



## 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, January 9, 2025 at 5:30 pm

Location: via Videoconference (Zoom)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:35 pm

2. **Roll Call:**

Attendees Present: Tim Schmalz, Suzanne Schoomer, Ken Schechtman, Mat Emden, Nicole Baumgarten, John Tieman (Council Liaison), Mary Kennedy (Staff Liaison)

Attendees Absent: Connie Mueller (Chair)

3. **Opening Round:** Commissioner Baumgarten reported that she had contacted someone with Dierbergs to ask what sustainable design elements will be incorporated into their new building at Market at Olive, and she read aloud the detailed response from the Dierbergs representative. This information prompted a discussion about solar panels as a highly effective way to reduce carbon emissions and move towards clean energy that should be encouraged in U City.

Councilmember Tieman suggested the Commission make a recommendation to Council. Some discussion ensued about how to encourage or require solar panels on new commercial developments over a certain size. Ms. Kennedy suggested an alternative approach where the City could require developers to perform a cost-benefit analysis on installing solar panels, as part of any application for a development that requires Plan Commission and/or City Council approval. Commissioners suggested adding that the findings of the cost-benefit analyses would be reported to the Green Practices Commission and thereafter the City Council.

Commissioner Schmalz suggested the Commission consider best practices and example ordinances promoted by OneSTL. There was some agreement among the Commission that they should make a motion during this meeting to kick-start a conversation with the City Council about how to better encourage solar panels and other forward-looking energy efficiency features in new development, as well as how the Commission could be more involved in the development review process.

Commissioner Schechtman made a motion that “All new commercial and multi-family developments within University City with a footprint of at least 5,000 square feet will generate solar panel cost-benefit analyses. They will report their findings to the Green Practices Commission, which will in turn report the findings to the City Council.” Commissioner Baumgarten seconded the motion. The motion carried, 5 ayes to 0 nays.

Commissioner Baumgarten made a motion to “Initiate a study session with City Council about how the Green Practices Commission can be more involved with new commercial and multi-family developments.” There was no second.

Additional discussion ensued about arranging a more informal meeting with the City Manager, Council Liaison John Tieman, Staff Liaison Mary Kennedy, and 2-3 commissioners to talk about how the Commission could be more involved in the development review process.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

a. August 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Baumgarten motioned to approve the



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minutes as presented. Commissioner Emden seconded. The motion carried, 4-0 (Commissioner Schechtman abstained).

- b. October 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Baumgarten motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Schmalz seconded. The motion carried, 4-0 (Commissioner Schechtman abstained).
- c. November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Emden motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Schechtman seconded. The motion carried, 5-0.

**5. Special Presentation:** None

**6. Citizen Participation:** None

**7. New Business:**

- a. Carbon assessment scope of work: *No discussion was had on this agenda item.*
  - i. Review Trivers/IMEG's responses to the Commission's questions: *No discussion was had on this agenda item.*
  - ii. Discuss scheduling another study session with the City Council to answer remaining questions for the City. Request for study session would go through the Council Liaison. *No discussion was had on this agenda item.*

**8. Old Business:**

- a. ROARS content and online articles: *No discussion was had on this agenda item.*
- b. Tiny forests: *No discussion was had on this agenda item.*
- c. Spring 2025 electronics recycling event: Saturday, May 10 at Heman Park Community Center: *No discussion was had on this agenda item.*

**9. Council Liaison Update:** None

**10. Closing Round:** None

**11. Adjournment:** Commissioner Schoomer motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Emden seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.