



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

November 9, 2017

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Jonathan Stitelman (Chairperson), Lois Sechrist, Barbara Brain, Adam Staudt, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Timothy Dugan (to be sworn in 11/13/17)

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

1. Meeting Called to Order - Roll Call at 5:35

Special Guests: None

2. Opening Round

- a. Lois – America Recycles Day, Keep America Beautiful, is November 15th
- b. Jonathan – Working on a piece for auction for the Perennial Non-Profit annual Lost and Found – Remake Challenge.
- c. Adam Staudt – Jackson Park Elementary is part of the Green School's Quest, a Project Based Challenge.
- d. Barbara participated in two Honeysuckle Hack events, one in Forest Park, one in Kirkwood. The following 2 Saturdays Barbara will be working in Kirkwood to remove more Honeysuckle.
- e. Jenny – Anticipates speaking with the Council about the economics of recycling on November 13th in observation of America Recycles Day. On November 15th, Jenny will provide custodial and Centennial Commons staff training on recycling.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. The 9/14/17 minutes were approved as written.
- b. The 10/12/17 minutes were approved with minor revisions.

4. Special Presentation - None

5. New Business

- a. China's National Sword Policy on Recycling and its impacts – Jenny discussed changes China is making to reduce pollution and low quality recyclables from entering their country. The change will take place January 1, 2018 and will effect post-consumer plastics and mixed paper markets. The primary change is the reduction of contamination per bale from 3% to 0.5 – 1%. This should not affect the single stream market in the St. Louis area, but initially it could cause disruption in the process.
 - i. Lois mentioned an innovative program for manufacturing and the lifecycle of products. REMADE in America (Reducing EMbodied Energy and Decreasing Emissions) is a Department of Energy initiative that will enable the development and widespread deployment of key industrial platform technologies that will dramatically reduce life-cycle energy consumption

and carbon emissions associated with industrial-scale materials production and processing by creating new technologies for reuse, recycling, and remanufacturing of materials.

- ii. The group that Lois is working with in Healthcare is focused on working with the resin makers and recyclers to try to improve practices and create markets for these products.
- iii. Barbara suggested encouraging the merchants to reduce the use of plastic bags in University City. The commission concurred.

b. City of St. Louis Deconstructing Program – Jenny attended a stakeholders discussion focused on maximizing the demolition of vacant structures through deconstruction, and the opportunity of construction and demolition diversion policies for the City of St. Louis. The deconstruction of vacant properties in the City of St. Louis will result in green space allowing better stormwater management. Examples of policies in other areas include:

- Cook County, Illinois: Requires 5% reuse, 70% recycling goal for all demolition.
- Foster City, California: requires 50% of Construction and Demolition waste to be recycled.
- Orange County, North Carolina: Requires corrugated cardboard, clean wood, and scrap metal to be recycled.

Requiring or recommending that contractors recycle cardboard and scrap metal would be attainable in University City. Because an Architectural Review Board is being developed, this may be the time to propose this.

6. Old Business

- a. Sustainability Strategic Plan Review – Commissioners will unofficially meet twice in December to work on the Strategic Plan.
- b. Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update – Lois has been summarizing the CAP and has only 5 pages left until completion.

7. Commission Reports

- a. Council Liaison Update – Absent
- b. Distribute reporting schedule and discuss expectations – Each commissioner has a topic area to report on quarterly. A topic is discussed at each meeting. Commissioners are recommended to report 5 – 10 minutes on each topic. January 2018 this practice will continue.

8. Closing Round

- a. Jonathan will be teaching out of the country for the spring semester. He will return in June but then will be traveling to Johannesburg for research.
- b. Jonathan will reach out to Terry Crow to get an update on Proposition P and MSD's plan for the storage tanks.
- c. Lois's employer, Ascension, has just finished a LEED Gold hospital in Austin Texas. Lois will visit next month.

9. Adjournment at 6:33pm.