

## AGENDA



### **GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday August 8, 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
  - b. 6/13/19 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. Solar Power Hour tentative date: October 10<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Parks Director and City Forester: November 14<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting
  - c. Stormwater Management
6. Old Business
  - a. Group Solar Program update
  - b. EV inspector vehicles
  - c. Recycling update
  - d. Litter
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

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Green Practices Commission  
**FROM:** Jenny Wendt – Project Manager  
**MEETING DATE:** June 27, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Update on projects related to sustainability

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Please see below for an update on all of the current sustainability related projects:

- Bids have been received for Electric Vehicles for the Building Inspectors. These are being reviewed by the City Attorney. Once accepted, the contract with the selected provider will be presented to council for approval.
- An energy efficiency master plan is scheduled for FY20.
- The Green Practices Commission endorsed a group buy program providing discounts for residents installing solar. A regional “Grow Solar” program has been initiated and is slated to include University City.
- The City is participating in the “Green Cities Challenge” and will submit achievement in October 2019.
- 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 has increased its recycling education and outreach to residents in attempt to reduce contamination and increase knowledge about what is and is not recyclable.
- 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.
- Anti-litter measures have been recommended by the Green Practices Commission. Specific actions have been suggested.
- Tankless water heaters have been installed at Firehouse 2 using less energy than traditional water heaters. The cost of the heaters were competitive with traditional heaters with the possible utility rebates.
- 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.
- Utilizing remaining funds from a 2017 Solid Waste Management District Grant, an updated recycling education brochure and recycling contamination education material will be created and mailed to residents.

- 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. Construction will begin in fall 2019.
- University City is part of a regional group working on regional recycling education and waste reduction. The group received \$100K for a 2019 St. Louis Jefferson Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) Waste Reduction Grant for continued education and action focusing on the problems with plastic bags and other single use plastics. 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 and procedures for implementation.
- 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.
- 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.
- Solar Panels on Firehouse #2 were researched and proposed following the installation of the new roof. The project aligns with the Energy Efficiency ordinance requiring major renovations to include energy efficiency measures that have a 15 year or less payback. This project was not approved.



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# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Gregory Rose, City Manager  
**FROM:** Sinan Alpaslan, Director of Public Works  
**DATE:** July 29, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Recycling Contamination

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### **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).
- Continued replacement of recycling dumpsters with recycling carts where various levels of contamination was observed.
- Continued placement of "Acceptable Items" and "No Plastic Bags" stickers on carts, beginning in the Route 4 area (Northwest section). See image below.
- North of Delmar Loop (Parkview Gardens): Notices placed on all residential properties regarding the need to reduce contamination. Stickers placed on all recycling carts.
- Washington University has been notified to communicate with their students about the

issue.

- Continue working with Director of Communication to continue blast of educational material.
- Purchased additional “No Plastic Bag” stickers and “Acceptable Items” stickers, at a total cost of \$3,800.
- Audited a truckload of recyclables at the transfer station. This process took 2 hours in total in collaboration with 2 interns and 4 staff. Removed plastic bags, equaling approximately 20% of the load.
- Continue communication with Republic Recycling about the City’s efforts to reduce contamination.
- Solid Waste staff have been trained on recycling and tagging contaminated carts.
- Contaminated carts have been being tagged with “Unacceptable Items” tags and carts have been left for the resident to properly manage the trash.
- Drivers have been instructed to audit 10 residential recycling carts at a minimum per day.

## Future Action:

- Use banner locations throughout the City to communicate keeping bags and bagged recyclables out of the recycling bins.
- Commercial account holders will receive a letter indicating contaminated recycling dumpster will result in a \$100 fine for each event. A photo will be taken and sent with the bill.
- City-wide 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+)
- All residential recycling dumpsters replaced with carts





## 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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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



## Green Practices Commission

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

Meeting Minutes –  
June 13, 2019 **DRAFT**

University City Green Practices Commission

Location:

Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present:

John Solodar (Chairperson), Barbara Brain, Mary Gorman, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Adam Brown (Staff), Tim Cusick (Council Liaison), Juliet Kamau

Attendees Absent:

Adam Staudt, Jonathan Stitelman, Liz Essman, Timothy Dugan

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Round
  - a. Mary spoke with United Provisions about discouraging plastic bag usage with their customers, and United Provisions said that they already do this practice and will reinforce it.
  - b. Barbara Brain had first trash pickup on section of Midland Blvd that she adopted, went well and is seeking approval by naturalist chapter to bring in more volunteers.
  - c. Jenny mentioned there is litter removal in mowing contracts. Jenny mentioned there was no camera on one of the firehouses, but is working on getting one. Suggested to Adam Liz and Juliet work together on an anti-litter campaign.
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. 6/13/19 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes
4. Special Presentations
  - a. Mary put signs on her dumpsters for tenets that discourage plastics in the dumpster, and it has been effective.
  - b. Public Comments - None
5. New Business
  - a. Don't bag recyclables! – sticker and awareness design was discussed with the commission. Some suggestions were brought up: instead of just focusing stickers on “no plastic bags”, there should also be a focus on not bagging recyclables. Suggested getting a graphic designer to make a unique sticker for the City.
  - b. Other contamination issues –
    - i. A Republic report was discussed with the commission. While there are significant amounts of contamination in the City's recycling, Republic is aware of the campaigns the City is doing to address this problem and is not charging the City extra fees at this time.

- ii. The commission had a discussion on the grant the City has received for the Oops! Program. There were some worries about residents who did not get their recycling picked up (due to contamination) putting their recycling in their neighbors bins, on the street, or in regular trash. Jenny said the plan was that recycling carts would not be taken away, but instead tagged for non-pickup. It is better for residents to put their recyclables in the trash than for residents to put non-recyclables in their recycling bins.
- iii. Mary brought up that her neighbors, Insomnia Cookies, do not have trash services for their building when they are legally required to. Jenny will discuss this with community development.

6. Old Business

- a. Group Solar Program update – Washington University, Midwest Renewable Energy Association, and the City of St Louis are creating a regional program for a solar group buy. Jenny has written a memo to the Director of Public Works and the City Manager describing the program and the steps the City must take to be involved. Adam assured that there is zoning and code regulations in the City code that can accommodate solar panels.
- b. EV charging stations in City Parking Lot update – Jenny applied for EDRST funds to put EV charging stations in the City Parking Lot, but the application was rejected for funding. The documentation still exists for a future application.

7. Council Liaison Update – Tim Cusick

- a. On Monday, June 10, the Council approved resolutions for the I-170 redevelopment. In the upcoming weeks, the developer will be meeting with the City Manager and City staff to start the process of doing the redevelopment project. Adam brought up Costco's sustainable development practices that appear on their website that could be useful to the commission.

8. Closing Round

- a. Barbara asked about St Louis County's development efforts on North & South Rd between Olive and Delmar. Tim couldn't comment but agreed the County is taking a long time to develop the road.
- b. The Public Works department was complimented for fixing potholes quickly in the City.

9. Adjournment at 6:14 pm.