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.
         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
         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.