



## 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, February 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Heman Park Community Center (975 Pennsylvania Ave)

**1. Call to Order: 5:34 pm**

**2. Roll Call:**

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

Attendees Absent: Stacy Clay (Council Liaison)

**3. Opening Round:**

Commissioner Mueller (Chair) mentioned that she looked at the Green Practices Commission's (GPC) founding documents. Ms. Kennedy said that she will share the "welcome packet" with the rest of the Commission in case they were not given that when they started serving on the GPC.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Baumgarten motioned to approve the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Mueller seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mueller motioned to approve the January 11, 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Baumgarten seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**5. Special Presentation:** Kelly Hicks-Holloway, Environmental Justice Lead at Forest ReLeaf of Missouri

Ms. Hicks-Holloway presented an overview of Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, including the organization's history and the tree-planting, maintenance, and advocacy programs it offers. She described the urban heat island effect and its role in environmental justice issues. She mentioned Forest ReLeaf of Missouri is working with the Green Center in University City to plan a tree planting event focused on flood mitigation and recovery from recent storm damage. The Green Center will be working to find funding sources for the project.

The Communitree program offered by Forest ReLeaf involves free removal of trees that are creating negative impacts, two free trees for the recipient to plant, and tree maintenance education. The application is open now, but if U City isn't ready to apply, she mentioned that we could always prepare for the 2025 application period.

Ms. Hicks-Holloway suggested Billy Haag (Forestry Manager with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri) would be a great resource because he has experience with tiny forests.

**6. Citizen Participation:** None

**7. New Business:**

Commissioner Baumgarten brought an issue to the GPC's attention regarding trash/litter on North & South. She asked whether the City ever holds clean-up events. A discussion ensued about possibly planning a volunteer clean-up event, maybe organized by neighborhood or even block. Ms. Kennedy said she would see if the City could provide safety vests, bags, and work gloves, collect the trash bags at the end of the event, and use its communication channels to spread the word.



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The Commissioners also talked about more proactive steps it could take to avoid trash/litter. Businesses in the City could also donate money to sponsor the event.

Involving U City high school students was also proposed as an idea for finding volunteers.

### 8. **Old Business:**

- a. ROARS Column: Ms. Kennedy reported that she has spoken with Mary Goodman, the City's Communications Manager, about the ROARS Column idea. Rather than have a full article in each issue, because space is tight, Ms. Goodman suggested a "teaser" with a few sentences and a QR code linking to the full article on [ucitymo.org](http://ucitymo.org). Along with this, we could create a "Green Practices Page" that can be a hub of sustainable practices tips and information for residents. The content would be written by the GPC.

Another opportunity is to have a monthly "Green Practices Tip" in the City's e-newsletters and on social media.

The GPC could also review the recycling information that is posted online. Currently, there is an overwhelming amount of information, but it's very good information. The City's recycling staff should also be involved in reviewing content for accuracy.

- b. Tiny Forests: Commissioner Mueller reported that she and Ms. Kennedy met with Jacob Kaiser, the City Forester about the Tiny Forest concept. Mr. Kaiser was concerned that even with proper installation and proactive maintenance, invasive species will likely become an issue. He suggested that she look at examples of Tiny Forests that have been around for 10 years or so, to learn from their successes and challenges. Maintenance will certainly be an issue to address in the planning and long-term viability of the forest.

Mr. Kaiser also mentioned that Greensfelder Park might be a good location for a tiny forest because it is underutilized.

- c. Sustainability action items chart: Commissioner Schmalz provided a brief update on the action items chart and mentioned he'd share the report he wrote several years ago. Ms. Kennedy said that before the next meeting she can work on creating a draft template for the website where the information would live.
- d. Spring electronics event: Ms. Kennedy reported there are no major updates; she is just working on completing the grant application.
- e. Ripple Glass Recycling Company: Ms. Kennedy reported that she is waiting to hear back from the recycling staff for their opinion on replacing the City's galss recycling bin with Ripple Glass. She also mentioned that Webster Groves has launched their Ripple Glass program, and their bin is located at a facility owned by the City of Webster Groves.
- f. Grow Solar Power Hour: No update

### 9. **Council Liaison Update:** None

### 10. **Closing Round:** None

### 11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.