



## Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

March 12, 2020

Location: Heman Park Community Center

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

Attendees Absent: Liz Essman, Adam Staudt

1. Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call 5:35pm
2. Opening Round

Barbara Brain would like to discuss mosquito spraying in University City. If time permits, this will be added to this agenda.
3. 11/14/2019 and 01/09/2020 meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections.
4. Special Presentations
  - a. Danielle Korman and Natalie Ryback of the Blackbird Foundation, a grant giving foundation focused on advancing social change, justice, and environmental protection, spoke to the commission about launching a pilot initiative to calculate baseline food waste in University City to determine how to reduce food waste in University City. Jenny will connect them to the OneSTL group and schedule a detailed presentation for the commission at a future meeting.
5. New Business
  - a. An application was submitted for the Fall 2020 WUSTL Sustainability Exchange Program to partner with a student or class to update the 2011 Sustainability Strategic Plan.
  - b. Sustainability Strategic Plan Update: The 2011 Sustainability Strategic Plan was revamped in 2016 but never completed. The Sustainability Exchange Program Intern will support this project.
  - c. Energy Efficiency Master Plan Consultant Selection: An RFP went out for an Energy Efficiency Master Plan. Staff is recommending selecting CTS Group for this process.
  - d. Biodiversity Projects: Barbara Brain has been working with an informal group focusing on native plantings (Nuts for Natives) and Jacob Kaiser. Barbara Brain adopted a median on Midland between Olive and Page. The group has removed euonymus and other weeds and hopes to add trees to the median. April 18<sup>th</sup> an

Arbor Day event is scheduled; Barbara and the Nuts for Natives will attend this meeting to discuss natives and hand out native trees. Jacob Kaiser also suggested that the group start honeysuckle removal along the River Des Peres and replacing this with native trees and shrubs. This would be a multiyear process. The group has looked at removing invasive species all along the River Des Peres in Heman Park.

Barbara and Jacob also discussed the raised beds adjacent to the Community Center. The group will investigate caring for these beds.

Barbara has also been talking with Great Rivers Greenway about trash removal and adding natives along trails.

- e. Green Cities Challenge: University City will again join the Green Cities Challenge, either as a participant at \$350 per year or \$600 per year at the leader level. The Commission decided to continue participating as a participant at \$350 per year.
- f. BYOBag Day: April 18<sup>th</sup> is BYOBag Day for the region. Various business districts and retailers have agreed to offer incentives to consumers who do not have their purchases bagged. The Loop Business District, Pete's Market, International Market, and the Olive Supermarket have all agreed to participate.
- g. Earth Day Event: The City will have a small Earth Day event on April 22<sup>th</sup>, Bring Conservation Home, Great Rivers Greenway, the Farmer's Market, MSD Project Clear will be represented, and Fitz's will provide a keg of root beer.

#### 6. Old Business

- a. Anti-Litter Campaign: The kickoff will begin with an anti-litter poster contest for middle and high school students. Monetary awards will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place posters. These will be posted throughout City buildings and in schools. The Commission will be judging the posters at the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- b. Feet on the Street Recycling Audit: This program will start in May; one intern has been hired and a second intern will be hired at the end of March. These interns will work with Jenny and the sanitation division to audit the recycling carts. If the carts are contaminated, they will not be collected until they are clean.

#### 7. Added Agenda Item

- a. Mosquito spraying and larvicide by St. Louis County: There is concern that the spraying/fogging for mosquitos also kills other insects. Barbara attended a biodiversity workshop which discussed the decline of insects and birds due to planting of non-natives and pesticides. Brentwood has discontinued mosquito fogging and has decided to use the money for education. It was recommended to investigate how Brentwood handles mosquito control.

#### 8. Council Liaison Update:

- a. Farmer's Market opens officially April 18<sup>th</sup>. Starting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be Thursday markets throughout the Summer.
- b. U City will be hiring its own executive director for the LSBDD.
- c. Hotel Feasibility Study indicated there are 4 areas that can support hotels: 170 and

Olive, 170 and Delmar, Forest Park Parkway and Forsyth, and the west end of the Loop. There is a project to put in a hotel on Kingsland north of Delmar, and another project to put in a hotel at Delmar and 170.

- d. Land acquisition process for Olive/170 is underway.
- e. Washington University will be continuing school remotely for the remainder of the school year due to COVID risks.
- f. The library will be discontinuing events but will still be open due to COVID.

9. Closing Round

- a. John Solodar and Tim Cusick discussed tax abatement for the developments at Delmar and 170.
- b. John Solodar mentioned that we would probably lose the council liaison (Tim Cusick) after the elections as council members typically rotate commissions every 2 years. John feels that Tim is the best council liaison he has experienced through all of his participation in Boards and Commissions.

10. Adjournment at 6:58pm.

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