



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

September 14, 2017

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Jonathan Stitelman (Chairperson), Lois Sechrist, Dianne Benjamin, Barbara Brain, Adam Staudt, Terry Crow (Council Liaison), Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison)
Absent: Scott Eidson, Bob Elgin, Richard Juang

1. Meeting Called to Order - Roll Call at 6:03
2. Opening Round
 - a. Lois – Will attend a Healthcare Plastics Recycling Convention in October.
 - b. Jonathan – Will spend the spring semester teaching at Cornell University.
 - c. Adam – New member, 15 year resident, owns a construction company, has worked in the construction trade for 25 years.
 - d. Barbara Brain – New member, 32 year resident, long term interest in sustainability.
 - e. Jenny – Recycling Truck at the Farmer’s Market September 23rd, Electronics Recycling Event October 7th, River Des Peres Trash Bash October 21st.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 8/11/17 and 06/08/17 minutes were approved with minor changes.
4. Special Presentations – None
5. Council Liaison Report
 - a. Bob Elgin may not be completing a second term for the Commission. Terry will check on this.
 - b. City Manager search – A number of candidates have been short-listed and will come next week for interviews.
 - c. There is a likely opportunity for development on the north side of Olive at 170. This is expected to move forward and be announced in the next few months. Lois pointed out that sustainability needs to be part of the conversation regarding the development.
 - d. University City is currently in negotiations with MSD regarding the storage tanks north of Olive near Hafner. MSD held a meeting with residents and over 300 residents were in attendance. There are other locations being considered.

- e. The contract for the EMS Gateway is under review.
- f. An architectural review board may be created because of the number of redevelopments in University City.
- g. Bikes in the Loop continues to be a safety challenge.
- h. A community discussion regarding Proposition P (Public Safety) will be held to determine the use of the tax funding.

6. New Business

- a. GPC membership and council liaison situation
 - i. Jonathan will send a request to Phil Valko regarding the City's need for Green Practices Commissioners. This request will also be for the Park Commission.
 - ii. Tim Dugan will send in an application for the commission.
 - iii. The meeting time will be changed from 6:00pm to 5:30pm. Dianne motioned this change, the commission agreed unanimously. Jonathan will send this information to LaRette.
 - iv. Discussion ensued about the GPC's past accomplishments which include: Development Review (i.e. Washington University Lofts, Forest Park Parkway Pedestrian Bridge, Kingsland Walk/Senior Living, Recycling Drop-Off redesign...), Energy Efficiency Ordinance, Native Plant/Weed Ordinance, Composting/Mulch Contract options review, bringing "Bring Conservation Home" to University City to name a few.
- b. State Loan Projects – Analysis: So far the City has saved \$58,000 in energy costs since the beginning of the project in 2015. The savings are beyond what was anticipated even though there are still a few lighting projects to be completed.
- c. Possible Energy efficiency projects that meet the ordinance criteria: Community Center lighting, Centennial Commons HVAC, Daylight Harvesting – 5th floor City Hall, Firehouse retrocommissioning were suggested. The commission will continue to consider options.

7. Old Business

- a. Sustainability Strategic Plan Update
 - i. Jonathan compiled a draft report for education/advocacy. Jenny will send her outreach list she uses for electronics recycling and other events.
 - ii. All reports are now in rough draft form. Jenny will send these reports to the commission.
 - iii. A rough timeline for completion was developed: Plan to be completed December 2017 and spring 2018 presented to council in spring 2018.
- b. OneStl, Materials and Recycling update – The regional group has been meeting and has compiled a list of stakeholders, a database of hard to recycle items, and a draft "standard message" focusing on what can be recycled as well as the common contaminants. The group is compiling information to apply for a Solid Waste Management District Grant for distribution of the standard message/common contaminants – focusing on plastic bag contamination.
 - i. The commission discussed the upcoming ban that China will place on low quality

plastics and paper coming from other countries. This is not a major concern for our regional single stream recycling companies but this is still something that needs to be kept in the forefront.

- c. Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan Update: Jenny emailed the latest version of the Climate Action Plan to the commission. Lois will work on compiling a summary. The commission will discuss the Climate Action Plan at the next commission meeting.

8. Closing Round

- a. Dianne suggested putting Ameren on the next month's agenda regarding their tree trimming procedures.
- b. Jenny reminded everyone about the electronics recycling event.

9. Adjournment at 7:34pm