



Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

DRAFT

January 9, 2014

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Dianne Benjamin, Scott Eidson, Helen Fuller, Tim Michels, Jeff Mishkin, Lois Sechrist, Lynnette Hicks (Staff liaison)
Absent: Michael Glickert (Council liaison)
Excused: Michael Glickert (Council liaison)
Unexcused: N/A
Guests: Yvette Goods, Jesse Gilbertson, U City in Bloom

1. Roll Call at 6:01 p.m.
2. Opening Round:
 - a. Tim Michels
 - (1) Attended the public meeting for the Parkview Gardens Plan and will attend the Council meeting to provide comments.
 - b. Lois Sechrist
 - (1) She is attempting to make contact with a Washington University student, Jake Lyonfields, who works in the Sustainability Department to collaborate with him on the recycling survey for businesses.
 - (2) She would like to look into the Green Power Challenge for U City. This is a program to bring renewable energy to all aspects of the City, residents and businesses.
 - c. Scott Eidson
 - a. He welcomed our guest, Jesse Gilbertson and is looking forward to hearing his presentation.
 - d. Helen Fuller
 - (1) The new edition of the ROARS newsletter is available. There is a retirement party for Mary Ann Shaw, on January 19, 2014 at City Hall. She is retiring after 28 years of service at U City in Bloom (UCIB). The information is also on the UCIB website at www.ucityinbloom.org
 - e. Dianne Benjamin
 - (1) She reported that St. Louis County has four drop-off locations for unused over-the-counter and prescription medications. The website is www.missourip2d2.org
3. Administrative items:
 - a. The minutes from the November 14, 2013, meeting were approved without corrections.
4. New Business

a. None

5. Special Presentations

a. Native Plants and Landscape Design – Jesse Gilbertson, Director of Horticulture, U City in Bloom

(1) Mr. Gilbertson discussed the benefits of and misconceptions about native landscapes and design.

(2) Jesse Gilbertson- jesse.allen.stl@gmail.com, 314-477-4549

6. Old Business

a. New Member Appointment - update

(1) The new member appointment will be made by Councilman Terry Crow and Lois will be meeting with him soon to discuss the current applications. If anyone else has a member recommendation please send an application to the candidate. We desire a member from Ward 3; however, it is not a requirement.

(2) Tim will commit to contacting Dan Giammer, a water specialist in the Engineering Department at Washington University to see if he is interested.

b. Ecosystems/Habitat (University City Weed Code and Ordinance)- Subcommittee Report by Dianne Benjamin

(1) Dianne, Helen and Lois formed a sub-group and met twice to discuss the native landscape project and made suggestions to the current University City weed code. Dianne has also talked to local experts on the topic and learned about a model weed ordinance used by Grow Native Missouri (state organization), Wild Ones (national organization), and the City of Creve Coeur. They all appear to be modeled after the ordinance in Wisconsin.

(2) Dianne modified the model ordinance for University City and asked for comments from members. Dianne will send out the draft to members next week and ultimately she will develop a final draft for members to review.

(3) The attachments provided by Dianne will be included in the meeting notes for discussion during the next meeting.

c. Bring Conservation Home Program – Resolution and Newsletter Article

(1) The resolution passed during the December 9, 2013, Council meeting. Mitch Leachman presented an overview of the program. Councilman Author Sharpe commented that he would like to see more beautification type programs in University City.

(2) The next step is to educate and notify residents about the new program. Mitch and Lynnette are working on an article to be published in the March/April edition of the ROARS newsletter. Program information was posted on the City Facebook and Twitter pages.

d. Water/Stormwater – Subcommittee Report by Helen Fuller

(1) Helen reported that an article about the final Round 3 of the Rainscape Rebates program was published in the January/February ROARS newsletter. In addition, anyone can enter a drawing for prizes by filling out an online survey at www.mobot.org/rainscaping

e. Energy Ordinance – update

(1) Lynnette reported that the draft Ordinance was returned to staff in the Community Development Department to determine where to place it within the Municipal Code.

(2) Tim mentioned revising the word “documentation” to “verification”(page three, Section Four, Item C); however, it is not necessary.

f. GPC Webpage Review

(1) Lynnette reported that there are limitations to the current website layout since it is a template, a page redesign to add drop-down menus would have to be completed by the design company for a fee; however, there is an opportunity to add more images and reduce the content.

(2) Lois feels that the page should have more white space by reducing the text, grouping topics and adding more links.

(3) Scott recommended creating a hyper-link table and to create our own categories or a directory, such as history, archives, or projects, etc.

7. Reports

a. Councilmember Glickert

(1) No Report

8. Closing Round

a. Jeff Mishkin

(1) Attended the USGBC (U. S. Green Building Council) annual meeting.

(2) He reported that the Ameren rebates for solar permitting are no longer available.

9. Meeting Adjourned – 7:23 pm

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 13, 2014, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave.