



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, January 11, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Heman Park Community Center (975 Pennsylvania Ave)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:30 pm
2. **Roll Call:**

Attendees Present: Nicole Baumgarten, Connie Mueller, Tim Schmalz, Suzanne Schoomer, Mathew Emden, Stacy Clay (Council Liaison), Mary Kennedy (Staff Liaison)

Attendees Absent: none
3. **Opening Round:** None
4. **Approval of Minutes:** No minutes were presented.
5. **Special Presentation:** There was no special presentation, but there was discussion of possible future topics. Commissioner Schmalz mentioned that he spoke with someone from Forest ReLeaf of Missouri about presenting to the Green Practices Commission (GPC), and that he'd still like to follow up with the Brittany Woods sustainability project manager. Commissioner Emden also mentioned that he may have a lead for another possible commissioner.
6. **Citizen Participation:** None
7. **New Business:** None
8. **Old Business:**
 - a. Spring electronics event: Ms. Kennedy reported that dates have been chosen for the 2024 recycling events. The electronics recycling event will be held Sunday, April 14 from 12-3pm in the Heman Park Community Center parking lot. The shredding event will tentatively be held jointly with the community yard sale on Saturday, September 14 (time TBD) in the Centennial Commons parking lot. Ms. Kennedy asked for commissioners to volunteer on the day-of the event. Commissioners Baumgarten, Mueller, and Emden volunteered for the April electronics event.
 - b. Sustainability action items chart: Commissioner Schmalz presented the results of the GPC's internal survey ranking the action items. The top five actions were:
 - Increase low- or no-mow spaces (to reduce gas consumption)
 - Community Garden for community
 - Establish regular electronic recycling events
 - Work with providers of free starter trees, such as DNR or MDC, to provide them to private residences. Promote this in ROARS.
 - Increase local produce & food support at grocery stores

Another top action was creating a real time pedestrian/bicycle facilities map. Great Rivers Greenway already has a nice interactive map, so maybe it's just a matter of sharing that



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resource with the community, possibly on a future GPC webpage on the City's website.

Commissioner Baumgarten asked for feedback on the article she wrote about low-mow landscapes. There was some discussion about low-mow spaces in road medians like on Midland Boulevard, and the ease/difficulty of creating a low-mow space. Council Member Clay mentioned that Midland is a St. Louis County road, so that coordination would need to happen with the County, not the City of University City. In general, the commissioners felt that it'd be beneficial to have this type of information (context, difficulty, price, time involved, other limitations) in the one-pagers.

- c. ROARS Column: Ms. Kennedy said she will speak with Mary Goodman about the idea of an ongoing "green practices" ROARS column. Commissioner Mueller gave an overview of the "How to Get a Tree" article she wrote for a future ROARS column. She spoke with Jacob Kaiser, the City Forester, about approved trees, which is on the website.
 - d. Grow Solar Power Hour: No update, but Ms. Kennedy will follow up with Grow Solar to see if they're offering the program in 2024.
 - e. Tiny Forests: Commissioner Mueller mentioned that she wants to meet with Jacob Kaiser about the idea of creating a Tiny Forest in U City. Ms. Kennedy had spoken with John Wagner (Director of Planning & Development) about the Hafner Court apartments site as a possibility. There's potential to work with Missouri Department of Conservation, Corps of Engineers, Forest ReLeaf, and U City in Bloom.
 - f. Ripple Glass Recycling Company: No update, but Ms. Kennedy will follow up with Ripple Glass to understand next steps.
9. **Council Liaison Update**: Council Member Clay reported that the comprehensive plan was approved. He also shared an update on Market at Olive—there's a potential tenant for the site that Dierbergs was supposed to go into. He also shared an update on the Mayflower Court homes that were supposed to be purchased for Market at Olive. They're no longer part of the development, so the developer will fix up and sell to families the houses that were already bought and are currently vacant.
10. **Closing Round**: None
11. **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.