



## Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission  
February 14, 2019  
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 Doug Farr, a sustainability expert, will be speaking at Washington University on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
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 1<sup>st</sup> 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