

AGENDA



GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday March 14, 2019 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Avenue

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Round
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 2/14/19 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Straight-Up Solar: Solar information on City Buildings and “Solarize U City” program
 - b. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes for individual’s comments and 5 minutes for representatives of groups or organizations)
5. New Business
 - a. Tree discussion
 - b. Plastic Bag Awareness Day
6. Old Business
 - a. Strategic Plan Update Strategy
 - b. Glass and Mixed Paper Drop-Off Location Update
 - c. Sustainable Developmental Guidelines Update
7. Council Liaison Update
8. Closing Round
9. Adjournment



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes –
February 14, 2019 **DRAFT**

University City Green Practices Commission

Location:

Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present:

John Solodar (Chairperson), Barbara Brain, Mary Gorman, Adam Staudt,
Jonathan Stitelman, Tim Cusick (Council Liaison), Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison).

Attendees Absent:

Timothy Dugan, Liz Essman

1. Meeting called to order, Roll Call 5:35pm
2. Opening Round
 - a. Barbara reported that a Webster Groves Parks Department has a new volunteer group called “Green Keepers”. They remove invasive plants, plant seeds, and clean up parks. This may be a good fit for University City to have a group like this too.
 - b. Jonathan reported that Todd Farr, a sustainability expert, will be speaking at Washington University on February 22nd.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 01/10/19 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes were approved.
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Public Comments: None
5. New Business
 - a. GPC member quarterly reporting – assignments and responsibility: GPC had a formal process of members reporting each meeting on topics determined by the Sustainability Strategic Plan. This process will be abandoned and instead members will report on a specific topics as needed as an agenda item instead.
 - b. Firehouse #1 Retrocommissioning Report: Jenny reported the energy cost reduction measures and energy efficiency measures from the retrocommissioning report. The HVAC is the largest cause of energy overuse. The commission recommended the HVAC energy efficiency measure project be submitted as a FY20 Capital Improvement Project.

Lighting in Firehouse 1 has been retrofitted with LED already.
 - c. State Loan Update and administration discussion: The State Loan idea has been rejected by the Finance Department. The Commission believes this is still a good option for completing energy efficiency projects. Tim and John will work together on the details and Tim will discuss with the City Manager.
 - d. Timeline for Sustainable Strategic Plan: The sustainable strategic plan was developed by the Green Practices Commission in 2011. This needs to be updated. The Commission began updating this plan in 2016. Jenny and John will discuss all pieces that need to be included and a timeline for how a realistic plan

can be developed.

6. Old Business

- a. Solar Project Update: Jenny reported that a solar project for firehouse #2 will be submitted as a capital improvement project for FY20. The commission agreed that the City should start with one solar project, firehouse #2 is an optimal fit because it is scheduled for a roof replacement. The City has signed the “Mayors for Solar” commitment which tasks the city with leading by example and promoting solar for the community.
- b. Glass and Mixed Paper Drop-Off Location Update: There is no set location yet due to difficulty connecting with a private property owner to set an agreement.
- c. Recycling update: Wildwood is proposing dual stream and removing glass from the collection but setting up glass drop-off locations. Recycling markets are stagnant but the outlook is positive for mixed paper; new domestic paper mills are coming on-line later this year and Republic Recycling Services will be installing an optical sorter for cleaner output and better value of paper.
- d. Sustainable Developmental Guidelines Update: The guidelines have been reviewed by Green Practices, Plan, and Traffic commissions and the Stormwater Task Force. Jenny will meet with the new community development director to determine the process of taking them for approval/endorsement by City Council.

6. Commission Reports

- a. Adam Staudt - Energy Report: Programmable thermostats are effective when programmed correctly. Often people do not program them effectively for efficiency. Setting the thermostat differently based on necessity is the most effective. For every 1 degree lowered reduces energy consumption by 1%. A programmable thermostat is most useful in commercial buildings.
- b. Council Liaison Update: Tim Cusick – Better Together: The City and the County would join and create municipal St. Louis. Signatures will be gathered to put this on the ballot November 2020. Individual municipalities would go away. Steve Stenger would be the new mayor. The new administration would appoint members. Initially the existing fire districts would stay. Police would immediately be assumed in the new government. It is unknown what would happen to the other municipal employees. Many portions of the Better Together initiative have not been determined. University City will sign a resolution opposing the Better Together initiative.

7. Closing Round

Barbara reported that March 1st is the beginning of Honeysuckle Sweep month. Honeysuckle removal will occur throughout the region.

Barbara registered for a Master Pollinator Steward Class offered by the University of Missouri Extension.

Jenny reported that April 13 is “Plastic Bag Awareness Day”, stores are being asked to participate which entails volunteers handing out reusable bags, “Got Your Bags” decals, and recycling educational materials. The Loop Business District and other business districts have joined this initiative.

John asked about the recycling database; Jenny reported that it is on the RecycleResponsibly.org website.

Barbara reported that FPC on Adie Road accepts Styrofoam for recycling.

8. Adjournment at 6:51 pm



Department of Public Works and Parks

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Green Practices Commission
FROM: Jenny Wendt – Project Manager
MEETING DATE: March 14, 2019
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:

- The City is considering alternative fuel vehicles for the inspectors for FY20.
- The Sustainable Developmental Guidelines have been created, endorsed by the Green Practices Commission, and reviewed by the Traffic Commission, Plan Commission, and the Stormwater Task Force. A draft resolution for the City's adoption of the guidelines has been created and is under review with the intent to submit to Council for approval in March or April 2019.
- 2017 Solid Waste Management District Grant: \$50,000 was awarded; 95 gallon recycling carts were purchased to replace smaller recycling carts. A recycling education insert went out with the May/June 2018 ROARS newsletter using grant funds. Next is working on an updated recycling education brochure and recycling contamination education material.
- 2018 St. Louis Jefferson Solid Waste Management District Waste Reduction Grant: The City was awarded \$20,000 for a free "CRT TV Takeback" in coordination with a biannual electronics recycling event. The grant includes funding toward advertisement, education, and the cost of TV recycling. Money left from this grant will go toward the May 2019 electronics recycling event.
- University City is working with Washington University to obtain a summer sustainability intern funded through Washington University's Environmental Studies Community Internship Program.
- Transportation Alternative Program Grant Application: Staff is proceeding with the TAP project updating the lighting to LED and creating ADA access along Ackert Walkway and through Ackert Park. Council has approved the project. The preliminary design is substantially completed.
- University City is part of a regional group working on regional recycling education and standardizing the recycling message. The main goals of the group are Education/Communication, Policy, and Business Development; with the first action items as follows:
 - Create and distribute a common list of recyclables (COMPLETE)
 - Create a regional database of where to recycle non-single stream items. This database will include locations in the 7 counties and St. Louis City. (COMPLETE)

- Communicate and distribute message and a toolkit to municipalities.

The group received \$125K for a 2018 St. Louis Jefferson Solid Waste Management District Waste Reduction Grant for mass distribution of the standard message of single stream recycling and education and outreach regarding basic recycling and the problems with plastic bags. The majority of the funding has gone toward a PR firm specializing in this messaging.

- MS4: (municipal separate storm sewer system). University City is working with MSD to comply with a series of Best Management Practices to and other regulations to decrease stormwater and its pollution. Ordinances have been created to meet the MS4 requirements; the Stormwater Task Force is determining further requirements based on University City needs.
- Diversion of maintenance yard stormwater runoff from the River Des Peres to a combination sewer line is underway through a project replacing a pump in the transfer station.
- A University City Staff Green Team has begun working by determining areas of improvement through the City.
- Improvements for cardboard collection are underway to alleviate the high volume of cardboard recycling that has occurred since the drop-off area was renovated. This is intended to relieve overflow and reduce labor needed to keep up with the load. In addition, additional promotion of the drop-off will be provided to businesses once the upgrades to the drop-off area are completed.
- Retro-commissioning of Firehouse #1 has been completed. HVAC improvements have been recommended for FY20.
- All interior lighting in Firehouses #1 and #2 have been upgraded to LED. Exterior lighting for the firehouses will be completed soon.
- A grant application has been submitted to determine the feasibility of returning the former Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to its original function of sorting recyclables in-house instead of taking them to Republic Services for sorting and sales.
- The City Council has endorsed the City becoming a “Shining City”. Mayor Crow signed the “Mayors for Solar Energy” Statement of Support. The City will begin solar support efforts.
- University City is working with The Loop to reduce idling. Various property owners have installed “No Idling” signs given to the City by the American Lung Association.
- University City is working with Washington University to obtain a summer sustainability intern funded through Washington University’s Environmental Studies Community Internship Program.
- The electronics recycling event in October 2018 yielded one of its highest volume of electronics: 36,704 pounds. The next recycling event is scheduled for May 2019.