



**Green Practices Commission**

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 862-6767, Fax: (314) 862-0694

Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**APPROVED**

**March 13, 2014**

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Dianne Benjamin, Scott Eidson, Tim Michels, Jeff Mishkin, Dan Oerther, Lois Sechrist, Lynnette Hicks (Staff Liaison)  
Absent: Helen Fuller, Michael Glickert (Council Liaison)  
Excused: Helen Fuller  
Unexcused: N/A  
Guests: Sara Edgar (Sierra Club), Leesa Johnson (Green Ambassadorship)

1. Roll Call at 6:05 p.m.
2. Opening Round:
  - a. Dan Oerther
    - (1) Dan shared information about the ban on water bottles in the City of San Francisco. Any water bottle under 21 ounces is no longer for sale on City property, except at special events and the airport. Locally, Washington University has a similar type of ban on their campus.
  - b. Tim Michels
    - a. Tim is a member of the University City Parks Foundation who recently had an event to raise money to install trees in local parks. He would like to work with Lois to review the elements of the Sustainability Plan that relate to the decision making process of the foundation and possibly make a joint presentation to Parks Foundation.
  - c. Scott Eidson
    - (1) Reported that dead fish were in the pond at Lewis Park.
  - d. Lynnette Hicks
    - (1) Reported that University City will be participating in the Green Business Challenge using the Leadership Scorecard. Jared Agee, Building Commissioner, will assist with the project.
3. Administrative items:
  - a. Minutes from the February 13, 2014, meeting approved as amended; in Item 6 F, change (3) to (1).
4. Special Presentations
  - a. Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign – Sara Edgar, Associate Organizing Representative, 314-644-0890, [sara.edgar@sierraclub.org](mailto:sara.edgar@sierraclub.org)
  - b. Beyond Coal Campaign is one of the leading national campaigns for the Sierra Club. It started as a grassroots project about seven years ago in response to the construction of proposed coal plants in Illinois. Coal plants convert coal into electricity. That initial campaign was successful in stopping

the plants from being built. The campaign is now focused on replacing coal with renewable energy options. Sara would like cities to pass a resolution to support the campaign and will be presenting the Beyond Coal Campaign to other cities.

- c. GPC members agree with the campaign efforts in varying degrees and would like the campaign message to be transparent, clear and complete.
- d. The topic will be added to the April meeting agenda under “Old Business” and GPC member comments will be sent to Sara.
- e. Public comments: Leesa Johnson requested to present information to the Commission next month about the Green Ambassadorship program.

#### 5. New Business

- a. University City Chamber of Commerce Introduction and Membership – Lois Sechrist
  - (1) Lois met with Matt Beaver, President of the University City Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber gave GPC a free membership to the Chamber and added the Commission to their mailing list.
- b. Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program in University City
  - (1) Lynnette reported that the sign up information for the DEA National Take-Back Initiative was sent to the Police Department. The April 26, 2014, collection event will be posted on the U City website and social media pages.

#### 6. Old Business

- a. Air Quality/Transportation- Subcommittee Report by Scott Eidson
  - (1) Scott reported that he received comments about the solar permitting project. The comments were sent to Jared for review. Within the next few months, he intends to send a draft of the project to GPC members to review.
- b. Waste/Resource Conservation – Plastic Bags Ban – Subcommittee Report by Lois Sechrist
  - (1) Lois reported that several cities have banned single use grocery type bags, specifically, communities in California. The material is deemed as low value and discouraged in single stream collection due to the tendency to jam the sorting equipment. It is recommended that the bags are returned to the grocery store.
  - (2) She reported that Washington University is working on a voluntary ban on plastic bags from their food service and retail vendors.
  - (3) She would like to consider approaching the larger retailers in University City about a voluntary plastic bag ban.
- c. Green Building – Subcommittee Report by Jeff Mishkin
  - (1) Jeff attended the Green Business Challenge meeting and would like the City to participate in the 2014 Challenge. He offered his assistance with the application process.
- d. Natives and Weed Code – Dianne Benjamin
  - (1) Dianne prepared a draft Weed Code and sent it to GPC members last month for feedback.
  - (2) The existing University City weed code does not distinguish types of plants or offer alternatives.

- (3) The draft Weed Code is ready for Jared Agee to review and will be sent to him prior to our next meeting. The draft can be discussed with Jared during the April meeting.
  - e. Energy – Subcommittee Report by Tim Michels
    - (1) Tim would like the Energy Ordinance to move forward in its' current form and asked for suggestions from members on how to move the process.
    - (2) Lynnette reported that Jared Agee would be sending his questions about the draft Ordinance to GPC members for input.
    - (3) Lois suggested that Jared Agee attend the April GPC meeting to discuss any issues.
  - f. Energy Ordinance - update
    - (1) This topic was covered under the Energy report by Tim Michels.
  - g. GPC Webpage Review
    - (1) Lynnette working to get assistance to revise the GPC website.
7. Reports
- a. Councilmember Glickert
    - (1) None
8. Closing Round
- a. Lois Sechrist
    - (1) Earth Day is April 22, 2014. The Earth Day Festival will be in Forest Park on April 27, 2014.
  - b. Dianne Benjamin
    - (1) She has been putting plastic bags in the single stream and was not aware that it was not acceptable. Lynnette reported that it was not a problem since the City recycling vendor will accept the bags along with single stream.
  - c. Dan Oerther
    - (1) March 22, 2014 is World Water Day, [www.unwater.org](http://www.unwater.org), 780 million people still do not access to water on a regular basis.
9. Meeting Adjourned – 7:30 pm

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, April 10, 2014, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave.