



**Green Practices Commission**

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**DRAFT**

**October 10, 2013**

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Dianne Benjamin, Helen Fuller, Jeff Mishkin, Lois Sechrist, Michael Glickert (Council liaison), Lynnette Hicks (Staff liaison)  
Absent: Scott Eidson, Tim Michels  
Excused: Scott Eidson, Tim Michels  
Unexcused: N/A  
Guests: Yvette Goods, Aaron Young (East-West Gateway), Jeri Rothe (UMSL Student)

1. Roll Call at 6:12 p.m.
2. Opening Round:
  - a. Jeff Mishkin
    - (1) Attended the Plan Commission meeting and they approved a resolution for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to proceed to City Council.
    - (2) He has also been attending several U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC) meetings and serves on the membership committee.
  - b. Dianne Benjamin
    - (1) Staff from the St. Louis Audubon Society's Bring Conservation Program recently inspected her native landscaping at her home in University City and she received the Gold Level certification.
  - c. Lois Sechrist
    - (1) Just returned from a GE Lighting seminar in Cleveland. She learned about LED lighting technology and new products being developed.
    - (2) Serves on the scholarship committee for USGBC. The committee is hosting a bike ride on October 20, 2013 in Souldard.
3. Administrative items:
  - a. Minutes from the September 12, 2013, meeting was approved without revisions.
4. New Business
  - a. None
5. Special Presentations
  - a. OneSTL Community Sustainability Plan – Aaron Young, East-West Gateway
    - (1) Aaron Young provided an overview of the One STL community sustainability project.

- (2) Aaron Young, Sustainability Planner, contact information: East-West Gateway, [aaron.young@ewgateway.org](mailto:aaron.young@ewgateway.org), 314-421-4220, Gateway Tower, One Memorial Drive, Ste. 1600, St. Louis, Mo 63102-2451

6. Old Business

a. Update – New Member Appointment

- (1) Applications were provided to Councilman Kraft for the appointment.
- (2) Lynnette will also send the applications to Lois for review.

b. Parliamentary Procedure Packet – information only

- (1) Lynnette emailed and provided a copy of the parliamentary procedures and Sunshine Law information to members.

c. Native/Adaptable Species Guidelines

- (1) This item came up based on a request from Dianne last month about City inspectors being trained to recognize native landscapes. Lynnette shared the comments with Jared Agee, Building Commissioner, who indicated that staff is educated about native landscapes; however the difficulty is distinguishing between natives and weeds. As a result, Jared asked if Commission members could develop a recommendation for a native landscaping policy that could be considered for the municipal code. Helen and Dianne will follow up on this item.
- (2) Helen suggested that getting information out to residents who want native landscapes that would include basic design principles and maintenance would be helpful. She feels that it is a two-way street for native landscaping. Residents also need to know about the amount of upkeep required and how to inform neighbors about their native gardens. She would also like the GPC to consider inviting the new U City in Bloom Director to a future meeting to discuss this topic.
- (3) Dianne suggested that the Bring Conservation Home program could help with education as well as other resources, including Wild One (a national organization) and Grow Native (a statewide organization). She mentioned that St. Louis Audubon staff feels that is unreasonable to expect a City employee to identify a native plant from a non-native plant and those employees should look for hardscaping to determine if the landscaping looks planned or is intentional by focusing on pathways, gardens, or benches at the property.
- (4) Dianne also read some best practices and learned that the height of plantings does not determine if pests or rodents will come around. Rodents come around due to trash or litter in the area.
- (5) Lois suggested that as the Commission encourages native plantings or gardens we must also work to raise the level of awareness for everyone. She asked that Dianne and Helen collect reference materials related to this subject to assist with creating a document or articles in the ROARS newsletter in the future.
- (6) Jared Agee is planning to attend the next GPC meeting to discuss this topic further.

d. Green Buildings – Subcommittee Report by Jeff Mishkin

- (1) He met with Jared and received an update on the process the City is going through to update the 2009 Construction Code to the 2012 International Energy Construction Code.
- (2) Jeff thinks that the GPC might be able to help educate the community on the differences in the codes.
- (3) Jared Agee is planning to attend the next GPC meeting to discuss this topic further.

e. Air Quality/Transportation- Subcommittee Report by Scott Eidson

- (1) None

f. Waste/Resource Conservation – Subcommittee Report by Lois Sechrist

- (1) Lynnette mentioned that a student has expressed interest in completing an assessment of businesses in the Loop area on food waste recycling which could tie into the recycling survey Lois is developing. City staff is waiting to hear more details about the student project.

g. Draft Resolution – Bring Conservation Home Program – Dianne Benjamin

- (1) Worked with Lynnette on putting together the draft resolution.
- (2) A copy of draft resolution was provided to GPC members and will need to go back to City staff for review and revisions, then Lynnette will return it to the GPC for review and vote; finally the draft will be submitted to City Council for approval.
- (3) Members should forward comments to Lynnette for the draft Resolution.
- (4) Councilman Glickert believes that the education component is important. He would also like to see if the City Forester could provide more education regarding City trees, like a monthly update of where they are trimming trees, post a list of Missouri native trees on the website, regular posts of tree information to the City's social media pages, writing articles for publishing in the ROARS newsletter, etc. He receives calls weekly regarding tree issues and would like to provide the information.
- (5) Dianne and Helen mentioned that a list of tree species in Heman Park and in U City is located on the Green Center and U City in Bloom websites.

h. GPC Webpage Review

- (1) Lynnette provided copies of the current GPC webpage for members to review and report back on ideas for a new layout and other revisions during a future meeting.

i. Social Media Green Updates

- (1) Dianne submitted several updates to Lynnette for posting.

## 7. Reports

a. Councilmember Glickert

- (1) The exterior of the new firehouse building is completed and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the new location in November.
- (2) The new Physician's Choice Wellness building is open at North and South and Olive.
- (3) The draft University City Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan will be voted on by Council on Monday, October 14, 2013.
- (4) The new Walgreens and childhood education center off Delmar are moving ahead.
- (5) Reported that crime is down in the City.
- (6) Aligned with green practices, Council has approved street sweeping in private subdivisions. About 20% of the City is comprised of private streets.

- (7) Jeff asked about the status of the Trolley. Councilman Glickert anticipates that the project will proceed since new project managers with expertise on transportation projects will assist with the process. The roundabout has been approved.

8. Closing Round

a. Lynnette Hicks

- (1) There is a 2012 International Green Construction Code Fundamentals workshop on November 15, 2013, from 8:30 am – 4pm at the Masonry Institute of St. Louis.
- (2) The City is registered in the 2013 Earth Hour City Challenge which allows the City to compete against other cities' sustainability commitments or climate actions goals.

b. Michael Glickert

- (1) Congratulated U City in Bloom for a successful garden tour.
- (2) The U City Dog Park has a barbeque fundraiser on Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 11 am to 5 pm at the dog park.

c. Jeff Mishkin

- (1) He is now working for a local company, Halcyon Shades which makes solar shades for residential and commercial buildings. Halcyon shades can contribute to 9 LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) points and also qualify for a tax deduction. The shades are good at allowing the visible light in while keeping out the radiation, heat and glare. The shades are made in St. Louis.

9. Meeting Adjourned – 7:35 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave.