



Green Practices Commission
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MEETING MINUTES

GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Heman Park Community Center (975 Pennsylvania Avenue)

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 5:34 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendees Present: Connie Mueller (Chair), Suzanne Schoomer (through 6:28 p.m.), John Tieman (Council liaison), Ken Schechtman, Timothy Schmalz, Yann Estaque (5:38 p.m.), Mathew Emden, Bonnie Harper (Open Space STL), Steve Stricklan (staff liaison)

Commissioners Absent: Nicole Baumgarten

3. OPENING ROUND

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. June 26, 2025

- i. There was some discussion regarding the subject of House Bill 939 within the Council Liaison Update, but it was determined no correction to the minutes was needed. Commissioner Schoomer motioned to approve. Commissioner Schechtman seconded. All Commissioners voted aye, zero nays, or abstentions. Motion approved.

b. October 9, 2025

- i. Commissioner Schoomer motioned to approve. Commissioner Schechtman seconded. All Commissioners voted aye, zero nays, or abstentions. Motion approved.

Commissioner Estaque arrived at 5: 38 p.m.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chair Mueller introduced Bonnie Harper from Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region and asked her to provide information about the organization and the work they do. Ms. Harper provided an overview of the scope of work of the organization. This included working with property owners to keep all or a portion of properties in a Land Trust, the creation of a Climate Action Plan, and Conservation Easements.

6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Sol Smart

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- i. Mr. Stricklan provided an update regarding local communities with certification-Clayton and Brentwood. Initial research showed that University City's process is fairly straightforward, involving mostly a building permit, rather than a complex zoning review. The Planning and Zoning Department Direction from Interim Director Becky Ahlvin is to avoid conflicting code revisions while the City's consultant Zone Co. is rewriting the entire zoning code, a draft of which is anticipated in February. It is anticipated that the Planning staff will be at full capacity at that time as well.
- ii. There was discussion among the Commission members about having the consultant include the Sol Smart concepts in the draft at this time. Commissioner Schoomer motioned that the City's Zoning Code consultant Zone Co. be aware of and incorporate the principles of Sol Smart into the new Zoning Code update. A sample will be forthcoming from this Commission. Chair Mueller seconded. All Commissioners voted aye, zero nays, or abstentions. Motion approved.

Commissioner Schoomer departed 6:28 p.m.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Annual report for commission
 - i. Mr. Stricklan provided an example of a report to the Commission members. He will take the information provided by Chair Mueller and create a report for review at the next meeting with the intent of providing it to City Council as its annual report.
- b. Solar ordinance
 - i. Commissioner Schmalz discussed the information he compiled after reviewing what the City of St. Louis had done. He will share the research to be discussed at the next meeting. The codes could be adapted to be used for a solar audit ordinance.

9. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE

- a. Council Member Tieman mentioned the importance of avoiding the appearance of violating quorum requirements when emailing.
- b. There was discussion on the carbon assessment from Trivers. The Commission's wishes would be conveyed.
- c. Council Member Tieman mentioned the proposed data center in the Armory in the City of St. Louis and the classification of the building as a warehouse as something to be monitored.
- d. Council Member Tieman has an essay on environmentalism in the Sunday St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial page.
- e. There was discussion on Roberts Rules.

10. CLOSING ROUND

- a. Commissioner Schmalz discussed the elementary soccer league at Centennial Commons.
- b. Commissioner Schmalz discussed the One U-City Trivia Night coming up in February.
- c. Commissioner Schmalz mentioned applying for a Parks position in the chance that he has to leave the Commission.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Commissioner Emden motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Schectman seconded. All Commissioners voted aye, zero nays, or abstentions. Motion approved.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.