



## Green Practices Commission

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### Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**January 12, 2017**

**DRAFT**

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

Absent: Terry Crow (Council Liaison), David Plair

1. Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call at 6:03 p.m.
2. Opening Round
  - a. Dianne – Named to Board of the University City Community Foundation
  - b. Lois
    - i. Has been invited to interview for the St. Louis Earth Day Board
    - ii. St. Louis County Energy Code Hearing will be February 8, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. Bob Elgin has been working with the Sierra Club to track this activity.
    - iii. OneSTL Sustainability Summit will be on April 5, 2017 at the Washington University Newman Education Center on the Medicine School campus (Central West End)
  - c. Bob – LED lamps are becoming very affordable for both residential and commercial installations.
  - d. Scott – Congratulations to Jenny on a very successful recycling event on November 15. 300 televisions and 18 tons of electronics were recycled that day.
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. November 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved as written.
4. Special Presentations
  - a. Presentation by Community Action Agency of St. Louis County (CAASTLC)
    - i. Programs for low-income residents of St. Louis, including home weatherization evaluations.
    - ii. Currently only available for people who meet low income guidelines
    - iii. Interest in hosting an event in University City in May 2017
    - iv. Would be in the University City newsletter to draw interest
    - v. Chris and Jenny will follow up with CAASTL to put on a presentation for the community.
    - vi. Event could be hosted at the Heman Park Community Center. The events are well attended, so ensure the space is large enough.
  - b. Green House Gas Inventory Update
    - i. Comprehensive examination of the emissions in 2015
    - ii. Data has revealed that University City greenhouse gases have dropped over the past 10 years
      - Increase in Commercial, Solid Waste, and Transmission Loss categories.
      - Decrease in Residential, Industrial, Transportation, and Water categories.
    - iii. Some data from 2005 is not clear, so comparisons may not be complete.
    - iv. The goal is to create a report clearly defining the necessary data sets, making easier reporting and comparisons possible.
    - v. An updated report will be provided at the April meeting.
  - c. EPA Green Power Community Challenge
    - i. The program was evaluated by the Commission in 2016. The presentation was updated with new pricing.
    - ii. The program involves purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) that support underwriting the green energy market. This is not the direct purchase of green power.
    - iii. To achieve certification in the program, there is a minimum percentage of participation across the city.
    - iv. Lois noted that the primary concern is that University City is primarily residential. The success of the program in Clayton and Creve Coeur was due to commercial and institutional customers purchasing large blocks of RECs. Marketing to individual residential customers is more challenging and results in

- lower purchase volumes.
  - v. The new option presented is to purchase a new hybrid of Pure Power (an Ameren company) and 3Degrees US Green Power RECs, which are 75% less costly than the earlier option.
  - vi. The Commission agreed that University City money will be better directed to local energy efficiency projects rather than purchasing RECs from a for-profit company. Purchasing RECs does not improve energy efficiency and does not keep the money in University City or in Missouri.
5. New Business
- a. Officer Elections
    - i. GPC is required to elect officers every year.
      - Jonathan elected as new Chair.
      - Richard elected as Secretary.
    - ii. Lois and Dianne will end their second terms in August 2017 so their positions will be open.
6. Old Business
- a. Quarterly Reports
    - i. Ecosystems/Habitat
      - Dianne developed three SMART goals based on key focus areas identified by the GPC. These goals will be added to the Sustainability Strategic Plan update along with action items.
        - a. GPC will propose a plan for increasing low-maintenance, native plantings for municipal-owned property and medians/roadways by February 1, 2017.
        - b. GPC will propose a contract requirement for native plantings on municipal-owned property and medians/roadways in collaboration with U City in Bloom and Community Development.
        - c. GPC will continue to promote Bring Conservation Home and other native plant programs and report these activities in GPC meeting minutes.
    - ii. Stormwater
      - Jonathan examined the Sustainability Strategic Plan and focused on three items:
        - a. Collaboration with upstream municipalities. Resources: Eric Karch (River des Peres Watershed Alliance), Paulette Carr, Mayor Welsch.
        - b. Educational programs to improve water conservation and teach people how to better use water without causing issues with stormwater and drainage.
        - c. Create usage goals for improving water conservation. First, create a baseline.
      - MSD will create a regional stormwater plan. University City will most likely endorse rather than creating their own plan. This is important because University City has unique stormwater issues. University City is now part of the MSD MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer) program
      - The semi-annual River des Peres Trash Bash cleanup will be held in March.
  - b. Sustainability Strategic Plan Update
    - i. Tabled to a future meeting.
7. Closing Round
- a. Jenny
    - i. Lighting will be updated across University City to LED light sources, including the Olive Link and the Delmar Loop.
    - ii. The Centennial Commons HVAC system and lighting will be updated. This wraps up the state low-interest loan project.
8. Meeting Adjourned at 7:33 p.m.