



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes –
June 13, 2019

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.