



## 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

APPROVED 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, Jonathan 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



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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.