



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

November 10, 2016

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Lois Sechrist (Chairperson), Scott Eidson, Bob Elgin, Dianne Benjamin, Richard Juang, Jonathan Stitelman, David Plair, Chris Kalter (Staff Liaison), Jenny Wendt (Public Works)
Absent: Terry Crow (Council Liaison)

1. Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call at 6:03 p.m.
2. Opening Round
 - a) Chris
 - i. Attended Missouri Botanical Gardens composting training. The session included storm water management information.
 - ii. University City will work with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) on River des Peres property purchases – possibly 96 properties total. Over 700 properties total are in the flood plain in University City.
 - b) Jenny
 - i. America Recycles Day event will be held November 15
 1. 4 – 6:30 p.m., open house at Heman Community Center
 2. Reached out to University City schools. Planning food, games, and giveaways at the event.
 3. Grand Opening of renovated recycling center.
 4. 6:00 pm police task force meeting
 - c) Bob
 - i. St. Louis County Code Issues are being discussed by the County.
 - ii. Comment period underway. Bob has been participating with the Sierra Club to monitor proposed electrical code changes that would weaken requirements from the current residential code.
 - d) Jonathan
 - i. New Commission member; teaches material reuse and public art at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. Teaches a design studio at Washington University in St. Louis on this topic.
 - e) Richard
 - i. Agreed to serve as Commission Secretary.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a) October 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved.
4. New Business
 - a) Strategic Plan
 - i. The group discussed optimizing the plan so that it could become much shorter with more frequent updates.
 - ii. The group also discussed the need to tailor more to University City – action items should become more specific.
 - iii. Commission members will focus on the following areas:
 1. Ecosystems / Habitat – Dianne
 2. Education / Communication / Advocacy – Scott, David
 3. Energy – Tim, Bob, Lois
 4. Water / Stormwater – Jonathan
 5. Waste / Resource Conservation – Bob
6. Old Business
 - a) Stormwater Management Plan update
 - i. University City Signed an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) for \$650,000 project.
 - ii. There is no official Stormwater plan for University City. The City received FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant funding in 2014 and 2015.
 - iii. The FMA grant funding is utilized to purchase properties deemed by FEMA to be a severe repetitive

- loss. The buy-out of the property is voluntary and once purchased the structure is demolished and the land can no longer be built on.
- b) Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.(CAASTL) update
 - i. This is a non-profit group with outreach to low-income families.
 - ii. They provide job training, weatherization, etc.
 - iii. They conduct 4 events per year.
 - iv. We have attempted to call them but have gotten no response.
7. Closing Round
- a) An emerging topic for cities is Resiliency. The focus is on both Acute (natural disasters) and Chronic (unemployment, access to food) issues in a city. There will be a discussion about the topic at an upcoming Commission meeting.
8. Meeting Adjourned at 7:29 p.m.