



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

June 12, 2014

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Dianne Benjamin, Scott Eidson, Tim Michels, Lois Sechrist, Lynnette Hicks (Staff Liaison), Stephen Kraft (Council Liaison)
Absent: Helen Fuller, Jeff Mishkin
Excused: Jeff Mishkin
Unexcused: Dan Oerther
Guests: Rose Jenkins, Brandon Towl

1. Roll Call at 6:08 p.m.
2. Opening Round:
 - a. Lynnette Hicks
 - (1) Participated in a University City booth at the Loop Farmer's Market. Shared information with visitors about the Green Practices Commission, Bring Conservation Home, Ameren incentives and building safety.
 - (2) The Heman Park Master Plan public meeting was on June 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Heman Park Community Center.
 - b. Dianne Benjamin
 - (1) The Bring Conservation Home article was published in the May/June edition of the ROARS newsletter. She will follow up with Mitch Leachman to see if the article generated business from University City residents.
 - (2) She asked about the status of the Executive Director of the University City Chamber of Commerce since she saw a job posting for the position. Councilmember Kraft reported that the previous Executive Director resigned due to health reasons.
 - c. Lois Sechrist
 - (1) Represented University City at the annual Green Government Meet-up at the Missouri Botanical Gardens Green Homes Festival on June 7, 2014. She reviewed current projects and discussed opportunities and challenges.
 - (2) Lois would like the Commission to endorse receiving technical assistance regarding flooding from the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - (3) She shared a waste management strategy tool kit issued by the Cincinnati Green Business Challenge with the group.
 - d. Tim Michels
 - (1) He also volunteered at the University City booth at the Loop Farmer's Market.

- (2) Attended a USGBC/Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) presentation about sustainability of the Cortex Complex. He used it as an opportunity to recommend they develop policy similar to the University City Energy Ordinance.
- (3) Attended a program for Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE). He would like the GPC to develop a University City program that could also be available in St. Louis County. He will report back to the group.
- (4) The City Manager asked Tim to draft an article on the new Energy Ordinance for the next edition of the ROARS newsletter.
- (5) Tim may have an opportunity to develop a Community Energy Distribution System concept with Washington University.

e. Councilmember Kraft

- (1) The Parkview Garden Plan will be voted on at the June 23, 2014 Council meeting. Sustainability issues are included in the plan. He encouraged GPC members to attend the meeting and provide input.
- (2) Mr. Kraft serves on the Park Commission. The Heman Park Master Plan will address the entire park as opposed to smaller projects within the park. The plan addresses how to deal with the River des Peres, the mulch pile and the Heman Park Community Center. He feels that the GPC could provide valuable input to this planning process.

3. Administrative items:

- a. Minutes from the April 10, 2014 meeting were approved.

4. Special Presentations

- a. Green Zones – Rose Jenkins, plasma@brick.net, 314-863-2241

- (1) Rose recommends that University City have “green zones” free of pesticides and herbicides that are known to destroy bees, butterflies and other wildlife. She would like City staff to consider safer products in parks. She plans to attend the next Park Commission meeting and to contact City staff to provide additional information.

- b. Community Solar – Brandon N. Towl, Brandon@wordshaveimpact.com, 314-276-6500, www.wordshaveimpact.com

- (1) Brandon recommends that the University City community use solar power. He is sharing information right now and plans to develop and implement specific projects in the future.

5. New Business

- a. 2014 University City Recycle Booklet

- (1) Lynnette reported that the production, printing and mailing of the booklet was funded by a waste reduction grant from St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District. The booklet can be updated and distributed each year to residents.

- b. New Council Liaison

- (1) Lois asked Councilmember Kraft about the process for the recent appointment of the Council Liaison to the GPC. Mr. Kraft stated that the Mayor assigned the appointments during the previous Council meeting.

- (2) Tim asked Councilman Kraft if he would provide information about his background and his interest in the GPC and sustainability.
- (3) Mr. Kraft has not served on the GPC before. His brother is a Professor of Fish and Freshwater Ecology; he learns about sustainability from him.
- (4) Tim recommended that Council rotate members on a 6-month basis to allow exposure to more Commissions. Lois will send a letter to the Mayor requesting more frequent Council rotations and to allow Commission input on appointments.

6. Old Business

a. Energy (Energy Ordinance update) – Tim Michels

- (1) The City adopted the Energy Ordinance recommended by the Green Practices Commission.
- (2) Tim is promoting the Ordinance to media outlets and to people interested in implementing projects.
- (3) Lois asked if there is a St. Louis County PACE program. Tim indicated that the County had a SAVES program that has ended. Lynnette will check with City staff on the process to develop a PACE program in University City.

b. Green Buildings – Jeff Mishkin (absent)

- (1) Item tabled to the July 2014 meeting.

c. Land Use/Open Space/ Parks – Lois Sechrist

- (1) Item tabled to the July 2014 meeting.

d. Green Business Challenge

- (1) Lynnette attended several meetings sponsored by the St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association. An update will be added to the scorecard for the new Energy Ordinance.

e. GPC Webpage – update

- (1) Lynnette requested a quote for webpage redesign work.

7. Reports

a. Councilmember Kraft

- (1) None

8. Closing Round

a. Dianne Benjamin

- (1) She has started recycling plastic bags at the grocery store. Collection boxes at retail locations accept many types of plastic bags.
- (2) She likes the new microphone system in Heman Park Community Center.
- (3) She is concerned about a few members missing meetings 2 or 3 times in a row. Lois noted that the Bylaws allow excused absences. Removal can take place after three unexcused absences.
- (4) She asked that the updated GPC member list show Rod Jennings as the 3rd Ward Councilmember.

b. Tim Michels

- (1) Tim followed up on the email about Passive Haus. The company was sharing information and did not request any action items.

(2) Tim plans to meet with Jared Agee to discuss Ameren incentive and rebate programs.

9. Meeting Adjourned – 7:25 pm

Next Meeting:

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

Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave.