



## Green Practices Commission

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

# **AGENDA** **GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.  
Heman Park Community Center (975 Pennsylvania Ave)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **OPENING ROUND**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** November 9, 2023 and January 11, 2024 meeting minutes
5. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
6. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. ROARS Column
  - b. Tiny Forests
  - c. Sustainability action items chart
  - d. Spring electronics & shredding event
  - e. Ripple Glass Recycling Company
  - f. Grow Solar Power Hour
9. **COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE**
10. **CLOSING ROUND**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

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### **MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)**

#### **GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION**

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 5:30 pm  
Heman Park Community Center (975 Pennsylvania Ave)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:32 pm
2. **Roll Call:**

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

Attendees Excused: Mathew Emden (excused)
3. **Opening Round:**

John Solodar shared that he's completed two full terms serving on the Green Practices Commission (GPC), and after this meeting will no longer be a Green Practices Commissioner, nor the Chairperson. Therefore, a new Chairperson must be selected.

Commissioner Schmalz shared an update on a new potential commissioner and there was discussion on the requirements for serving on a commission.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The September 14 and October 12 minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **Special Presentation:** None
6. **Citizen Participation:** None
7. **New Business:**
  - a. New Commissioner sworn in (Nicole Baumgarten): Commissioner Baumgarten introduced herself to the Commission.
  - b. Nominate and elect new chairperson: Commissioner Mueller was nominated by Commissioner Solodar and unanimously voted as the new Chairperson for the GPC.
  - c. Spring electronics & shredding event: Ms. Kennedy shared an update on plans for recycling events in 2024. The Commission agreed that Sunday, April 14 is a good date for the spring electronics event, and that the Heman Park Community Center parking lot would be a better venue than Centennial Commons. Saturday, September 21 was mentioned as a good date for a fall event. Commissioner Schmalz suggested asking if students would be interested in volunteering for the event. Ms. Kennedy said she would proceed with planning the events and applying for a 2024 St. Louis County grant to fund the event.
8. **Old Business:**
  - a. Sustainability action items chart: Commissioner Schmalz gave an update on the action items chart. Commissioners ranked the action items by staff workload, ease, cost, impact, etc., to prioritize which actions which would be most manageable for the City to implement. The GPC discussed writing "one-pagers" for each action so that residents can learn about how to make their homes, yards, community more sustainability-conscious. Each commissioner could be



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responsible for writing content for a few one-pagers. The one-pagers can also be a resource for the City Council to refer to when evaluating sustainable practices to incorporate into the City's processes, policies, or programs, or to share with residents who come to them.

- b. ROARS Column: Commissioners suggested potential green practices topics for future ROARS articles. Ms. Kennedy said that she will speak with the people who manage ROARS to get parameters (maximum word count, etc.) and next steps. There could also be opportunity to collaborate with the Urban Forestry Commission on an article related to trees. The group discussed having commissioners write the content and have Ms. Kennedy be the "editor" for consistency in tone.
  - c. Grow Solar Power Hour: Ms. Kennedy heard from Grow Solar that they're not sure whether they'll be offering the power hours in 2024, but she should know more in about a month.
  - d. Tiny Forests: Commissioner Mueller shared the new information she's learned about tiny forests, particularly that you can get the benefits of a mature forest with a tiny forest if it's constructed and maintained properly. The minimum width for a tiny forest is 4 meters (about 13 feet wide). Ms. Kennedy added that the flood buyout sites must be maintained as green space in perpetuity, per the conditions of the FEMA grant. Ms. Kennedy spoke with Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works and Interim Director of Parks & Recreation, and he said that a next step would be working with U City in Bloom to put together a "Memorandum of Understanding" to clarify which parties are responsible for maintaining the tiny forest.
  - e. Ripple Glass Recycling Company: Ms. Kennedy reported that the City's Director of Public Works at first glance seemed like it could be beneficial to the City if they were to replace the current glass recycling bin with a Ripple Glass bin, because it would be one less thing for the City to monitor and manage.
9. **Council Liaison Update:** None
10. **Closing Round:**  
Commissioner Schmalz said he's still trying to organize having the Brittany Woods sustainability person come to a future GPC meeting for a special presentation.  
Commissioner Schmalz suggested putting Tree City USA on the agenda for a future meeting.
11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.



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### **MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)**

#### **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.