



## 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, September 14, 2023 at 6:30 – 8:00 pm  
via Videoconference (Zoom)

1. **Call to Order:** 6:30pm
2. **Roll Call:**  
Attendees Present: John Solodar (Chairman), Mathew Emden, Connie Mueller, Tim Schmalz, Stacy Clay (Council Liaison), Mary Kennedy (Staff Liaison)  
Attendees Absent: None
3. **Opening Round:** none
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The July 13, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
5. **Special Presentation:** None
6. **Citizen Participation:** None
7. **New Business:**
  - a. Grow Solar Power Hour: Mary Kennedy (Staff Liaison), reported that Grow Solar STL had reached out to the City to see if there was interest in planning a “Power Hour” event where residents can learn about solar power and can get a free solar consultation. She mentioned that the City Manager would like to compare to other similar organizations/services before proceeding. Commissioners agreed that this would be a good idea for the City to offer to its residents, and that with recent Inflation Reduction Act funding, there may be additional opportunities to connect residents with financial resources.
  - b. Tiny Forests: Commissioner Mueller shared with the Commission an article that was in the New York Times recently about Tiny Forests, small plots of land that are converted into self-sustaining green spaces. She and other residents, who are also U City in Bloom volunteers, have been talking about the idea of creating a Tiny Forest somewhere in U City. Ms. Kennedy said that she would provide a list of City-owned properties as a starting point to think about possible sites.
  - c. Energy Code Amendment Update: Stacy Clay (City Council Liaison) reported that the recently proposed energy code amendment was no longer on the table because the original ordinance has some cost parameters built into it, and the proposed design was within those parameters. Therefore, the code amendment was unnecessary. Council Member Clay mentioned that the Council wants to ensure the Green Practices Commission would be involved in future discussions related to the energy code.
  - d. New Commissioner nominated to GPC (Suzanne Schoomer): Chairman John Solodar shared that Suzanne Schoomer will be joining the GPC soon, likely at the October meeting.



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### 8. Old Business:

- a. Sustainability action items chart: Commissioner Schmalz provided an update on the action items effort and decided that he and Ms. Kennedy would regroup on sending out the survey to the other commissioners.
- b. Comprehensive Plan Update: Ms. Kennedy presented an update on the City's Comprehensive Plan process and shared that the Plan Commission will be voting on the full draft on September 27, 2023. After that, the next steps would be to present the proposed plan to the City Council in late October and have the Council vote on approval of the plan in November 2023. Chairman Solodar was concerned about investing in bike lanes without there being enough bicyclists that use the city's existing bike lanes. The Commissioners said that they would follow up with additional feedback after the meeting if needed.

### 9. Council Liaison Update:

Stacy Clay reported that the City Council heard a presentation on the construction costs for the City's Trinity and Annex proposed renovations. Costs have gone up significantly since they began designing the project. The Council is considering options for cost reduction.

Council Member Clay also reported some updates on the Market at Olive development: several businesses will be opening in the fourth quarter; Dierbergs is not going to move forward with locating a new store in the development and that the development group is looking into other options for that site; and that Costco is performing very well.

### 10. Closing Round:

Commissioner Schmalz mentioned that he participated in the Grow Solar STL group buy program several years ago and had a great experience with it. He also has recently reached out to the sustainability program leader at Brittany Woods Middle School and she is excited about coming to a future Green Practices meeting.

### 11. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.