

AGENDA



GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday Jun 13, 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. 5/9/19 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes for individual's comments and 5 minutes for representatives of groups or organizations)
5. New Business
 - a. Don't bag recyclables! and other contamination issues
6. Old Business
 - a. Group Solar Program update
 - b. EV charging stations in City Parking Lot - update
7. Council Liaison Update
8. Closing Round
9. Adjournment



Department of Public Works and Parks

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

Recycling Contamination Reduction Education Plan

Background Information:

It is well known at this time that contamination needs to be reduced in our recycling stream.

There has been much discussion and outreach about what belongs and doesn't belong in the recycling bin. Apparently messaging thus far has not been enough. University City's recycling processor Republic Recycling has begun auditing loads of recyclables for contamination. As profit margins narrow, pressure is placed on Republic to reduce this contamination, thus Republic passing the pressure on to its customers.

As shown in the attached pictures, the recycling loads are highly contaminated. Various materials litter the recyclables, but one sticks out more than anything: Plastic Bags; Recyclables in plastic bags to be specific.

If this contamination is not reduced, University City will be charged an additional surcharge per ton on contaminated loads.

Current Action:

Since this warning arrived this past week, the following actions have been taken:

- Article in the July/August ROARS (fortunately already submitted prior to learning of this level of contamination)
- E-mails to all Loop businesses
- Letters to all commercial accounts
- Social media posts
- Sent to Centennial Commons, Golf Course, Library, and Community Development departments to display on digital boards.
- Sent information to University City custodial staff.
- Sent information to Green Practices Commission.
- Sent information to Washington University (as many students recycle in University City.)
- Working with finance for Solid Waste bill insert beginning in June.
- Working with regional PR firm for additional media outreach (through OneSTL).
- Replacement of recycling dumpsters with recycling carts where various levels of contamination was observed.
- Initiation of "Acceptable Items" and "No Plastic Bags" stickers placed on carts.

Future Action:

- Use staff and/or interns to begin labeling carts with “Acceptable Items” and “No Plastic Bag” Stickers (see below) immediately.
- Train Solid Waste staff on recycling and to audit collections, necessitate accountability. Repeat frequently.
- Audit a pilot area – North of Delmar Loop (Parkview Gardens). Communicate with residents, Washington University the problem materials. Follow-up with findings.
- Work with Director of Communications to continue blast of educational material.
- Use banner locations throughout the City to communicate keeping bags and bagged recyclables out of the recycling bins.
- Audit and tagging of carts and dumpsters with contamination (tags indicate what contamination is present) as part of a grant secured through St. Louis County. This process will begin in spring 2020.
- Continued educational outreach.
- “Acceptable Items” and “No Plastic Bags” stickers placed on ALL carts (11,000+)

Republic Recycling is aware of University City’s commitment to reducing contamination, therefore has agreed to give us time to clean our recycling. This time limit is unknown, and this educational outreach is critical.





Green Practices Commission

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 862-6767, Fax: (314) 863-9146

Meeting Minutes –
May 9, 2019 **DRAFT**

University City Green Practices Commission

Location:

Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present:

John Solodar (Chairperson), Liz Essman, Barbara Brain, Adam Staudt,
Jonathan Stitelman, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Adam Brown (Staff)

Attendees Absent:

Mary Gorman, Tim Cusick (Council Liaison)

1. Meeting called to order, Roll Call 5:34pm
2. Opening Round
 - a. Jonathan Stitelman will not be present at the next two meetings, he will be out of the South Africa and Uganda for the next 2 months.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 04/11/19 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes were approved as is.
4. Special Presentations – None.
5. New Business
 - a. Better Together Municipal Meeting – May 13th. No discussion, meeting cancelled.
6. Old Business
 - a. Litter (Special Report from Lizz Essman) A report was provided and discussed with the commission. (see attached) Some suggestions were brought up in addition to those shown on the attached report:
 - i. Check mowing contracts to see if litter removal is in the contract
 - ii. Ask Lions Against Litter if they could help with an audit
 - iii. Add “No Litter” to the digital message boards
 - iv. Ask about a camera at firehouse 2 to monitor illegal dumping at the dumpster
 - b. Inspector vehicles update: Jenny provided an updated spreadsheet of the vehicle costs – the replacement and maintenance costs have been updated so they are the same for gas and electric cars for ease of comparison. There will be a meeting with an electrician to discuss charging station costs.
 - c. Materials Recovery Facility: University City received a grant to study the feasibility of reopening the Materials Recovery Facility that was once functional in the building below the transfer station. Funding is expected to be received in the fall.
7. Council Liaison Update: N/A
8. Closing Round:

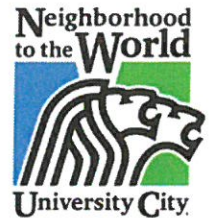
a. It was decided to change the layout of the tables and chairs for the Commission meeting.

9. Adjournment at 6:11 pm

DRAFT

Litter in University City

University City Green Practices Commission
May 2019



What is litter?

Noun: waste product disposed of improperly, without consent, at an undesirable location.

Verb: to drop or leave trash in an open or public space.

- Intentional littering -- dropping or placing trash somewhere other than a receptacle intended for this purpose (active).
- Unintentional littering -- items managed in a way that they may become litter, including in the back of trucks that are not covered properly or stacked on an overflowing dumpster (passive).

What is being littered?

- Food packaging, wrappers, plastic bottles
- Fast food containers, cups and straws
- Cans, glass bottles, paper products
- Cigarette butts and tobacco wrappers
- Misc. larger items, i.e. furniture, tires

Where is litter found?

- Transition areas
- Commuter pathways
 - Parking lots
- Public and private lawns
- Storm water collection areas

Where does litter come from?

- Cars and traffic
- Residents and non-residents
 - Out of bins (passive)

What spreads litter?

- *Litter causes more litter!!!*
- Weather & storm water
 - Heavy traffic

What University City is already doing:

- Nuisance Claims & Inspections
 - U City in Bloom
- Lions Against Litter
- Mow & Litter Contracts

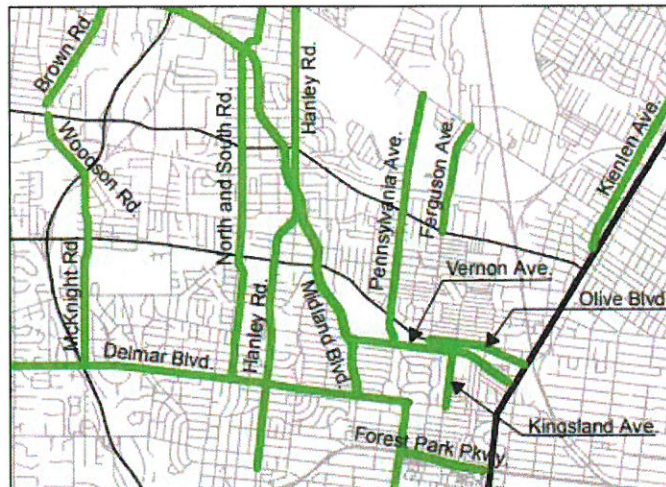
Where other municipalities have invested:

- City of St. Louis's Trash Task Force
- St. Louis County's Adopt-A-Roadside
- Community-based clean up events
- Economic & educational partnerships

Suggested Next Steps:

1. Set Goals, Plan & Measure
 - a. Litter audit
 - b. Create a goal -- "to reduce litter by 50% by 2020"
- a. Educate & communicate with businesses, property managers & residents
 - a. Olive Blvd commercial centers as case study
 - b. Distribute brochures to clarify laws, processes, BMPs
 - c. Agreements to collaborate with signs, cameras, or adopt-a-roadside
- b. Review U City's Mowing & Litter removal practices - good place for an audit?
 1. Signs in litter hotspots or along roadways -- education for commuters, not just residents
 2. Determine infrared camera purchase or rental options
 3. Assess quality, quantity & locations of bins -- for public, commercial & residential spaces
 4. MSD grant program - physical barriers and litter traps
 5. Clarify litter ordinances, work with enforcement officers & inspectors to increase citations
 6. Establish citizen reporting tools - Next Door & U City website's Nuisance Claims

St. Louis County's Adopt-A-Roadside Program Map



Mowing & Litter Removal Locations & Acreage

<u>West Area</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>
Westridge Ct. (2 islands)	0.16
Kingdel @ West Kingsbury	0.082
Hanley @ Washington	0.048
Cornell @ Stanford	0.050
Old Bonhomme Ct	0.048
Island Old Bonhomme and Lafon	0.048
<u>South Area</u>	
Westmoreland/Maryland (Both sides of Forest Park Parkway)	0.308
Asbury Island on Northmoor	0.223
Joseph Adams Park	1.600
Pershing Ave (From Forest Park Parkway to Clayton Line)	1.53
<u>North Area</u>	
Mt. Olive @ Morgan	0.632
North & South (South of Olive)	0.344
Wayne Island	0.229
Trenton/Milan near Moore (3 islands)	0.54
Nixon	0.111
<u>East Area</u>	
Sutter/Meyer House (6818 Chamberlain)	0.25
Melrose Creek	1.288
Crest Island	0.208
Belrue @ Corbitt	0.070
Sutter @ Olive	0.080



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Green Practices Commission
FROM: Jenny Wendt – Project Manager
MEETING DATE: June 13, 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 moving forward with the alternative fuel vehicles for the inspectors for FY20. A preliminary cost analysis has shown that electric vehicles are the most cost effective choice.
- The City has increased its recycling education and outreach to residents in attempt to reduce contamination and increase knowledge about what is and is not recyclable.
- The Green Practices Commission endorsed “Solarize U City”, a program to educate and provide opportunity for group solar discounts for residents.
- Retrofits of fluorescent tubes in the Delmar Parking Garage is complete; the project has a 10 month ROI.
- A quote for retrofits of fluorescent tubes in the Community Center has been received. The project has been recommended to the Director of Public Works.
- 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 resolution for the City’s adoption of the guidelines was signed on May 13, 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 went toward the May 2019 electronics recycling event. 14 tons of electronics were collected at the May event.
- University City has hired a summer intern 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 project is out to bid.

- 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. (Ongoing)

The group received \$125K for a 2018 St. Louis Jefferson Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) 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.

The Group received another grant of \$100K from the SWMD for 2019. This grant will continue the education from the 2018 grant, and add to it the concept of reducing single-use plastics.

- 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 but were not approved.
- All interior and exterior lighting in Firehouses #1 and #2 have been upgraded to LED.
- A grant has been awarded and approved by council 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.