



## **Green Practices Commission**

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

### **AGENDA**

## **GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Heman Park Community Center

975 Pennsylvania Avenue, University City, MO 63130

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. OPENING ROUND**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 9, 2023 draft minutes attached
- 5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION –** Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (Tim Schmalz)
- 6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
- 8. OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. Electronics recycling event
  - b. Sustainability action items
    - i. Integrating Green Practices Commission’s priorities and actions into comprehensive Planning process
    - ii. Stormwater Commission’s recommendations
- 9. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE**
- 10. CLOSING ROUND**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

Staff Liaison Contact:

Mary Kennedy, Senior Planner

(314) 505-8516

[mkennedy@ucitymo.org](mailto:mkennedy@ucitymo.org)



## Green Practices Commission

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

### Green Practices Commission, City of University City

DRAFT Meeting Minutes from February 9, 2023

Location: Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Avenue

1. **Call to Order:** 5:34 pm

2. **Roll Call:**

Attendees Present: John Solodar (Chairman), Connie Mueller, Mathew Emden, Tim Schmalz, Adam Staudt, Jonathon Stitelman, Mary Kennedy (Staff Liaison)

Attendees Absent: Stacy Clay (Excused)

3. **Opening Round:**

4. **Approval of Minutes:** January 12, 2023

Commissioner Mueller moved to approve the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Emden, and unanimously approved.

5. **Special Presentation:**

Commissioner Schmalz gave a presentation on Dark Skies Ordinances and mentioned example ordinances from other municipalities around the country. The Commission discussed potential programs or policies the City could explore implementing, such as new lighting and illumination standards in the Zoning Code and Subdivision and Land Development Regulations.

The Commission generally feels that their hands have been tied in advocating for better lighting standards for new development, particularly with the Costco site, and that it has also been difficult to get the City to replace light bulbs in its own facilities with energy efficient/LED bulbs.

Commissioner Solodar requested that Mary Kennedy speak with John Wagner, Director of Planning & Development about incorporating dark skies policy recommendations into the comprehensive plan.

6. **Citizen Participation:** None

7. **New Business:**

a. Electronics Recycling Event: Commissioner Solodar explained that the City has hosted electronics recycling events in the past and opened it up to the Commission on their interest in hosting another one. Mary Kennedy shared that the County collaborates with municipalities to host local events and the Commission decided that it would like to pursue hosting an event in U City for greater convenience for our residents.

b. Natural Gas (as an energy source in buildings, particularly in homes): This agenda item was included in response to a resident's concern about the negative impacts on health and safety from using natural gas in homes for cooking and heating. Commissioner Emden gave an overview of the cost and efficiency issues in updating home heating energy sources. Until alternatives to natural gas heating are more efficient and cost-effective, it may be more beneficial for individuals to implement more efficient systems. To address the health and



## Green Practices Commission

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

safety concerns of natural gas ranges, residents can better ventilate their kitchens or even consider replacing gas ranges with induction cooktops.

Commissioner Emden agreed to write up a one-page info sheet on this topic, which could then be put in ROARS and on the website. Commissioner Schmalz emphasized his vision for the Green Practices Commission of being a resource to residents and elected officials by producing info sheets on sustainable practices topics. Navigating solar upgrades and utilizing Ameren's solar programs was also brought up as a potential topic for a quick reference guide.

- c. **Sustainability Action Items:** The Commission discussed how to move forward with the project to consolidate action items from previous draft plans. Commissioner Stitelman stated that he was concerned about the Commission's capacity, as a group of volunteers, to create its own plan without the support of a consultant.

Commissioner Schmalz clarified that he was not envisioning the Commission write an entire action plan on its own; rather, he wants to sort through existing plans and distill action items from other plans the City has adopted and past draft sustainability action plans. Then, the Commission will create a list of action items with estimated staff time, resources, and budget requirements, so that the City can prioritize certain green practices based on feasibility.

The Commission agreed with this approach of compiling action items and creating a matrix to prioritize them. Next steps are for each commissioner to look through the previous plans, create a list of action items, and send to Commissioner Schmalz to compile.

**8. Old Business:** None

**9. Council Liaison Update:** None

**10. Closing Round**

Commissioner Mueller asked whether the stormwater systems were looked at for the Costco and Market at Olive sites. Mary Kennedy explained that stormwater systems have been designed, including detention ponds, for the site per MSD's requirements.

**11. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission needs a website, lecture series, and high water signs to provide helpful information to the public.
2. Connection of the Early Warning System to Code Red is Urgently Needed.
3. Better coordination with MSD is needed for channel maintenance, downspout disconnections, drainage improvements, record keeping, etc.
4. City staff need to work with the commission to integrate and routinely update data on condemned & damaged properties, FEMA information; etc.
5. Inspectors need a standardized protocol for collecting property information following a flood, that should include 1<sup>st</sup> floor and basement water levels.
6. City should strengthen codes for impervious surfaces.
7. City should require disclosure of flood history for rentals and home purchases, as suggested by SEMA, possibly as part of the occupancy permit.

## 2023 BUDGET ITEMS

1. \$20k for additional stream monitoring and EWS Enhancement
2. \$35k est; Top Priority. Contract with surveying company for 1st floor elevations of all properties subject to flooding, which are are needed to prioritize buyouts and floodproofing recommendations.

# DATA DRIVEN FLOOD MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

- A database that documents the effect of flooding on UCity properties is essential for identifying the types of mitigation applicable to each property, including buyout priorities, and for preparing damage reports required by FEMA after a flood.
- Following the July flood, the Commission has made significant strides in developing such a tool for the city.
- A study performed by Commissioners Criss & Stein based on precise measurements of flood levels up and down the channel has allowed the development of an inundation map that may be the most precise ever developed for a flash flood of an urban stream. city.
- An Interactive Google Map and Excel database developed by Commissioner Holly has integrated this information with parcel information from St. Louis County, to show effects on individual properties. His presentation will demonstrate those tools.