



Green Practices Commission

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DRAFT

Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

May 9, 2013

Location: City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room
Attendees Present: Dianne Benjamin, Jerry Breakstone, Scott Eidson, Helen Fuller, Tim Michels, Jeff Mishkin, Lois Sechrist, Michael Glickert (Council liaison), Lynnette Hicks (Staff liaison)
Absent: N/A
Excused: N/A
Unexcused: N/A
Guests: Mitch Leachman, St. Louis Audubon Society

1. Roll Call at 6:02 p.m.
2. Opening Round:
 - a. Michael Glickert
 - (1) Council is on schedule to passing the fiscal year 2014 budget by June 30, 2013.
 - b. Lynnette Hicks
 - (1) Recently met with Aaron Michels about his eco-village project.
 - c. Helen Fuller
 - (1) Sustainable Garden Tour on June 23, 2013 and she will email the event flyer to all members. The tour includes city and county locations.
 - d. Jeff Mishkin
 - (1) He has been asked to speak next month on sustainability and will share details later.
 - (2) He is also putting a fund together for investors to purchase a building and make it green. He will share more when he has additional information.
 - e. Tim Michels
 - (1) Wanted to point out that we are all missing the Taste of U City event tonight.
 - (2) He asked Michael to keep him posted on when the Energy Ordinance will be reviewed by Council.
 - f. Lois Sechrist
 - (1) Her son graduates from U City High School in two weeks and will attend the University of Colorado, in Boulder next fall. He plans to study physics, climate and atmosphere.
 - g. Dianne Benjamin
 - (1) Jefferson City and Branson have the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE). Branson seems to be using the program to re-build the areas damaged by the tornado.
3. Administrative items:
 - a. Minutes from the May meeting approved with corrections: change the month to March in the Administrative Items section 3a, revise the bullet point in the Land Use and Open Space action items section 5e and replace renewable with "efficiency" under the Energy action item section 6b.
4. New Business
 - a. None
5. Special Presentations
 - a. Mitch Leachman, Executive Director of the St. Louis Audubon Society, gave a presentation on the Bring Conservation Home program.

- b. He asked the Green Practices Commission to endorse the Bring Conservation Home program.
- c. He asked the City to continue to promote the program, possibly in the fall edition of the newsletter.

6. Old Business

- a. Ecosystems/Habitat – Subcommittee Report by Dianne Benjamin
 - (1) She asked Mitch Leachman to speak to the Commission about the Bring Conservation Home program. The program is already included in the activities of U City in Bloom and she thought that the City might also be interested and able to locate funding.
 - (2) The Bring Conservation Home program aligns with the residential goals included in the Sustainability Strategic Plan.
 - (3) She plans to sign up for a consultation for her yard to experience the Bring Conservation Home program first hand.
 - (4) Jerry mentioned that he and his wife are trained volunteers for the Bring Conservation Home program.
 - (5) Her goal is to pursue the program whether or not it is endorsed by the City.
- b. Air Quality– Subcommittee Report by Scott Eidson
 - (1) He has been working to develop a comprehensive packet for residential solar installations that would include information about tax rebates, credits, incentives, permit requirements, fees and the application process. This packet would make the solar installation process easier with a focus on two components: residential information and the municipal process.
 - (2) He will work with City staff to develop the municipal component which might include ways to streamline the permitting and inspection process, create a fee schedule and ways to incentivize the installation.
 - (3) This residential solar installation packet could assist University City in being recognized as a solar friendly community. Missouri is great for solar energy and compares to areas in Florida on the availability of sunshine to create solar power.
 - (4) Helen Fuller thought that the residential solar installation packet is a great idea, especially for neighborhood trustees.
 - (5) Jared Agee, Building Commissioner, can be contacted for information on the municipal process for residential solar installations.
 - (6) Jerry Mishkin mentioned that he works for a solar company in Clayton, Microgrid Solar. Their residential division has installed more solar panels than any other local company and they are very familiar with the laws and permitting. Microgrid Solar could be a resource.
 - (7) Tim Michels mentioned that the packet should include information on the utility companies since they could slow up the process. He has a folder of information that he could give to Scott to assist with the federal and utility requirements.
 - (8) The St. Louis County SAVES program would not apply since it is based on energy efficiency improvements to the home and not renewables.
 - (9) Scott mentioned that other cities have streamlined the permitting process, including Denver, Fort Collins, and Boulder County, Colorado.
- c. Goals Update Work Session
 - (1) Deferred to the June agenda.
 - (2) The subcommittee reports for June include Land Use/Open Space/Parks, Green Buildings and Energy.
- d. Annual Election of Officers
 - (1) The vote for the Secretary position will be delayed until a new member is assigned this summer.

7. Reports

- a. Councilmember Glickert
 - (1) None

8. Closing Round

- a. Lynnette Hicks
 - (1) Attended the Great River Greenway Centennial Trail kickoff last week.
 - (2) University City had a booth at the 2013 Earth Day event in Forest Park. Gave out Green Practices Commission brochures and educational booklets on 50 ways to go green.
- b. Jeff Mishkin
 - (1) Asked about 2013 Earth Day.
- c. Lois Sechrist
 - (1) Spoke at a healthcare sustainability conference in Boston last week. She presented information about waste management and composting.

9. Meeting Adjourned – 7:20 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 13, 2013, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave.