



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

January 9, 2019

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: John Solodar (Chairperson), Adam Staudt, Barbara Brain, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Jonathan Stitelman; Timothy Dugan; Tim Cusick (Council Liaison)

Attendees Absent: Mary Gorman, Liz Essman

1. Meeting called to order, Roll Call 5:45pm
2. Opening Round
 - Tim Cusick: Student Mural opening in the Delmar Loop Parking Garage on January 19th
 - John Solodar: Sinan informed John that Jenny Wendt was employee of the year
 - Jenny Wendt: The plastic bags and wrap container will be removed from the recycling drop-off due to excessive, disturbing, and unsafe contamination.
3. Approval of Minutes: 11/14/2019 tabled
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks and Jacob Keiser, City Forester
 - i. Darren discussed proposed redesign of Greensfelder Park making it more of a nature park. Improvements would include stormwater management, native plants, native trees, butterfly gardens, nature themed playground, an educational piece, etc. In other parks, permeable pavers, retention ponds, and other stormwater management practices are being considered.
 - ii. Jacob indicated 300 seedlings – plants, shrubs, trees – have been ordered to plant along River Des Peres and Ruth Park Woods. Also, invasive removal is continually being done. This is an ongoing process.

A tree inventory update is planned to be completed by inventory arborists. 10 citizens will meet with Jacob at 10am on January 14th to discuss forward action.
 - b. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes for individual's comments and 5 minutes for representatives of groups or organizations)
 - i. Dianne Benjamin reported the work the Urban Forestry Commission is working on public facing documents: How to support city owned trees, vegetation for under trees, native tree lists, etc.
 - ii. Kathy Freese reported her support for native species. Kathy and Barbara Brain have done preliminary work to promote strategies to mitigate climate change and increase biodiversity.
5. New Business
 - a. Jenny reported on Clayton Cleaners, located at 550 North and South. This location has subsurface tetrachloroethene. The site is now under the jurisdictions of the Department of Natural Resources as a registered Superfund Site. The residents of the condominiums on North and South have been notified. So far, no contamination has been found in the residential areas, but continuous monitoring will occur.

There are 7 other drycleaners in the area that may also have contamination. Research needs to be done as to what solvents are/were used for the cleaning process.

Jenny will check with the Department of Planning about requirements when development occurs nearby or on the parcel of a drycleaner.

Jonathan asked about American Cleaners in Jeffery Plaza and if anything is being considered for mitigating possible contamination. Jenny will check into this.

b. Energy Efficiency Master Plan

Jenny provided a draft RFP for an Energy Efficiency Master Plan for the Commission to review. The Commission provided input. The RFP will be sent to the Commission for review prior to solicitation.

6. Old Business

a. EV update

EVs are ready for use except for the license plates. These should be on the roads in the next couple of weeks.

7. Council Liaison Update - Tabled

8. Closing Round

Barbara: Partners for Native Landscaping Conference organized by St. Louis Audubon Society and Wild Ones. Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology will be doing a presentation on March 6th.

9. Adjournment at 6:45pm