



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

MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION October 1, 2024

Call to Order. The forty-fifth meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:35 PM on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, by Chair Todd Thompson.

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

Visitor: Barb Chicirio,

- 2. Agenda.** Published agenda was approved by voice vote (motion by Armstrong, second by Eastin): 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 July 2, 2024, meeting was approved with one correction: spelling of Criss was corrected. Approval with change was by voice (Armstrong, Thompson).

- 4. Citizen Comments.**

- o Barb Chicirio suggested that some of the runoff near the police station bypasses the detention basin: the runoff should be redirected.

- 5. Announcement By Commissioners and Staff.**

- Commissioner Criss
 - o Green Center is distributing trees to residents.
 - o Maintenance is needed on the sandbar near the Vernon bridge over the River des Peres: vegetation should be removed. Mr. Girdler will have the vegetation removed.
 - o Rain gauge 3 in Indian Medows Park needs some replacement parts.
 - o Olivette recently constructed a stormwater detention basin near Indian Medows Park. Commissioner Criss commended the construction of the basin.
- Commissioner Armstrong indicated that the Olivette stormwater detention basin is likely part of a recent bond issue approved by Olivette voters. University City should consider expanding our funding for stormwater runoff reduction.
- Commissioner Holly
 - o Commissioners Holly and Criss commended a student-developed radar sensor coupled with a phone system. The system was developed by a multi-discipline team of students from Washington University as a class project. Commissioners Holly and Criss have been advisors to the student project team. The students seek permission to deploy the system on the River des Peres to test and develop the system's capabilities. Mr. Girdler volunteered to be the contact for City coordination.



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6. Committee Reports

- **Ad Hoc Committee to develop an ordinance to address impervious area additions.**
 - Commissioner Armstrong reported that at the request of the Code Review Committee, the Ad Hoc committee edited the Impervious Area Ordinance to be more succinct. Further, estimates of costs for impervious areas were prepared for the Code Review Committee. The costs to offset 150 square feet of new impervious area ranged from \$300 to \$6,000 depending on the type of offset: trees, native plantings, rain gardens, dry well, pervious pavement.
- **River des Peres (RdP) Monitoring subcommittee**
 - Commissioner Criss studied the volume of storage in the River des Peres during the July 2022 storm. The in-channel storage exceeds the proposed storage in the proposed Woodson basin. Dr. Criss urged that in-channel storage be considered further.
 - Commissioner Criss identified that inland flooding caused by Hurricane Helene could occur here: similar storms have caused loss of life and destruction in U City in the past. Our efforts are important and timely to enhance preparation for flood relief and continued flood reduction efforts.
 - Commissioner Eastin reported that the new water level monitoring equipment has been shipped and will soon be installed at the RdP Tubes entrance and near Hafner Place.

7. New Business

None.

8. Old Business.

None

9. Council Liaison Comments.

- a. Councilman Fuller reported on new real estate developments:
 - 1) A mixed-use building will be constructed on the two-acre site of the old Commerce Bank and Craft Alliance buildings. The new building will be mostly apartments.
 - 2) A new hotel will be constructed north of the library.
 - 3) MSD plans to construct a deep tunnel to store combined sewer overflow to reduce or prevent discharge of mixed storm and sanitary sewage into the River des Peres. One end of the tunnel will be in University City likely near Olive at Midland. The exact location has not been determined. The end of the tunnel in U City will be the upstream end and be the boring machine removal point. The tunnel may be as deep as 200 ft.

10. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn passed at 5:00 PM (Armstrong, Thompson).

Minutes Preparation. The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.