



## Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

JULY 9, 2020

Location: Heman Park Community Center

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

Attendees Absent: Timothy Dugan, Mary Gorman

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Round
3. 06/11/2020 meeting minutes were approved.
4. Special Presentations
  - a. Blackbird Foundation: A Focus on Food Waste: Danielle Korman and Natalie Ryback of the Blackbird Foundation, a grant giving foundation focused on advancing social change, justice, and environmental protection, and COVID relief. Addressing food waste at the consumer level is critical to reducing greenhouse gases. Blackbird Foundation would like to conduct an audit of food waste where residents record their food waste for 1-2 weeks. This can be done by recording the weight or volume of food waste and how it was disposed. The Foundation would need assistance in distributing and collecting food waste audit information (diaries) and promoting food waste reduction education. The Foundation would conduct the data analysis and provide educational information.

Caroline Ling, a graduate student at Stanford University, added that she is working on a Capstone Project to develop and improve at home food waste composting.

The commission would like to see an action plan, but overall would like to proceed with this endeavor.

- b. No public comments
5. New Business
  - a. MSD Project Clear Rainscaping Grant Programs: MSD has grants available for municipalities and other agencies, including private developers, to manage and filter rainwater where it falls. Possible projects would need to be developed and discussed with MSD to determine which projects are most applicable. Barbara suggested additional raingardens in parks. Tim Cusick reported that the Stormwater Task Force has a report that shows areas with runoff issues. Tim asked if projects could be implemented to reduce runoff for multiple properties, and suggested Wilson Avenue or other areas where ponding taken place. This program will be discussed with the stormwater commission.
  - b. Overview of Stormwater Commission's function and goals: Tim Cusick reported that the stormwater task force was formed in early 2018. The task force is focused on flooding and erosion issues along the River Des Peres, basement flooding, street and road ponding, etc. Flood insurance programs are expensive and are dictated by FEMA. The

task force had 11 specific recommendations. This report can be found on the [ucitymo.org](http://ucitymo.org) website. The task force has now changed to the Storm Water Issues Commission and will begin meeting as a commission in August or September.

A link to the stormwater task force report can be found here:

<http://apps.ucitymo.org/PublicPortal/0/edoc/173592/Storm%20Water%20Task%20Force%20REPORT%20-%20Nov%202019.pdf>

The commission suggested supplying renters with a flood zone map when they get an occupancy permit.

6. Old Business

- a. Energy Management System update: tabled.
- b. Commercial Solar Program Update: Jenny will do research on properties in U City to determine the best locations for commercial solar based on roof size and sun exposure. Google has a “Project Sunroof” program that shows the sun exposure of a property. <https://www.google.com/get/sunroof>
- c. Grow Solar Program Update (residential): Jenny and John Solodar will be panelist on a webinar for the Grow Solar Program on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

7. Council Liaison Update:

The Comprehensive Plan is on hold.

Delmar Harvard hotel development – The traffic Commission will review next.

Heman Avenue residents are having issues with their recycling containers; the recycling dumpster is hard to get to and is poorly marked. This should be resolved.

The council meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> Adam Staudt and John Solodar have been approved for reappointment. Timothy Dugan will be up for renewal next.

Tim Cusick will check on Barbara Brain’s commission renewal status.

8. Closing Round

Adam suggested that a laptop be provided to the clerks working on permits when City Hall is open to expedite the process. Jenny will pass this suggestion on to staff.