



**Green Practices Commission**

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 862-6767, Fax: (314) 862-0694

**Approved**

Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**October 11, 2012**

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees: Dianne Benjamin, Jerry Breakstone, Michael Glickert, Lynnette Hicks, Jeffrey Mishkin, Neville Rapp, Lois Sechrist

Absent: Helen Fuller, Tim Michels

Guest: Eric Karch (River des Peres Watershed Coalition), Lance LeComb (Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District), Karla Wilson (Deer Creek Watershed Coalition)

1. Roll Call at 6:30 p.m.
2. Opening Round:
  - a. Michael Glickert reported that the City is projecting a \$2 million budget surplus.
  - b. Jerry Breakstone noted that the Bird Habitat fundraiser at Centennial Commons raised \$10,000 and was a very nice event.
  - c. Lois Sechrist attended a Green Government Meet-Up at the Missouri Botanical Garden on September 29 and gave a presentation on green practices in University City.
  - d. Multiple upcoming events: Missouri Preservation Conference will be held in University City (October 24-26); Livable St. Louis Conference (sponsored by Trailnet, October 26); Sustainable Cities Conference (sponsored by Washington University, November 1-3), among other events.
3. Administrative items:
  - a. Draft Minutes from September 13, 2012 – approved as written.
  - b. The next meeting will be November 8, 2012, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Heman Park Community Center. Please note the earlier time (extended 30 minutes to accommodate agenda items).
4. Special Presentations:
  - a. RainScape Rewards program presented by Neville Rapp, Eric Karch and Karla Wilson.
    - i. Rainscaping cannot reduce major flooding but can help with sewer overflows and street runoff (due to impermeable paving).
    - ii. Rainscaping designs can accommodate 1” rains, which are 50% of our rain events. This will minimize pollutants running off into creeks.
    - iii. Methods of rainscaping: Install rain barrels, disconnect downspouts or install rain gardens. Look at the entire yard to manage storm water.
    - iv. The “River des Peres Watershed Coalition” has been working with the Musick Neighborhood Association (area: Olive/Hanley/Midland) to explain the benefits of RainScaping. Eleven homeowners are ready and willing to participate in “RainScape Rewards.”
    - v. The Rainscaping guide on the Missouri Botanical Garden website will go “live” January 1, 2013.
    - vi. RainScape Rewards Program will give homeowners a rebate up to \$2,000 to cover up to 75% of a project cost.

- vii. Though the focus is on the Deer Creek Watershed, homeowners throughout University City will be eligible, if the City Council passes a resolution supporting the program by December 31, 2012.
  - viii. January 1, 2013 launch, applications are due in March.
  - ix. Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) grants will fund the program. Staff salaries are being paid by grants from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Seventy-five percent of the funds are designated for homeowners and 25% for businesses, government and churches. A total of \$200,000 is available in the program, which will be open until funds are depleted. Spring and fall funding rounds, up to two years.
  - x. Approvals will be given prior to installation. Installation is inspected, and then reimbursement sent.
  - xi. Property owner must agree to maintain the installation for five years.
  - xii. The cost to University City for “Rainscape Rewards” will be negligible. However, some of the 0.5% sales tax University City collects for “Storm water and Parks” could be used in the future for other storm water control projects, according to Rich Wilson, Director of Public Works and Parks.
  - xiii. Council Member Glickert will work with Rich Wilson and City staff to draft the resolution and place on the City Council agenda.
  - xiv. The Green Practices Commission unanimously voted to endorse a Resolution for the RainScape Rewards program.
- b. MSD Presentation by Lance LeComb:
- i. MSD is both a wastewater and storm water management utility.
  - ii. The MSD issue at hand is storm water management and overflows to comply with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandate to improve water quality.
  - iii. St. Louis has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest system in the U.S., but not the 4<sup>th</sup> largest population.
  - iv. Clean Water Act – in dry weather, 100% of flow needs to go to a water treatment plant. St. Louis now deals with storm water overflows after many rain events.
  - v. A combined sewer system serves all of St. Louis and most of University City.
  - vi. Long term control plan as part of the EPA agreement.
  - vii. Green infrastructure is encouraged as part of the plan, required on commercial projects and suggested on residential projects (bio swales, containment ponds, rain gardens, green roofs, etc. as opposed to “gray” infrastructure (culverts, tunnels, etc.)
  - viii. The goal is to retain storm water on each property for a period of time (24 hours, for example) to minimize runoff and filter storm water before it is released to the watershed.
5. New Business - None
6. Old Business
- a. Lynnette Hicks and Jerry Breakstone assisted Mayor Welsch on her speech for the Harris Conservation Forum.
7. Reports – None
8. Closing Round
- a. November 3, 2012 – Electronics recycling event
  - b. October 13, 2012 – River des Peres Trash Bash
9. October 27 , 2012– Make a Difference Volunteer Day

10. Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 pm.