



Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

APPROVED

February 13, 2014

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Dianne Benjamin, Scott Eidson, Tim Michels, Jeff Mishkin, Dan Oerther, Lois Sechrist, Michael Glickert (Council Liaison), Lynnette Hicks (Staff Liaison)
Absent: Helen Fuller
Excused: Helen Fuller
Unexcused: N/A
Guests: Deb Henderson, Farmer's Market in the Loop, Leesa Johnson, Unified Vision

1. Roll Call at 6:10 p.m.
2. Opening Round:
 - a. Lynnette Hicks
 - (1) The Rainscape Rebates application deadline was extended until Friday, March 21, 2014.
 - b. Michael Glickert
 - (1) Council approved funds for the Heman Park Master Plan which will include improvements to the Heman Park Community Center. Master Plans are currently in progress for Millar and Lewis Park.
 - (2) The new fire station is open and in use by staff.
 - (3) The Washington University housing and retail projects are moving forward. Council approved the liquor license for the Peacock Diner. The diner is scheduled to open in August.
 - (4) Mayor Welsch was invited to speak at the United Nation Women's Commission in New York on March 12, 2014. She will contact the members of the Green Practices Commission for input and ideas. The purpose of the event is to highlight the achievements and challenges of promoting sustainable development and women's human rights in cities throughout the world.
 - c. Lois Sechrist
 - a. On April 8th the local chapter of the U. S. Green Building Council will host a workshop on Biodiversity Assessment and Evaluation: A Case Study. The speakers are Hunter Beckman and Brock Piglia, of SWT Design. The workshop is schedule from 2 to 5 p.m. and Lois will provide the event location information as soon as it is available.
 - d. Dianne Benjamin
 - (1) Provided an update on the federal requirements for native landscaping and will send members the executive order.

(2) The Drug Enforcement Agency is still taking applications for cities to become a host site to collect prescriptions medicines and drugs. She would like to see if the University City Police Department (UCPD) would participate. Lynnette will send the Green Practices Commission endorsement to the UCPD and also the item to the March meeting agenda to discuss further.

e. Jeff Mishkin

(1) Welcomed the new member, Daniel Oerther.

3. Administrative items:

a. Minutes from the January 9, 2014, meeting approved with no revisions.

4. Special Presentations

a. Proposed Midtown Farmer's Market – Deborah Henderson, Midwest Association of Farmer's Markets, 314-913-6632, midtownfarms1@yahoo.com

b. Deborah Henderson discussed her proposal for a Farmer's Market in the Loop. The market would operate from May to November on Saturdays from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm in the current market location and including portion of the municipal parking lot.

c. Lois Sechrist, Dianne Benjamin and Tim Michels provided input on the project. They would encourage Ms. Henderson to connect with the local Community Action Agency of St. Louis (CAA)(2709 Woodson Road, Overland, MO 63114, 314-863-0015, www.caastlc.org) to increase marketability in the community and that the vendors accept Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) payments on food purchases.

5. New Business

a. New Commission Member - Dan Oerther is the new member.

(1) Dan Oerther gave an overview of his background and interests.

b. Current members gave an overview of their background, interest and expertise on the Commission.

c. Commission Member Assignments

(1) Dan Oerther selected Waste and Resource Conservation for his focus area.

(2) Lois Sechrist selected Land Use, Open Space and Parks for her focus area.

6. Old Business

a. New Member Appointment - update

(1) Dan Oerther was appointed during the February 10th City Council meeting.

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

(1) Item delayed until the March meeting.

c. Waste/Resource Conservation – Plastic Bags Ban – Subcommittee Report by Lois Sechrist

(1) Item delayed until the March meeting.

d. Natives and Weed Code – Dianne

(1) Item delayed until the March meeting.

e. Energy Ordinance - update

- (1) The draft Energy Ordinance is scheduled for the February 24, 2014, Council agenda. Lynnette will send out a notice, if the date changes.
- (2) The document is being handled by Jared Agee, Building Commissioner in the Community Development Department.
- f. GPC Webpage Review
 - (1) Item delayed until the March meeting.
7. Reports
 - a. Councilmember Glickert
 - (1) The first draft of the budget is scheduled to be discussed during the February 24th Council meeting.
8. Closing Round
 - a. Lynnette Hicks
 - (1) There is kick-off for the 2014 St. Louis Business Challenge in March. The program announcement will be emailed out. Lois will share more information about challenge at a later date.
 - b. Lois Sechrist
 - (1) She was recently in Washington, D.C. at the Kaiser Permanente Center attending a food summit to learn how to purchase healthy food in large quantities needed for healthcare.
 - c. Tim Michels
 - (1) He was invited by Mayor Welsch to participate in the Women in the Neighborhood meeting to promote the Green Practices Commission.
 - d. Dianne Benjamin
 - (1) Asked about the status of the new and current Walgreens location. Michael Glickert mentioned that the new Walgreens is underway and there were not any final plans for the current Walgreens building.
 - (2) Asked about the Economic Development Manager position. Michael Glickert mentioned that the position is still open and being advertised.
 - (3) Any updates on the University City Chamber of Commerce? Michael Glickert mentioned that the Executive Director position has been filled. Dianne would like to have the new person attend a future GPC meeting.
 - e. Dan Oerther
 - (2) Excited to be a part of the Green Practices Commission.
9. Meeting Adjourned – 7:33 pm

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 13, 2014, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave.