Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

January 11, 2018

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Jonathan Stitelman (Chairperson), Lois Sechrist, Barbara Brain, Adam Staudt, Kathy Straatmann, Timothy Dugan, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Adam Brown (Staff)

Absent: Terry Crow (Council Liaison)

1. Meeting Called to Order - Roll Call at 5:33
   Special Guests: None

2. Opening Round:
   a. Lois – Coordinates Green Practices for a Health System, annual report will be out soon.
   b. Kathy – Concerned about incorrect recycling.
   c. Jenny – Passed out standard message for Recycling Right and the dangers of “wish-cycling”, where trash is thrown in the recycle bin in the hopes that it could possibly be recycled.

3. Approval of Minutes
   a. The 11/09/17 minutes were approved with minor revisions.

4. Special Presentation - None

5. New Business
   a. Welcome new members: Timothy Dugan and Kathleen Straatman
      Commissioners discussed their backgrounds:
      i. Lois Sechrist: Founding member of the Green Practices Commission, has a career in green practices.
      ii. Timothy Dugan: From Boston, lived in University City since 2014. Works at the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community engagement.
      iii. Kathy Straatman: First meeting, active in University City Politics, lived here since 1989, owns 2 apartment buildings in University City.
      v. Adam Staudt: Lived in University City since 2001. Owns a construction company based out of University City.
      vi. Barbara: 33 year resident of University City, worked in libraries for 35 years, recently completed the Master naturalist Program.
      vii. Jenny: Worked for University City for 8 years. Background in environmental chemistry. Now a project manager handling energy efficiency, solid waste, and other unrelated projects.
      viii. Adam Brown: Moved to University City from the east coast in 2016, has a degree in City and regional planning from Cornell. Working on Neighborhood outreach and
collaborating across departments.

b. Recycling Ordinance for construction projects discussion – Jenny presented recycling ordinances from other locations across the country. The commission discussed the following factors:

i. Check University City’s database of construction/demolition companies.
ii. Start with developing and providing the businesses with educational material about reducing waste and the cost-savings of recycling instead of landfiling. In addition it is good social capital for businesses.
iii. First step of requiring City projects to recycle cardboard and metal with the recommendation to construction/demolition projects to follow the City’s ordinance.
iv. If and when ordinance implemented, can be tied to rough-in or final inspection.
v. Determine what recycling outlets are available for Construction and Demolition waste (other than LEDR and ECO).
vi. Creating an ordinance like this has been a multi-year process for other municipalities.

6. Old Business

a. Sustainability Strategic Plan Review – Jonathan will compile the documents into 1 file and send a google document to the group.

b. Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update – Lois will finish summarizing the CAP and send it to the group.

7. Commission Reports

a. Council Liaison Update – Absent

b. Quarterly Report – Ecosystems/Habitat: Barbara Brain discussed her research findings regarding what other parts of the country are doing about native plants.

i. Boulder, Colorado has an ENVIRONMENT tab on the website focusing on Climate, energy, water, waste, and ecosystems with information on the benefits of trees and a list of trees native to the area. Boulder is a bee friendly city with a tagline of “Bee-friendly Boulder”. The ecosystem section has a large focus on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – The Long term prevention or suppression of pest problems while minimizing the impact on human health, the environment and non-target organisms. The City cannot use herbicides or pesticides on City property. There is a neighborhood with over 200 neighbors dedicated to keeping bees safe, designated as “Bee Safe” neighborhoods.

ii. Austin, Texas has a large part of their website devoted to Environmental programs. One program, Grow Green, is a gardening education program promoting sustainable landscaping. The website has “Grow Green Landscape Professional Training” available.

iii. Minneapolis Minnesota has a program called The Corcoran Pollinator Project, a grassroots initiative encouraging neighborhood pollinator gardens. The project has successfully completed 10 Boulevard gardens with 40 species of pollinator plants.

8. Closing Round

a. Jonathan will be out until summertime.

b. Barbara is registered to listen to the Localizing the Paris Agreement – Local Government Climate Action and the Road Ahead.

9. Adjournment at 6:56 pm.

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