



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes –
April 11, 2019

University City Green Practices Commission

Location:

Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present:

John Solodar (Chairperson), Liz Essman, Barbara Brain, Adam Staudt, Tim Cusick (Council Liaison), Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Adam Brown (Staff)

Attendees Absent:

Mary Gorman, Jonathan Stitelman,

1. Meeting called to order, Roll Call 5:33pm
2. Opening Round
 - a. Saturday, April 13th is Plastic Bag Awareness Day – most retailers in the Loop and Pete’s Market are participating from University City. Many other stores throughout the region are participating also.
 - b. Barbara took a Master Pollinator class through University of Missouri extension.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 03/14/19 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes were approved as is.
4. Special Presentations – None.
5. New Business
 - a. Litter – A repetitive litter problem has been reported regarding the intersection of Olive and Hanley, specifically but not limited to Walgreens and Circle K. The City has cited the property but it is an ongoing issue. The commission discussed ideas of how to tackle the issue of litter near major intersections along Olive. Possible ideas: Promoting MoDOT and St. Louis County “Adopt-a-Street” programs, increase citations for private property, promote volunteer groups, increase number of trash cans, initiate a city-wide anti-litter campaign.
 - b. Solar Group Program “Solarize U City” – This is a group purchasing program to pool buying power and secure discounts for solar purchases for businesses and residents. The program is supported by the City but run by community members and a solar vendor selected through an RFP process. Education sessions would be held to learn about the program, financing, and solar power in general. Although there was concern because the City is not planning solar projects on its own buildings, the commission voted and fully endorsed the City moving forward with a “Solarize U City” program applicable for the community.
 - c. Inspector vehicles – The city is considering purchasing 5-6 electric vehicles for the inspectors. An analysis was done and shows electric vehicles are the most cost effective depending on the cost of installation of charging stations. The analysis was reviewed by the commission and adjustments were suggested to be made to the data based on maintenance estimates and replacement time. It is predicted the updated analysis will still illustrate the cost effectiveness of the electric vehicles over gas or hybrid vehicles.
6. Old Business
 - a. Recycling Update – The cost of recycling is still high. A study session was held with city council about the

cost of recycling. At this point no changes will be made to the program but methods will be continue to be reviewed. The City secured a grant to study the re-opening of the Materials Recovery Facility (a recycling sorting facility) that was in operation 10 years ago. Other options may also be studied.

- b. Sustainable Developmental Guidelines – The commission voted unanimously to endorse the City adopting the Sustainable Developmental Guidelines.

7. Council Liaison Update: Tim Cusick –

- a. Mr. Rose was on KMOX indicating a decision would be made in the next couple of weeks about the I-170 development.
- b. Prop-L passed providing the Library for improvements.
- c. April 26th is the U City in bloom plant sale.
- d. Better Together: The initiative is still proceeding; Tim brought the petition for the formation of the Board of Freeholders if anyone would like to sign it.
- e. State Loan: No new projects for the state loan funding are on hold partially because of the Better Together initiative.

8. Closing Round:

- a. Adam asked what was happening at Olive and Midland. Tim believes it is work being done by the water company.
- b. Barbara reported a buy-back program by Forest Relief: By showing the removal of the Bradford Pear tree and in return receive a native tree.
- c. April 22nd is Earth Day – tables will be set-up outside of City Hall with resources on sustainability, from 3-6pm.
- d. May 4th (from 9-noon) is the next Electronics Recycling Event.

9. Adjournment at 6:32 pm