



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

APPROVED – 010914

November 14, 2013

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Dianne Benjamin, Scott Eidson, Tim Michels, Jeff Mishkin, Lois Sechrist, Michael Glickert (Council liaison), Lynnette Hicks (Staff liaison)
Absent: Helen Fuller
Excused: Helen Fuller
Unexcused: N/A
Guests: Yvette Goods, Jake Barnett (727 Leland Ave.), Jared Agee (City Staff)

1. Roll Call at 6:05 p.m.
2. Opening Round:
 - a. Michael Glickert
 - (1) The Mayor’s Bike and Walkability Taskforce presented their final report to Council and asked that the Council strongly consider approving a Complete Streets Policy.
 - (2) Continuing to see less crime based on the weekly report from the Chief of Police.
 - (3) Development is continuing especially the Washington University and Walgreens projects.
 - b. Lois Sechrist
 - (1) Will attend the annual East-West Gateway awards luncheon tomorrow along with Lynnette and other City staff.
 - c. Tim Michels
 - (1) Attended the Missouri Energy Conference and the Indian Institute of Technology of Bombay Fan meeting at the Washington University campus. He learned more about the Gujarat Financial Tec-City that is being built to approach net zero standards.
 - (2) He has been meeting with faculty at Washington University and one person from Ward 2 may be interested in joining the Green Practices Commission.
3. Administrative items:
 - a. The minutes from the October 10, 2013, meeting was approved without corrections.
4. New Business
 - a. None
5. Special Presentations
 - a. Green Construction Code Updates and Native/Adaptable Species – Jared Agee, Building Commissioner

- (1) Jared gave an update on the Green Construction Code. City Council recently passed 13 Ordinances that included 11 different codes that adopted the 2012 codes. The City adopted the new swimming pool and spa codes for commercial and residential properties. The Energy Conservation Code was also adopted.
- (2) The next step is to adopt an ICC 700 Green Residential Standard which could serve as a guideline for the City to owners who want to build green residential homes and gives the opportunity for the GPC to make suggestions or recommendations to offer incentives, such as expedited plan review, reduced parking (commercial buildings only), etc. The City plan review is already under seven days.
- (3) He is working to put a committee together during spring 2014 to discuss the implications of ICC 700 for the community. A draft resolution will be developed and sent to the GPC for review prior to being presented to City Council. An incentive plan can be developed at a later time so that the standards for green building are not delayed. A standard allows owners to elect to build green; a code would require owners to build green.
- (4) Tim asked about the status of the Energy Ordinance. The Ordinance was reviewed and approved by City staff and be sent to for legal review. After legal review the Ordinance will be sent back to City staff for the cover letter, then to the City Clerk to add to the Council agenda for a public hearing and the 1st reading then a 2nd and 3rd reading. The City Council vote can occur after the 3rd reading or be postponed. Lynnette will send an update on the steps to GPC members.
- (5) The City is experiencing some problems with the maintenance of native landscapes or plantings. City inspectors have addressed the issues by determining if the plantings are cultivated or intentionally maintained. Jared asked the members to assist City staff in making that determination or distinction of cultivated gardens and vegetation.
- (6) Dianne agreed that native gardens are complex and did some research to try and locate a code on native landscapes and gardens.
- (7) Jared is open to owners growing whatever they want as long as it does not violate life and safety.
- (8) Lois stated that the Commission will consider the native and adaptive plant species issue as an action item; create a study group and return with recommendations.
- (9) Jared Agee, Building Commissioner/Deputy Director, contact information: City of University City jagee@ucitymo.org, 314-505-8514

6. Old Business

a. New Member Appointment - update

- (1) Lois is communicating with Councilmember Kraft about the appointment and will report back to members. Please ask interested candidates to contact Lynnette or Joyce Pumm (City Clerk) for the application.

b. Energy – Subcommittee Report by Tim Michels

- (1) The Commission unanimously voted to endorse and submit the draft Energy Ordinance document forward to staff to prepare as an Ordinance to City Council.
- (2) Tim stated that the draft Energy Ordinance document basically directs City administration to do anything that would be cost effective in terms of energy efficiency or renewable energy.
- (3) Jared Agee stated that the Energy Ordinance would only apply to municipal buildings.

c. Air Quality/Transportation – Subcommittee Report by Scott Eidson

- (1) He met with Jared to discuss the solar installing permitting process. He is working on the informational component for residents and ways to incentivize the permit application process. Scott will email a list of ideas to GPC members to review and make comments.
 - d. Bring Conservation Home Program – draft resolution update
 - (1) Dianne pointed out that one revision was made to the draft and recommends that the resolution moves forward. The Commission voted to endorse the resolution to move forward to City staff.
 - (2) Lynnette will prepare the resolution for the Council agenda during the December 9, 2013, meeting and Councilman Glickert recommended that at least one GPC member attend the meeting to answer any questions from Council.
 - e. GPC Webpage Review
 - (1) Deferred to the January meeting. Lois asked that members take some time to review the webpage printout and provide comments to help streamline and improve the current layout for the next meeting.
 - (2) Please contact Lynnette if you need another copy.
7. Reports
- a. Councilmember Glickert
 - (1) The state of Missouri communicates with municipalities on a monthly basis and sales tax revenues are about 5% ahead of last year. So revenues are expected to be better.
8. Closing Round
- a. Dianne Benjamin
 - (1) Lynnette provided her with information on how to properly dispose of her smoke alarm and she found out that the U City Fire Department does not take them back because they do not remove that many, since they mainly do installs. St. Louis County will take the smoke alarms.
 - (2) The DEA with EPA take back medications twice a year. She dropped off some medications in October and will talk to Helen about the GPC discussing this program in the future.
 - b. Lois Sechrist
 - (1) She is learning about waste management and green purchasing and she hopes to bring information to the Commission in the future.
 - c. Scott Eidson
 - (1) He has some green tips for posting on the City website, Facebook and Twitter.
 - d. Lynnette Hicks
 - (1) The U City in Bloom website featuring a list of native trees was linked to the U City website.
9. Meeting Adjourned – 7:28 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2014, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave.