



Storm Water Commission
6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130,
Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION

January 9, 2024

1. **Call to Order.** The fortieth meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:38 PM by Chair Todd Thompson.
2. **Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Susan Armstrong, Garry Aronberg, Robert Criss, Mark Holly, Eric Karch, Todd Thompson. Also, in attendance were Councilman Dennis Fuller, Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; Mirela Celaj, Assistant Director of Public Works; and John Mulligan, City Attorney.
3. **Visitor:** Many visitors were present.
4. **Agenda.** Publish agenda was approved (Karch, Thompson):
Attendance-Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; Citizen Comments; Announcements by Commissioners; Committee Reports; New Business; Old Business; Council Liaison Comments; Adjournment.
5. **Minutes.** The minutes of the November 7, 2023, meeting were amended: in item 10.1 correct spelling to Fitz. The amended minutes were approved by voice vote (Armstrong, Aronberg). Nov 14 and Nov 30 ad hoc mtg minutes approved by voice vote (Thompson, Aronberg) (Armstrong, Holly).
6. **Citizen Comments:**
 - 6.1. Dave Sandel, Company address 6900 Delmar, informed the Commission that his company manufactures flash flood sensors with a weather head and security features. Marketing will begin soon. He would like to work with the Commission and commended us for our work. Commissioners don't recall receiving messages from Mr. Sandel's company in the past but Commissioners look forward to hearing more about his system. Commissioner Criss pointed out that we have set-up a well calibrated flash flood warning system.
 - 6.2. Barbara Chicherio comments: suggested that the Commission move comments to end; she looks forward to hearing about the Commission's progress on the impervious ordinance.
 - 6.3. Stephanie Todd, Amherst: present to support ordinance to reduce impermeable surfaces. She had sent to Commissioners a video about storemwater overflowing the gutters along the south side of 7100 block of Amherst. The overflowing gutters may be caued by inadequate and inefficient inlets along Midland and Amherst. St. Louis County officials are looking into improvements along Midland. She encouraged University City to make improvements. Councilman Fuller pointed-out that Amhurst at that point is a private street in University Park Subdivision. Councilman Fuller will assist Ms.Todd in making contact with the Subdivision trustees. Mr. Mulligan informed Ms. Todd that residents may use neighborhood improvement district funding for improvements in private subdivisions – NID funding is a state-authorized loan program for neighborhood groups; the loans are administrated through municipalities but the loans are paid by the neighborhood group.



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- 6.4. Extensive free flowing discussion by visitors and Commissioners occurred about MSD's project to repair the reach of River des Peres east of Pennsylvania Avenue. Unease centered on extensive construction easement sought and lack of natural channel features used in the repair. The wide construction easement would remove many mature trees and impact mature landscaping.

7. Announcement By Commissioners.

- 7.1. Remote Sensing. Commissioner Holly is working with Jackson Potter, professor of mechanical engineering at Washinton University to identify remote sensing projects of stormwater problems in U. City. The identified projects would become the focus of graduate student and senior research.
- 7.2. Dubuque Bee Creek Improvement. Several Commissioners and residents reported on a presentation that described the re-opening of and restoration of a piped creek in Dubuque, Iowa. Bee Creek Restoration is a resident-driven 30-year effort to remove 4500-ft-long piped reach and return the creek to meandering open channel with new floodplain benches. Two large near-channel detention basins are part of the restoration. 320,000 CY for earth have been removed. Six houses were removed by buyout. Backflow prevention – a dam feature – is part of the project to prevent the downstream channel from back flowing into Bee Creek. Restoration is in progress – about half complete. Federal and State grants of \$250,000,000 make up most of the funding. City staff completed the grant applications.
- 7.3. Model of RdP Tunnel. Commissioner Holly prepared a model of the River des Peres tunnel. The tunnel's upstream end is near Vernon and Kingsland. The model incorporated LiDAR topographic data and flow data collected during the July 26, 2022 flood. The flow data was collected with meters that Commissioners Criss and Stein had installed. Commissioner Holly prepared two models: (a) pristine unobstructed conditions and (b) 10 percent obstructed. The two models evaluated the sensitivity of the tunnel to obstructions. The models demonstrated that significant flow reduction when the tunnel is 10 percent obstructed. Commissioner Holly concluded that there is a need for periodic inspection and maintenance to remove obstructions – perhaps on a 10-year interval.

Commissioner Criss indicated that the modeling supports the need for flow and depth monitoring at the tunnel entrance. That monitoring had been discussed at previous Commission meetings.

8. Committee Reports.

- 8.1. Impermeability Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee. The committee is now refining the mitigation offset table to meet a goal of nearly no increase in runoff when new impermeable area is added to a site. Additionally, the ad hoc committee is refining the matrix table offsets that will be easy for residents to implement. Amended soil mitigation option is under evaluation as an effective method for small sites. Mirala Calaj will be added to ad hoc committee to add the staff's insight. An education component will be added. The ad hoc committee has set a goal to bring recommendations to Commission by Feb 6.



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9. New Business. None

10. Old Business. None.

11. Council Liaison Comments (Dennis Fuller).

- 11.1. Councilman Fuller reported that the new comprehensive city plan was adopted by the Council on January 8. The Plan Commission worked hard to identify the community goals and visions and to incorporate them into the plan.
- 11.2. Four new businesses opened at Olive Market.
- 11.3. Parkview Senior Housing on Westgate will be rehabbed in late 2024.
- 11.4. FEMA grants continue to be used to rehab Centennial Commons. It will be fully restored later in 2024.

12. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn passed at 5:38 PM (Aronberg, Armstrong).

The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.

University City\Minutes\20240109_strmwtrcommmin_approved minutes