



Green Practices Commission

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

MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED

GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION

Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Heman Park Community Center

1. Call to Order: 5:33 pm

2. Roll Call:

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

Attendees Absent: none

3. Opening Round:

Chairman Solodar reminded the GPC of the “homework” to provide five recommended items from previous plans to inform the sustainability action plan.

Commissioner Stitleman shared that he attended an urban humanities conference called Biosphere 2 in Tucson, Arizona.

4. Approval of Minutes: February 9, 2023

Commissioner Mueller moved to approve the February 9, 2023 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Stitleman, and unanimously approved.

5. Special Presentation:

Commissioner Schmalz presented on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory in University City. Below are the key points from his presentation:

- Between 2005 and 2015, there was an unaccounted ~30% increase in commercial electricity use. Commissioner Schmalz investigated the increase and asked Ameren for their insight on possible explanations but could not determine what the increase resulted from.
- Centennial Commons is by far the largest consumer of energy and emitter of greenhouse gases among city-owned buildings.
- Firehouse #1 consumes significantly more energy than Firehouse #2, despite being a newer building.
- The most pressing impacts of climate change in University City are flooding and extreme heat.
- Based on 2010 data, University City was among the lower greenhouse gas emissions per capita of peer municipalities in the region (only Maplewood and Wildwood were lower). Emissions per capita decreased between 2005 and 2010 in University City.
- Commissioner Schmalz also presented suggested actions to meet a 25% reduction in emissions by 2025, among different target areas (commercial, solid waste, government buildings, government vehicles).

Additional discussion focused on possible GPC climate action plan items:

- Commercial electricity reduction strategies city-wide.



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- Promote residential weatherization programs (such as CAASTLC's programs) for the northwest portion of the city which appears to use the most electricity per square foot.
- Increase access to storm shelters and community cooling centers.

6. Citizen Participation: None

7. New Business: None

8. Old Business:

- a. Electronics recycling event: Mary Kennedy shared with the GPC that St. Louis County has a grant program for municipalities to host electronics recycling events, and that the grant would cover costs for city employees to staff the event, advertising costs, and negative value items (CRT TVs, freon, etc.). The Commission agreed that September, when families are back in town for the beginning of the school year, would be ideal timing for the event, and that we should plan to cover the cost of two negative value items per vehicle.
- b. Sustainability action items: Commissioner Schmalz shared the status of the compiled matrix of action items and suggested the GPC keep the list to no more than 30 items. Factors that will guide prioritization are cost, staff time, and community value. He asked that each commissioner follow through on providing their top five action items.
- c. Comprehensive plan update: Mary Kennedy suggested that the comprehensive plan consultants provide an update to the GPC to begin integrating their expertise and perspectives into the plan. Kennedy will plan a more formal discussion on the comprehensive plan at either the April or May GPC meeting.

9. Council Liaison Update:

Council Member Clay shared that the council reviewed two conditional use permits for recreational marijuana dispensaries (one was approved and one was tabled). In April, citizens will vote on a 3% sales tax on recreational marijuana.

He also provided an update on the Market at Olive development. There is an anchor retail store that has been secured for the site just east of Costco, and there is interest in the northeast and southeast corners.

10. Closing Round

Tim Michels and Aaron Michels of Energy Resources Group were mentioned as good partners in learning more about the City's past energy audits and may be able to help the GPC understand the discrepancy in energy consumption between Firehouses #1 and #2.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.