



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



AGENDA

GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday July 9, 2020 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Observe and/or Listen to the Meeting (your options to join the meeting are below):

When: Jul 9, 2020 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Green Practices Commission Meeting

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IP7p2cu9SgCS_XQicmJ1VA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Citizen Participation

Those who wish to provide a comment during the “Public Comments” portion as indicated on the Parks Commission agenda: may provide written comments to the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry ahead of the meeting.

ALL written comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.** Comments may be sent via email to: jwendt@ucitymo.org or mailed to the City Hall – 6801 Delmar Blvd. – Attention Jenny Wendt, Senior Project Manager. Such comments will be provided to the Green Practices Commission prior to the meeting. Comments will be made a part of the official record and made accessible to the public online following the meeting.

Please note, when submitting your comments, a **name and address must be provided.** Please also note if your comment is on an agenda or non-agenda item, and a name and address are not provided, the provided comment will not be recorded in the official record.

The City apologizes for any inconvenience the meeting format change may pose to individuals, but it is extremely important that extra measures be taken to protect employees, residents board/commission members and elected officials during these challenging times.

AGENDA

GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING



Thursday June 11, 2020 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Round
3. Approval of Minutes: 06/11/2020
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Bluebird Foundation: A Focus on Food Waste
 - b. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes for individual's comments and 5 minutes for representatives of groups or organizations)
5. New Business
 - a. MSD Project Clear Rainscaping Grant Programs
 - b. Overview of Stormwater Commission's function and goals
6. Old Business
 - a. Energy Management System update
 - b. Commercial Solar Program Update
 - c. Grow Solar Program Update (residential)
7. Council Liaison Update
8. Closing Round
9. Adjournment



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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

June 11, 2020 **DRAFT**

Location: Meeting conducted via videoconference

Attendees Present: John Solodar (Chairperson), Adam Staudt, Barbara Brain, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Jonathan Stitleman; Timothy Dugan; Tim Cusick (Council Liaison); Mary Gorman; Liz Essman.

1. Meeting called to order 5:35pm
2. Opening Round - None
3. Approval of Minutes: 03/12/2020 with minor revisions
4. Special Presentations - None
5. New Business
 - a. Jenny reported on recent changes in her position. Formerly in the Public Works Dept., Jenny is now based in University City's Planning Dept. and her role has expanded to include assistance with economic development, business outreach and retainage as well as sustainability.
 - b. Commercial Solar Program

Jenny requested input from commissioners on a proposal to promote solar power to commercial property owners. Advantages of the program include no money down and low interest loans with interest only payments for the first year. This is similar to the solar program for homeowners that University City helped promote in 2019. All commissioners expressed their support for promoting the program.
 - c. Energy Management System

Commissioners discussed the advantages and disadvantages of implementing Dude Solutions software, a smart energy management system to track energy usage. Currently, energy usage and cost information is manually entered for University City facilities. Purchasing software to manage this process would reduce errors, save considerable staff time and allow a better overview of energy consumption. Dude Solutions offers three different options:

 - Monitor the 20 highest usage meters
 - Monitor all gas and electric meters
 - Monitor gas, electric and water meters

Commissioners were in agreement that the third option was likely too expensive for the city to pursue in the current economic climate but that either of the other options were worth pursuing and making a final decision on since a system such as this has the

potential to have an excellent return on investment.

6. Old Business

a. Energy Efficiency Master Plan

Jenny reported that University City's capital improvement project was put on hold in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic downturn. Prior to that, money to hire a consultant to develop an energy efficiency master plan had been budgeted and Jenny stated that she would like to see this project move forward. Electric bills cost the city a lot of money each year and a master plan has the potential to result in meaningful savings. Commissioners agreed that this project should be re-proposed to the council.

b. Anti-Litter Campaign

Commissioners discussed the anti-litter campaign that had been planned for this fall. The campaign was to consist of a poster contest, anti-litter promotional literature and organized group litter pick-up events. With the ongoing social distancing measures in place because of the COVID-19 crisis, it was decided to delay the campaign with the exception of moving forward on opening a dialog with businesses about the property upkeep code. The rest of the campaign components will be discussed again in autumn.

c. Oops: Feet on the Street Recycling Audit

Although recycling contamination is still a serious problem, there was general consensus that this is another project that should be postponed until spring 2021 because of the pandemic. The campaign would require volunteers to be out in neighborhoods inspecting recycling bins and talking one on one with residents.

d. Biodiversity projects

Barbara was asked for an update on projects she mentioned in a pre-COVID-19 meeting. Barbara responded that most projects were on hold except for a small group of people working individually to water newly planted trees on city property. Barbara is also continuing to work on her own picking up trash and removing invasive vines as part of the Midland Median Project.

e. Upcoming Comprehensive Plan

Tim Cusick was under the impression that the council had selected a consultant for this project but Jenny had heard that the project would be re-bid in two separate Requests for Proposal. Tim will investigate and report back to the commission. There was agreement that the Green Practices Commission would want to have input into this plan in order to ensure that there is a strong thread of sustainability throughout.

f. Sustainability Strategic Plan Update

Jenny updated the commission on the status of intern applications to assist with the Sustainability Strategic Plan. A Washington University class will be helping with this project and would like to focus on energy and water.

7. Council Liaison Update

Tim Cusick reported that restaurants in the Loop had re-opened on a limited basis and would appreciate people ordering food. He gave a thank you to the artists who had decorated the boarded up windows and also expressed thanks to the people who

demonstrated peacefully during the recent unrest.

The I-70 development is proceeding and a public update was expected within a few weeks.

A newly formed commission on stormwater issues is now in place.

Aleta Klein is the newly elected council member for the second ward.

There has been a 10%-40% loss of revenue because of the economic downturn resulting from the pandemic, mainly from lost sales tax. Tim also mentioned that University City did not receive any stimulus money directly. St. Louis County received funds that will be apportioned to municipalities.

8. Closing Round

Jenny reported that there are plans for a UCity Together poster contest. There would be a \$100 gift card for the winning entry and the poster would be displayed in local businesses. A decision on approval of the funds is expected later this evening.

9. Adjournment at 6:45pm

DRAFT



Public Works Department

6801 Delmar Boulevard, 3rd Floor, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: MSD Project Clear Rainscaping Program Grant Opportunities

Rainscaping reclaims stormwater naturally using simple techniques to manage and filter rainwater where it falls – the way nature intended. This can be done through any combination of plantings, water features, catch basins, and permeable pavement, among other activities.

Grants are available for Large Scale (commercial) or Small Scale (residential) rainscaping projects. Much of University City is within the Grant Program Area.

The Commission will discuss this program, its status, and how it can be promoted to residents and businesses in University City. A discussion will also take place of its applicability for City-owned property.



Public Works Department

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STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: Stormwater Commission

Tim Cusick will give an overview of the newly created Stormwater Commission and its responsibilities and goals.

The Commission will discuss possible overlap and collaboration between Green Practices and Stormwater Commissions.



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STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: Energy Management Software Update

Dude Solutions has a software program, the Smart Energy Management System. This is cloud based software that automatically enters our utility bills into the program. It can graph usage, make reports, notify staff of abnormal usage, automatically enter billing information (currently that is done manually by finance), dump the data into Energy Star Portfolio Manager, etc. This software is through the same platform we will be using for our permitting software.

Previously interns have manually enter data into Energy Star Portfolio Manager. This is after finance has already manually entered the billing data into an excel spreadsheet. This is a duplication of effort, plus data entry that is completed by finance (time consuming). In addition, it is unknown when staff will be available to track data in Energy Star Portfolio Manager since it requires considerable time for manual data entry.

The Commission will discuss additional information gathered since the previous month's discussion which will better indicate the payback and worth of this program.



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STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: Renew St. Louis Solar – Commercial Solar Program

Renew St. Louis Solar is an innovative new program design is the first of its kind in the Midwest. Like the GROW Solar STL program for residential customers, Renew STL Solar is a "group buy" program, meaning that installation prices improve when customers can pool their projects with other similarly-situated organizations. In addition, through our Customer Volume Discount, we are offering greater financial benefits as more customers participate. Essentially, this program will allow businesses to install solar on their operational buildings and begin saving money immediately, potentially with no upfront cost.

The Commission will discuss promotion of this program to businesses to encourage renewable energy in our commercial sector and the best way to approach outreach.



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STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: Grow Solar Program Update

The Grow Solar group-buy program was a success in 2019 and has a renewed effort to promote and offer the program.

The Commission will discuss successes of the 2019 program and renewed promotion and outreach.