



**Green Practices Commission**

6801 Delmar Boulevard ·University City, Missouri 63130 ·314-862-6767 ·Fax: 314-863-9146

**AGENDA**

**GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Heman Park Community Center (975 Pennsylvania Avenue)

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. OPENING ROUND**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. January 8, 2026
  - b. February 12, 2026
- 5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
- 6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Election of officers -- information
- 8. OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. Solar ordinance
  - b. Sol Smart
  - c. Native plantings
  - d. ROARS article
- 9. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE**
- 10. CLOSING ROUND**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

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**Green Practices Commission**

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**MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)**

**GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Heman Park Community Center (975 Pennsylvania Avenue)

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 5:33 p.m.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Attendees Present: Yann Estaque, Connie Mueller (Chair), Nicole Baumgarten, Steve Stricklan (staff liaison), Mathew Emden, John Tieman (Council liaison), Suzanne Schoomer (through 6:44 p.m.), Timothy Schmalz (5:48 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: Ken Schechtman

**3. OPENING ROUND**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. November 13, 2025

- i. Commissioner Baumgarten noted that under Roll Call “Attendees Absent” should be corrected to “Commissioners Absent”, that Ms. Harper’s name was misspelled in one spot, and that there was a typo. Commissioner Schoomer motioned to approve with the noted corrections. Commissioner Emden seconded. All Commissioners voted aye, zero nays, or abstentions. Motion approved.

**5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- a. None

**6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

- a. None

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Roundabouts

- i. Chair Mueller provided a summary of the benefits of the roundabouts. There was discussion regarding the existing roundabout on Delmar Blvd. and its safety enhancements for drivers. Commissioner Emden mentioned concerns for safety of cyclers using the roundabout.

b. Leaf blowers

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- i. Chair Mueller described the concern regarding leaf blower pollution and noise. Battery power would be a better solution than gas power. Commissioner Schoomer asked whether it would be better addressed by the state.

Commissioner Schmalz arrived at 5:48 p.m.

- ii. Commissioner Baumgarten discusses the possibility of eliminating the need for leaf blowers altogether. Lawn mowing needs can be eliminated by planting prairies rather than turf grass. Commissioner Schmalz discussed the possible impact on park properties. There was discussion on native plantings and the effect of City Code requirements.
- iii. Chair Mueller questioned whether the Commission was still contributing articles for the ROARS newsletter. Mr. Stricklan will check into the details. Chair Mueller asked fellow Commissioners to consider potential article topics.
- iv. Commissioner Schmalz said he would contact someone with the Park Commission and report back regarding the use of park properties.
- v. There was additional discussion regarding enforcement of City grass ordinances and how it may impact the ability of residents to grow native plants. Commissioner Baumgarten suggested a registry of residents participating in native plant growth to assist City inspectors. Councilmember Tieman recounted his experience resolving an issue with his own native plantings.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Annual report for commission
  - i. Mr. Stricklan announced the completion of the corrections to the report from the previous meeting.
- b. Solar ordinance
  - i. Commissioner Schmalz presented two sample appendices for the spaces where solar readiness would apply. The Commission should review in preparation for discussion next meeting.
- c. Sol Smart
  - i. Commissioner Schmalz reviewed the Sol Smart website and summarized the criteria to qualify for the different certification levels, such as Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

## **9. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE**

- a. Council Member Tieman mentioned City Manager Gregory Rose would discuss his proposed Idling bill with the City of Clayton.
- b. The Net Carbon Assessment will be discussed with Trivers.
- c. Mr. Rose will be retiring and replaced on an interim basis by Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp. The next hire will take place following the April elections.

Commissioner Schoomer departed at 6:44 p.m.

- d. In the upcoming election, Councilmember Stacy Clay is not running for re-election. One Councilmember is running unopposed. Mayor Terry Crow and Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson are both running for Mayor.

## **10. CLOSING ROUND**

- a. Commissioner Schmalz discussed the One U-City Trivia Night coming up on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Commissioner Baumgarten motioned to adjourn. Chair Mueller seconded. All Commissioners voted aye, zero nays, or abstentions. Motion approved.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



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**MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)**

**GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Heman Park Community Center (975 Pennsylvania Avenue)

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 5:35 p.m.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Attendees Present: Nicole Baumgarten, Steve Stricklan (staff liaison), John Tieman (Council liaison), Suzanne Schoomer Timothy Schmalz (Presiding as Chair), Ken Schechtman

Commissioners Absent: Mathew Emden, Connie Mueller, Yann Estaque

**3. OPENING ROUND**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. January 8, 2026

i. Mr. Stricklan stated that the minutes would be ready for review on the next meeting agenda.

**5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

a. None

**6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

a. Arthur Wasserman of 1456 Mendell Dr. shared a pamphlet and spoke regarding the upcoming Visions of Flood Mitigation event. He represented the Mendell basin near the River De Peres. The event will be held at the High School library on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 7-9:00 p.m. and will feature many speakers, including Mayor Terry Crow and Councilman Bwayne Smotherson.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Native plantings

i. Commissioner Baumgarten discussed the possibility of a registry for residents growing native plantings and whether there were third party organizations that could certify such gardens. Commissioner Schmalz stated that master gardeners need service hours and may be a good option to certify native gardens. Commissioner Schechtman stated that raising awareness is needed as a second phase of the effort. There was discussion on communicating this effort at U-City In Bloom plant sale.

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b. ROARS article information

- i. Mr. Stricklan provided information obtained from the City's Communications Manager Jared Jones. The upcoming Summer issue will cover the months of June, July, and August. Issues are typically between 8 and 13 pages. The procedure is that the Communications Manager will send an email out to Department Heads. As the staff liaison, Mr. Stricklan will coordinate with the Planning Director and work with the Commission.
- ii. Commissioner Schmalz mentioned three possible article topics: flood remediation, Sol Smart, or the solar ordinance. Commissioner Schechtman asked if the articles were intended to be advocacy. Commissioner Schmalz agreed that they should be closer to an education component than just the actions of the Commission.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Annual report for commission

- i. Mr. Stricklan stated that the report had been finalized at the previous meeting and requested a motion for the item.
- ii. Commissioner Schmalz motioned to accept the report and submit to City Council. Commissioner Schoomer seconded. All Commissioners voted aye, zero nays, or abstentions. Motion approved.
- iii. Commissioner Schechtman motioned to revise the title to reflect the fiscal year 2024-2025. Commissioner Schoomer seconded. All Commissioners voted aye, zero nays, or abstentions. Motion approved.

b. Solar ordinance

- i. Commissioner Schmalz provided an update on the ordinance, specifically the difference in commercial vs. residential definitions of space. Commissioner Schechtman had concerns regarding the maximum of a 5-story building. Commissioner Schmalz believed it to be based on engineering reasoning. He will research and bring additional information to the next meeting.

c. Sol Smart

- i. Commissioner Schmalz detailed the points requirements to reach the Bronze level Sol Smart credential. There was discussion over the roles of the Commissioners vs. City staff on who would be responsible for achieving the requirements to obtain certification.

**9. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE**

- a. Councilmember Tieman commended the civil servants for clearing the snow so effectively.
- b. In the upcoming election, Councilmember Stacy Clay is not running for re-election. One Councilmember is running unopposed. Councilmember Tieman said he views this as a vote of confidence in the stability of City leadership. Mayor Terry Crow and Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson are both running for Mayor.
- c. The City has hired a consultant to help with the search for a new City Manager. A survey has been made available for citizen input.
- d. Councilmember Tieman discussed qualities important to the leadership of a City Manager.

**10. CLOSING ROUND**

- a. Commissioner Schmalz intends to go to the Park Commission meeting in the coming week to discuss spaces that could be used for native plantings.
- b. Commissioner Schmalz discussed the One U-City Trivia Night coming up on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Commissioner Schmalz motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Baumgarten seconded. All Commissioners voted aye, zero nays, or abstentions. Motion approved.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

# University City Green Practices Commission Bylaws

Amended January 10, 2013

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## I. Green Practices Commission:

- A. The Green Practices Commission was established by the University City Council Bill No. 9123 on July 25, 2011 to amend the University City Municipal Code, Title 2, Chapter 2.31 "Green Practices Commission" and Section 2.28.160 "Green Practices Commission".
- B. Refer to the Bill for information on the function of the Commission, membership, powers and duties, qualifications, appointment and terms of members, filling vacancies, officers and procedures, and reports.
- C. Absences: If a member misses three consecutive monthly meetings, the seat shall be considered vacant and shall be filled by the Council by appointment for the unexpired term.
- D. Resignation: A member may resign from the Commission. The seat shall be considered vacant and shall be filled by the Council by appointment for the unexpired term.
- E. Removal: A Commission member may be removed by majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting if the item is placed on the written agenda and distributed one week in advance of the meeting.
- F. Quorum: Four voting members will be required for a quorum, which is the minimum number of Commission members who must be present for official decisions to be made. If the Staff Liaison is not able to notify members in advance, the regular meeting will convene and adjourn if quorum is not present.
- G. Notice of Meeting Cancellation: The Staff Liaison or Chairperson will notify the Commission of cancelled meetings at least one (1) day in advance of the meeting unless special circumstances prevent early notification. Members will be notified via their current email address and/or phone number on file. Meeting cancellations will be posted on the University City website ([www.ucitymo.org](http://www.ucitymo.org)) 24 hours in advance of the meeting, unless such notice is impossible.
- H. Conflict of Interest Policy: The policy requires that those with a conflict (or think they may have a conflict) to disclose the conflict/potential conflict, and prohibits interested Commission members from voting on any matter that gives rise to a conflict

## University City Green Practices Commission Bylaws

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between their personal or professional interests and the Commission and the City of University City interests. The policy will also be used to help the Commission determine how conflicts will be managed. Members should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Recuse yourself from votes that would benefit you or your personal business interests
2. Do not use information gained during Commission activities to benefit you or your personal business interests
3. Do not provide information gained in Commission activities to personal business associates
4. Do not contact City Staff, City Council members or the Mayor using information gained in Commission activities to benefit you or your personal business interests
5. If contacted by City Staff, City Council members or the Mayor for professional advice due to your involvement in the Commission, do not use that information for personal gain or advantage in a business transaction.

Disciplinary action to be taken in the event of a Conflict of Interest:

1. Notification of a potential Conflict of Interest is to be submitted in writing (via letter or email) to the Commission Staff Liaison or to the City Clerk.
2. The potential Conflict of Interest will be added as an agenda item at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting.
3. The Commission member in question will be allowed to discuss the potential Conflict of Interest and suggest a course of action in compliance with the Guidelines.
4. In the event that the Conflict of Interest persists, the Commission member may be removed via procedure I.E, above at the discretion of the Commission.

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### II. Officers:

- A. As per University City Bill No. 9123 (July 25, 2011), Section 2.31.030, Qualifications, appointment and terms of members – Filling vacancies – Officers and procedure:
1. “The Commission shall annually elect one of its members Chairperson and one shall be elected Secretary. The Commission shall establish its own rules of procedure.”
- B. Officers shall be nominated and elected annually following the procedures of Dynamic Governance. Summary of Dynamic Governance [www.ucitymo.org/index.aspx?NID=486](http://www.ucitymo.org/index.aspx?NID=486)
- C. The officers’ duties are as follows:
1. The Chairperson shall convene scheduled meetings, shall preside, or shall arrange for other members of the Commission to preside, at each meeting in the following order: Secretary, then another voting member.
  2. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of Commission actions, including: (1) overseeing the taking of minutes at all meetings, (2) sending out meeting agendas, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each Commission member, and (3) assuring that Commission records are maintained.

### III. Subcommittees:

- A. Each of the seven voting members shall chair one of the following subcommittees. The subcommittees will work within the framework of the Sustainability Strategic Plan to develop projects and programs.
1. Ecosystems and Habitat
  2. Water and Stormwater
  3. Air Quality and Transportation
  4. Waste and Resource Conservation
  5. Land Use, Open Space and Parks
  6. Energy
  7. Green Buildings

### IV. Meetings, Agendas, Meeting Minutes:

## University City Green Practices Commission Bylaws

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- A. The Green Practices Commission shall meet once a month at a place and time agreed upon by a majority of the Commission.
- B. Agendas will be published on the University City website one week prior to each meeting.
- C. Meeting minutes will be published on the University City website no later than one week prior to the next meeting.
- D. Special meetings of the Commission shall be called upon the request of the Chairperson or one-third of the Commission. Notices of special meetings shall be sent out by the Secretary to each Commission member, dated one week in advance.
- E. Requests for Agenda Items: All Requests for consideration by the Commission shall be submitted in writing to the Staff Liaison or Secretary at least one (1) week prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. A form of Request can be obtained from the Department of Public Works and Parks at City Hall on at [www.ucitymo.org](http://www.ucitymo.org). Requests not submitted to the Staff Liaison or Secretary one week in advance of the scheduled meeting will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting. The requestor will be notified of the scheduled meeting date within three (3) business days after the request is made.
- F. Speakers from the Floor or Audience Participation: Any member of the public may speak at a Commission meeting under the following conditions:
  - a) Speakers must fill out a written form, available at the meeting, listing their name, address and telephone number. In addition, information identifying the nature of Request, issue or comment to which they would like to speak about must be completed on the form.
  - b) The Chairperson will call on speakers at the appropriate time.
  - c) Members of the audience may also be called on to answer specific questions at the discretion of the Chairperson.
  - d) All speeches are limited to five (5) minutes or less. It is preferable that members of the audience wishing to support a Request designate a spokesperson to present their views.
  - e) After a Request has been taken under consideration by the Commission, no member of the public may speak to the Commission further on that Request at the meeting.
  - f) Non-request issues: Citizens attending a Commission meeting who have issues or questions/comments that are not related

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to the Requests being heard by the Commission at the Commission meeting will be called upon by the Chairperson after the Commission has concluded deliberations on all agenda items. Non-request issues or public comments are limited to 3 minutes for individual's comments or 5 minutes for representatives of groups or organizations. Citizens presenting both Request and non-Request issues (public comments) are subject to the protocol set forth in Section F above.

### **V. Amendments:**

- A. These Bylaws may be amended when necessary by a simple majority of the Commission. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Secretary, to be sent out with regular Commission correspondence.

These Bylaws were amended and approved at a meeting of the Green Practices Commission on University City, Missouri on January 10, 2013.