



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

MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION April 2, 2024

Call to Order. The forty-third meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:31 PM by Chair Todd Thompson.

- 1. Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Susan Armstrong, Garry Aronberg, Mark Holly, Bob Criss Eric Karch, Todd Thompson, Philip Eastin. Also, in attendance were Dennis Fuller, Councilman; Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; Mirela Celaj, Assistant Director of Public Works; John Mulligan, City Attorney.

Visitors: Don Fitz

- 2. Agenda.** Published agenda was approved (*motion and second Thompson, Armstrong*):
Attendance-Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; Citizen Comments; Announcements by Commissioners; Committee Reports; New Business; Old Business; Council Liaison Comments; Adjournment.
- 3. Minutes.** The minutes of the March 5, 2024, meeting were approved with changes by voice vote (*Armstrong, Eastin moved and second*). The changes are listed below:
 - a. List of Commissioners should change Eric Stein to Bob Criss.
 - b. The depth of water in the tubes was about 2 feet.
 - c. Debris piles in the tube were about 30 feet long.
- 4. Citizen Comments.** Don Fitz informed the Commission about an April 24 Presentation. Mr. Kirkland of Springfield, MO, Public Works will speak about the restoration of Fastnight Creek to improve conveyance.
- 5. Announcement By Commissioners.**
 - a. Commissioner Thompson, Chair, has received a letter from Kathlyn Behrmann of 1075 Wilson.
 - i. The letter expressed disappointment and anxiety that the buyouts planned for her neighborhood are taking a long time to implement.
 - ii. Councilman Fuller and Public Works Director Girdler commented that FEMA is funding most of the cost of the buyouts and FEMA bureaucracy is slow.
 - iii. City Planner Wagner had responded to Ms. Bearman's letter.
 - b. Dr. Criss commented that his and Mr. Stein's paper about flooding along the River des Peres has been accepted for publication by Journal of Earth Science.
 - c. Mr. Aronberg commented about an extensive flood control project in Brentwood – Deer Creek:
 - i. The project removed residences and business from the floodplain by buyouts.
 - ii. The flood water surface elevation was reduced by creek widening.
 - iii. Brentwood, MO, funded almost all the \$90,000,000 cost with community taxes. Of that total cost, \$60,000,000 were directly related to flood control; FEMA, MSD, MDNR, Great River Greenways funded less than \$5,000,000.
 - a) City Attorney Mulligan reported that Brentwood is using an economic development 0.5 % sales tax approved in 2019.
 - b) The tax is dedicated to Certificates of participation for \$40,400,000.
 - iv. Dr. Criss observed that part of one or the remaining businesses in the Brentwood floodplain did flood during yesterday's storm (April 1-2, 2024).



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

- d. Commissioner Holly reported that a resident observed overtopping at the Tube entrance many years ago when a gate at the tube entrance had become clogged. That gate had been removed many years ago.
- e. Commissioner Holly is refining his model of the Tube flow with the addition of recent LiDAR data of the interior of the Tube.
- f. Public Works Director Girdler reported that the City is evaluating additional locations for monitoring flow in the River des Peres. Monitoring would be by camera and elevation data.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Ad Hoc Committee to develop and ordinance to address impervious area additions.
 - i. The mitigation offset table has been refined.
 - ii. Mitigation threshold applicability is being addressed now:
 - a) Is 100 square foot change appropriate threshold? A short wide-ranging discussion occurred regarding the size of the threshold to consider balance significance, nuisance, and staff time.
 - b) When can previously installed mitigation features be considered as appropriate.
 - c) Monitoring of mitigation to prevent accidental or unauthorized removal of mitigation.
 - d) Refining a permitting routine.
 - e) Commission will evaluate Ad Hoc committee's recommendations at future meeting.
 - f) **Motion:** Final ordinance recommended to Council will incorporate input from full Stormwater Commission after a future Commission meeting dedicated to review of the ordinance (*Karch, Armstrong*).
 - iii. Don Fitz, University Heights Storm Task Force, sponsor of the impervious area ordinance, suggested that the University Heights Storm Task Force meet with Commissioners to discuss Commission's recommendations.
 - iv. Planning Commission will also evaluate the recommended ordinance.

7. New Business

None

8. Old Business.

- a. Early Warning and Flood Monitoring
- b. April 1-2, 2024 Storm.
 - i. Commissioner Criss reported that the rainfall reached caution but not alarm levels. Observations supported that assessment.
 - a) Commissioners Criss and Karch observed that the debris line for the storm remained mostly within the River des Peres (RdP) channel except at the west end of the 7400 block of Chamberlain and along the south side of Wilson Ave.
 - b) No structures were flooded in University City.
 - c) The Early Warning system performed as expected and performed well.

9. Council Liaison Comments.

- a. Councilman Fuller thanked Don Fitz of the University Heights Stormwater Task Force for sponsoring the meeting on flow in the RdP Tube at which Commissioner Holly presented development of a flow model in the Tube.
- b. Please support U City in Bloom on April 27, 28, 29.
- c. Please support U City Memeoral Day Run.

10. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn passed at 5:03 PM (*Armstong, Holly*).

Minutes Preparation. The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.