



Green Practices Commission

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

MEETING MINUTES

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

- 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

[Type here]

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 27th.

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.