



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

## MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION June 4, 2024

**Call to Order.** The forty-fourth meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:32 PM by Chair Todd Thompson.

- 1. Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Susan Armstrong, Garry Aronberg, Bob Criss Eric Karch, Todd Thompson. Also, in attendance were Dennis Fuller, Councilman; Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; Mirela Celaj, Assistant Director of Public Works; John Mulligan, City Attorney. Commissioners Mark Holly and Phillip Eastin could not attend.

Visitors: Don Fitz, Dave Sandal, Tim and Phobe Welsh, Ryan McPhail.

- 2. Agenda.** Published agenda was approved:

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 May 7, 2024, meeting were approved by voice vote with the following changes (Armstrong, Criss):
  - a.** Item 4: Sandal should be changed to Sandel;
  - b.** Item 6.b.i “many” should be added so sentences reads “RdP stage of 16 feet is the threshold for causing flooding of **many** buildings in the RdP floodplain”
  - c.** Item 6.b.vi.a) “dam breaches” should be “dam releases”
  - d.** Item 6.b.vi.b) “The flood wave” should be “Most flood waves”.

- 4. Citizen Comments.**

- Ryan McPhail of 7049 Westmorland Drive returned to the Commission meeting and described that even a ¾-inch rain causes ponding in his and the neighboring yard to the east to be 6 inches deep. The drainage of backyards has been obstructed by new construction of the last 10 to 20 years. He had met with Community Development Director Wagner to track permitting of the new construction and establish whether the permits considered the obstructions and whether improvements installed conform to permits. Mr. McPhail sought suggestions for correction of the ponding problem. After discussion, the consensus was that Mr. McPhail and Director Wagner and First Ward Council members should continue to meet and explore actions that the City and Mr. McPhail.
- Regina St Vrain of 541 Delprice Court near Delmar and Price made the Commission aware that excessive amount of street runoff from Delmar and Delprice Court passes through yards. Runoff enters at least on garage in the neighborhood but no runoff has entered houses. Ms. St. Vrain has contacted City and MSD previously and no improvements have been made.
- Kathleen Goodwin of 1347 Waldron made the Commission aware that excessive amount of street runoff is not collected in the street inlets and flows into her basement stairwell and then into here basement. An MSD representative has visited the site and told Ms. Goodwin that MSD might make improvements. Ms. Goodwin seeks City assistance to eliminate the basement flooding caused by street drainage.



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**5. Announcement By Commissioners.**

None.

**6. Committee Reports**

- a. **Ad Hoc Committee to develop and ordinance to address impervious area additions.** Sub-committed discussed important points of the suggested Code changes:
  - i. The Sub-committed has recommended that impervious additions of 100 square feet be the trigger to require runoff mitigation. The sub-committee recommends the 100 SF trigger appropriate after considering effective runoff intervention, affordable, and staff-time appropriate.
  - ii. The choices for mitigation have been tabulated to be easy to interpret but some residents will still need staff time to understand options.
  - iii. The sub-committee recommended periodic self-monitoring and self-reporting that the mitigation remains in service. The self-monitoring and self-reporting may be initiated by a questionnaire or inquiry sent by the City on two- to three-year intervals.
  - iv. Motion: send sub-committee draft code changes to Section 405.510 to City administration for development of appropriate reports, Council resolutions, and reviews by other Commissions. (Armstrong, Thompson) (Passed).

**7. New Business**

- a. Connie Mueller, Chair of the Green Practices Commission, spoke about mini-forests. She asked that we endorse the development of mini-forest in University City. Mini-forest are passive areas of at least a quarter acre to provide effective habitat for a wide range of native animals, allow for natural migration, reduce heat absorption and retention, decrease the volume and rate of stormwater runoff.
- b. By consensus, the Commission endorses the development.
- c. Individual Commissioners will suggest sites to complement sites that the Green Commission is identifying.

**8. Old Business.**

None

**9. Council Liaison Comments.**

- a. Councilman Fuller reported that budget preparation is continuing.

**10. Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn passed at 5:20 PM (Aronberg, *Armstong*).

**Minutes Preparation.** The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.