



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

## MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION October 3, 2023

1. **Call to Order.** The thirty-eighth meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:30 PM by Chair Todd Thompson.
2. **Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Susan Armstong, Garry Aronberg, Robert Criss, Mark Holly, Eric Karch, Todd Thompson. Also, in attendance were Councilman Dennis Fuller, Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; Mirela Celaj, Assistant Director of Public Works; and John Mulligan, City Attorney.
3. **Visitor:** Many visitors were present. A record copy of the those who wished to sign-in is attached to the minutes.
4. **Agenda.** Publish 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.
5. **Minutes.** The minutes of the September 12, 2023, meeting were approved by voice vote with the a correction that Haffner should be Hafner (Criss, Armstrong).
6. **Citizen Comments.** A wide range of comments came from the visitors:
  - 6.1. Concern about who is responsible for cleaning the River des Peres (RdP), MSD or City. Urged City to settle the responsibility ambiguity and make sure the RdP is well maintained.
  - 6.2. Clearing blockages at bridges may convey an increase flow of water downstream and exacerbate downstream problems.
7. **Announcement By Commissioners.**
  - 7.1. Dr. Criss discussed the effect of bridges on the water surface elevation of River des Peres (RdP). Dr. Criss's discussion was based on his many years of data collected along the RdP.
    - 7.1.1. The water surface elevation drops as much 3 feet from the upstream to the downstream side of the Groby, Vernon, and Pennsylvania Avenue bridges during significant storms such as 0.4 through 1 percent and higher annual chance of occurrence (25-year through 100-year and higher).
    - 7.1.2. The RdP bridges at Olive and Midland have smaller drops from upstream to downstream sides of the bridge.
    - 7.1.3. Dr. Criss urged that the accumulations of silt at the bridges should be removed to improve conveyance. The silt removal should occur in the RdP in other places along the RdP not just at the bridges.
  - 7.2. Commissioner Armstrong presented data regarding the effectiveness of porous pavement, attached.



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

**8. Committee Reports.** None

**9. New Business**

- 9.1. Native Prairie. A volunteer, Luke Morgan-Gillard, has been granted permission to establish a native plant prairie garden at Wilson buyout area. Financial support is provided by Mr. Morgan-Gillard, U City In-Bloom, the City of University City, the Green Center, and Missouri Botanical Garden. Other contributions are welcome. Labor is by Mr. Morgan-Gillard.

The prairie restoration garden would be approximately the size of a residential lot. Native seed would be used. No obstructions to overbank flow would be installed. Mt Morga-Gillard has the approval of City officials. U. City In-Bloom would assume maintenance after the first year. Contributions are welcome.

9.2. Revised Ordinances related to Flooding.

- 9.2.1. University Heights Storm Water Task Force representative, Don Fitz, discussed proposed changes to the municipal code:

9.2.1.1. Replace Section 410.170, Floodways with a new Floodway section.

9.2.1.1.1. The new floodway section would define a 50-ft wide riparian corridor on both sides of the River des Peres (RdP).

9.2.1.1.2. Existing structures could remain in the corridor, no new structures in the corridor could be built in the corridor.

9.2.1.1.3. "Floodway", a FEMA term, would not be included in the Code.

9.2.1.2. Prohibit discharge of incremental increases of stormwater runoff from new development. The threshold to trigger no increase is 100 square feet.

9.2.2. Discussion:

9.2.2.1. Language of proposed code sections is ambiguous and would be difficult to enforce.

9.2.2.2. Floodway provisions are important to preserve City participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

9.2.2.3. Many features sought by proponents of code changes may be implemented by amendments to existing code sections and adoption of existing design guidelines, obviating the need to add new sections.

9.2.2.4. Commission should work with University Heights Task Force to clarify proposed code changes.

9.2.3. **Motion:** Create a subcommittee to review the proposed code changes and identify improved code text that would meet goals of University Heights Stormwater Task Force, and report recommendations at the next Commission meeting (Armstrong, Karch). Passed by voice vote. Chair Thompson appointed Commissioners Armstrong, Karch, Holly, and Aronberg to the subcommittee.



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

**10. Old Business.** None

**11. Council Liaison Comments (Dennis Fuller).** Two new businesses are opening: Rasing Kane and Panera's along Olive at I-170.

**12. Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn passed at 5:35 PM (Aronberg, Armstrong).

Minutes Preparation. The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.

20231003StrmWtrCommMin.pdf