



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, March 13, 2025 at 5:30 pm

Location: Heman Park Community Center (975 Pennsylvania)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:43 pm

2. **Roll Call:**

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

Attendees Absent: Connie Mueller (Chair), Mat Emden

3. **Opening Round:**

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

- a. February 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Baumgarten pointed out that the minutes stated it was a virtual meeting, when it was an in-person meeting. Commissioner Schechtman moved to approve the minutes with that correction. Commissioner Schoomer seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

5. **Special Presentation:** None

6. **Citizen Participation:** None

7. **New Business:**

- a. Discuss agenda for April 28 study session with City Council: Ms. Kennedy introduced this agenda item, which was to decide what topics the GPC would like to cover in their study session with City Council. She presented some suggested topics for the GPC to review and decide which items should be discussed on April 28:
 - i. Additional Proposals for Decarbonization Plan: Ms. Kennedy shared that the City Manager would like the commission to write a summary of their concerns with the Trivers/IMEG proposed scope of work.

The commissioners agreed that Commissioner Emden should write the summary. Since Commissioner Emden was not present at the meeting, Commissioner Schmalz offered to ask him to write the summary.
 - ii. Solar Panel Cost-Benefit Analysis: There was discussion about what to include in the presentation to City Council about requiring solar panel cost benefit analyses for new developments greater than 5,000 SF.

Commissioner Baumgarten suggested that 2-3 people from the commission present a draft of the PowerPoint at their April meeting.
 - iii. Annual Report: Ms. Kennedy explained that according to the code sections that establish the GPC, the commission is expected to report to City Council at least once per year. The report could be a summary of the events and initiatives that the commission accomplished the previous year, but the code doesn't specify what should be in the report. Commissioner Baumgarten suggested that going forward,



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an annual report of the GPC be presented to Council by the end of June each year, which would line up nicely with the end of the fiscal year. Others agreed.

iv. Reviewing Development Proposals: The commission agreed that this topic could be addressed at a later time.

b. “Sustainability officer” job description: At a previous meeting, Councilmember Tieman reported that the city manager would like the GPC to begin contemplating a job description for a potential future “Sustainability Officer” position with the City. Ms. Kennedy distributed example job descriptions for the Commission to review but explained that it wasn’t clear when the City would be hiring for that position. She invited commissioners to review them and share any feedback they would have directly with her or at the next meeting.

c. Summer ROARS issue: content due April 1: The Commission agreed that an April 1 deadline was not feasible, so they will plan to submit content for the Fall issue, which will be due July 1.

8. Old Business:

a. Tiny forests: No update.

b. Spring 2025 electronics recycling event: Saturday, May 10 at Heman Park Community Center. Ms. Kennedy shared that she will not be present but is working to find a city employee who can take her place. Commissioner Baumgarten volunteered to help with the event on the day of.

9. Council Liaison Update: Councilmember Tieman reported that he recently attended a “Cool Cities STL” meeting at Webster Groves, where he met with other elected officials around the region about advancing sustainability initiatives. He invited commissioners to attend future meetings with him.

He also reported that he and elected officials wrote a letter to the Public Service Commission to object to the 15% rate increase for Ameren.

He also reported that the State of the City address recently occurred and felt that it was a nice recap of what had been accomplished in the last year, including multiple development projects and a notable reduction in violent crime.

Commissioner Schoomer left the meeting at 6:50 pm.

10. Closing Round: Commissioner Baumgarten stated that since she is an Ameren employee, she recuses herself from any discussion of the Ameren rate increase.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.