



**Green Practices Commission**

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## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **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.

b. ROARS article information

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- 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.