



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, 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.