

AGENDA



GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, May 11 - 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Avenue

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Round
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 4/13/17 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Tim Schmalz – Greenhouse Gas Inventory Presentation
 - b. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes for individual's comments and 5 minutes for representatives of groups or organizations)
5. New Business
 - a. Audio Recording Policy
 - b. Internal Mandatory Recycling Policy (for City staff)
6. Old Business
 - a. Sustainability Strategic Plan Update work sessions
 - b. Quarterly reporting
 - Education/Communication/Advocacy – Scott Eidson (*Holdover from last month*)
 - Energy – Lois Sechrist
 - Waste/Resource Conservation – Bob Elgin
7. Council Liaison Report
8. Closing Round
9. Adjournment



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission DRAFT

April 13, 2017

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Jonathan Stitelman (Chairperson), Lois Sechrist, Bob Elgin, Dianne Benjamin, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison)

Absent: Terry Crow (Council Liaison), Scott Eidson, Richard Juang

1. Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call at 6:04 p.m.
2. Opening Round
 - a. Jenny spoke about the OneSTL Sustainability Summit held on April 5 and 6.
 - i. Draft regional goals were set for the following categories: Biodiversity; Materials/Recycling, Buildings; Land Use and Community Development; Water and Green Infrastructure; Energy and Emissions; Transportation, and Food.
 - b. Bob Elgin indicated that contracted waste haulers often do not know the difference between trash and recycling so it is important to have this conversation with local waste haulers and recyclers.
 - c. Lois Sechrist has joined the St. Louis Earth Day Board of Directors.
 - d. Jonathan Stitelman will be in Johannesburg, South Africa in June to teach an architectural design studio for Washington University.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes were approved with substantial changes.
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Jessica Bueler, Marketing Director for the Loop Special Business District (LSBD). Topic: Natives in the Loop.
 - i. Jessica was unable to attend the GPC meeting.
 - ii. Jenny Wendt answered questions that were posed by the Commission at the March meeting and discussed the details from a meeting April 7th with Jessica Bueler, Jesse Gilbertson (U City in Bloom), Jenn DeRose (St. Louis Earth Day), and Barbara Brain (U City resident). The following questions were answered:
 - Who pays for installation, maintenance of the landscaped containers in the Loop? *The LSBD.*
 - iii. General discussion:
 - Streetscapes in UCity should use native plants.
 - Is it necessary to write an ordinance or resolution, or would the information be lost? Need input from our Council Liaison, who was absent. *This would be best as a resolution, Jenny will discuss with City Administration. No input yet from the Council Liaison.*
 - Write requirements for native plantings into the UCity in Bloom contract. *Jenny will determine the logistics of the contract.*

- Plant UCity street medians with pollinator-friendly plants. Need to be no-mow, low-maintenance to be cost-effective. Ewald Winker, Parks Superintendent, is concerned about maintenance costs. *Most medians in University City are owned by St. Louis County and not the City of University City. No-mow areas are being instituted throughout City-owned property as applicable.*
 - What is the Forestry Department policy on tree species? *The City Forester reported: "In approximately 2011/12 the University City Forester, representatives from UCIB, and the Urban Forestry Commission, walked a portion of Delmar Blvd. from the east city limits to Kingsland Ave on the west. This group then devised a planting plan utilizing four varieties of tree species: Ginkgo biloba 'Princeton Sentry', Amelanchier X grandiflora 'Robin Hill', Ostrya virginiana, and Carpinus caroliniana. Of the four only the Ginkgo is considered as non-native, although this is a subject of debate as the tree did occur in North America before the ice age. As replacements have been needed I have utilized only the species from this collection of four. Washington University added to the species selection with their buildings along the northeast area on Delmar." However, currently several non-native trees are present in the Loop streetscape.*
- iv. Attendees at the April 7th meeting discussed the following options for the Loop:
- U City in Bloom plans to put a mix of natives and ornamentals in the planters with at least 1 – 2 native species in each planter. It was suggested that educational signage be placed in the planters indicating which plants are natives.
 - The group walked through the Loop and looked at possible locations for native plantings. One is at the corner of Leland next to the small Fitz's parking lot. The other is a private bed behind the Market in the Loop. Jessica will work with Jesse to determine budget, timeframe and other logistics for the planting beds.
5. New Business
- a. US Conference of Mayors 2017 Mayor's Climate Protection Award application
 - i. The Commission decided that the City should submit a list of multiple sustainability projects instead of focusing on one particular project. Jenny will work with Nicola Salzman (intern) to develop an essay for the application.
 - b. New GPC member opportunities
 - i. Barbara Brain is interested joining the Commission. Jenny will provide Barbara with the application and directions to submit.
 - ii. Jonathan has spoken to a potential applicant who teaches at Wash U and is a U City resident.
6. Old Business
- a. Sustainability Strategic Plan Update work sessions:
 - i. Jonathan reviewed the format for the sustainability strategic plan update.
 - ii. The Commission approved the format, discussed recommended goals and provided input.
 - b. Quarterly reporting
 - i. Education/Communication/Advocacy
 - Scott Eidson (Holdover from last month) absent, no presentation.
 - ii. Ecosystem/Habitat
 - Dianne Benjamin indicated no new monarch gardens were planned.
 - The Sutter-Meyer House garden has a problem with invasive plants, which volunteers are trying to eradicate.
 - iii. Water/Stormwater
 - Jonathan Stitelman discussed this topic during the Strategic Plan Update (Item 6a, above).

7. Council Liaison Report
 - a. Council Member absent, no report
8. Closing Round
 - a. Lois discussed the University of Colorado, Boulder's new Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Complex.
 - b. Bob indicated that he may be moving to the Pacific Northwest in a year or so.
 - c. The new Chamber of Commerce Director will be invited to a future meeting, as well as a representative from the Green Center.
9. Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

DRAFT



Department of Public Works and Parks

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Green Practices Commission
FROM: Jenny Wendt – Project Manager
DATE: May 8, 2017
SUBJECT: Update on projects related to sustainability

Please see below for an update on all of the current sustainability related projects for the Department of Public Works and Parks:

State Loan Projects: Energy Resources Group has been hired to perform a financial analysis of the state loan projects to audit the projects and assist finance department on how the payments should be budgeted.

2017 Solid Waste Management District Grant: Awaiting \$50,000 for 95 gallon recycling carts and toward a robust recycling education program. Remaining residential 65 gallon recycling carts will be replaced with 95 gallon carts.

2017 St. Louis County Department of Public Health: Staff has received notice of funding for a commercial recycling initiative for Olive Boulevard businesses.

2015 Recycling Drop-Off Grant: Plastic film baler will be installed late May/early June. Conveyor and space issues still need to be worked out with the cardboard compactor and reducing the opening size in the fence (to avoid car doors, panes of glass, and non-recyclable items).

MS4: Jenny participating in the Third Term St. Louis County Stormwater Management Plan Planning Committee. The goal is to come up with a county-wide stormwater management plan in accordance with MS4 goals (municipal separate stormwater system). Other members of the committee include MSD, St. Louis County, MoDOT, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Home Builder's Association, and the Cities of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Ladue, and Creve Coeur. Final goals have been formed and will be distributed to the planning committee soon.

Electronics (and Styrofoam) Recycling Event: Successfully executed May 6, 2017.

City will participate in the USGBC Green Cities Challenge (a branch of the Green Business Challenge) again this year, this runs from April through December.

Green Business District Challenge: Working with the Loop Special Business District and Earthways Center (Jean Ponzi) to start a green business district in the Loop. This is another layer of the Green Business Challenge geared toward small businesses who can group together to accomplish green goals.

Delmar Blvd pedestrian lights: We are working with a vendor replacing replacement of the Delmar pedestrian lights with LED in FY2017 (by the end of June this year)

Stormwater Runoff at the Nursery: We are working with a consultant and the River Des Peres Coalition to solve some of the leachate and erosion issues at the nursery.

Staff is working on internal recycling education to be presented to all staff during “Public Works Week” – May 22 – May 26.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory/Climate Action Plan: Staff is working with Tim Schmalz, the intern working on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory, reviewing the Greenhouse Gas inventory and developing the Climate Action Plan – which includes mitigation and adaptation. The City needs to work on developing the portion pertaining to the climate hazards and the vulnerabilities faced by the City.

Home, Health, and Energy Resource Fair: May 13 is the CAASTL Resource Fair at the Community Center from 10am – 1pm.