fun and games, and information about recycling.
    - iii) The event will overlap with the Police Task Force Meeting which begins at 6:00 pm.
    - iv) Jenny will request collaboration with Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops and the schools in the area.
    - v) All GPC members are asked to help publicize the event and to attend.
  - b) Stormwater Management Plan
    - i) Chris is the Project Manager.
    - ii) At the GPC study session with the City Council, it was suggested that Commission work with the City to develop a Stormwater Management Plan.
    - iii) Although the Commission does not have specific expertise regarding Stormwater Management, it was felt they were the best Commission to advise on the creation of a Stormwater Management Plan.
    - iv) GPC members inquired if there is an opportunity for a memorial to commemorate the September 13, 2008 flood on Wilson Avenue.
    - v) Staff will create a plan and periodically check in with the Commission for review and advice.
  - c) Other requests from the study session
    - i) City Council suggested that the commission work with Lions against Litter, local schools, and CAASTL.
      - (1) The Commission will review posts from the University City Bulletin Board regarding Lions against Litter.
      - (2) Lois will contact the University City School District about collaboration opportunities.
      - (3) Chris will contact CAASTL to inquire about hosting an informational event about home weatherization as part of Education/ Advocacy.
  - d) GPC Ordinance
    - i) The Commission determined it is not necessary to alter the Ordinance due to the revised reporting categories.
  - e) Sustainability Strategic Plan update
    - i) The Commission will add this to the agenda for the next several months to spend time at each meeting reviewing and updating the plan as needed.
    - ii) GPC members were reminded to finalize goals and send to Lois so they can be aligned with the Strategic Plan.
6. Old Business
- a) None
7. Closing Round
- a) Lois will speak in Michigan at a Green Healthcare Conference about healthcare sustainability and resiliency of buildings. She will also attend a meeting in Chicago regarding purchasing meat raised without antibiotics for healthcare food service.
  - b) Dianne spoke about the butterfly gardens on Vernon at the dog park and at the Sutter-Meyer House. Weeding has been done and new native plants have been added.
  - c) The Green Dining Alliance Loop Tour will be October 20.
  - d) Jenny requested ideas for Capital Improvement projects, such as pedestrian-scale LED lighting on Olive. The fund has a five-year window so can be larger-scale projects. Please bring ideas to Jenny and Chris.
8. Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 p.m.