



## Green Practices Commission

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### Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**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 contractors 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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, Tim Dugan, 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 California 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.