



## Green Practices Commission

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### Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**July 10, 2014**

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Dianne Benjamin, Scott Eidson, Tim Michels, Jeff Mishkin, Lois Sechrist, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Stephen Kraft (Council Liaison)  
Absent Excused: Helen Fuller  
Absent Unexcused: Dan Oerther  
Guests: Rich Wilson (Director of Public Works and Parks)

1. Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call at 6:00 p.m.
2. Opening Round
  - a. Lois Sechrist
    - i) Lynnette Hicks has resigned from the City and has taken a job at Missouri Baptist Hospital. Jenny Wendt is our new Staff Liaison.
    - ii) Jenny Wendt has been employed by University City as an intern, a contractor, a part-time employee, and now a full-time employee. Her background is in chemistry in environmental labs, with a focus on environmental work.
    - iii) Rich Wilson reported that Public Works has been streamlined to include Solid Waste, Parks, Streets, Forestry, Golf and Fleet. Each division will have a superintendent and a project manager.
    - iv) Dan Oerther will be working in Washington D.C. on a year-long assignment and will resign from the Commission with the intent to rejoin in the future.
    - v) Helen Fuller will also resign from the Commission due to ongoing health reasons.
    - vi) Please send recommendations for the two open spots to Lois or Jenny. Lois will check for applications on file with the City Clerk.
  - b. Tim Michels
    - i. A revolving loan program for energy efficiency projects will be discussed under old business.
    - ii. The State of Missouri is developing a statewide energy plan and policy in order to comply with new EPA carbon regulations. Tim attended a meeting in Jefferson City to discuss the RFP and other processes.
3. Approval of Minutes  
The June 12, 2014 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes were approved.
4. Special Presentations  
No special presentations.

## 5. New Business

- a. Staff Liaison transition: Lynnette Hicks to Jenny Wendt
  - i. Lois indicated the Commission will help Jenny transition into the liaison position. Jenny indicated she was in learning mode and is looking forward to working with the group.
  - ii. Jeff Mishkin asked if Lynnette had shared the Commission's history and current issues with Jenny. Lynnette will be available via email to answer questions.
- b. Goal Setting Workshop
  - i. This item was tabled until the August meeting. The previous goals will be distributed to the group before the next meeting in order to review and prepare for the workshop.

## 6. Old Business

- a. Green Buildings – Report by Jeff Mishkin
  - i. Jeff attended the 11<sup>th</sup> annual LEED Showcase at the U.S. Green Building Council, Missouri Gateway Chapter meeting. There were three projects reviewed: The Lofts at Washington University in the University City Loop, which is pursuing LEED Platinum certification; Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage, pursuing both LEED Platinum and the Living Building Challenge certification. Dancing Rabbit's goal is to reduce their footprint by 90% from a typical American home. The 3<sup>rd</sup> project was @4240 in the Cortex District including customized labs, office space, planned walkability and pursuing LEED certification.  
The presentations are on the USGBC website: <http://www.usgbc-mogateway.org/2014/01/11th-annual-leed-showcase/>
- b. Water/Stormwater – Report by Helen Fuller (absent)
- c. Land Use/Open Space/Parks – Report by Lois Sechrist
  - i. Jenny discussed the Heman Park Master Plan public meeting. Recommended changes are a drive through and loop road from Midland around the park instead of the current route of driving to the end of the park and turning around. The compost and mulch piles are planned to be relocated and the Community Center will be removed for park space. Centennial Commons would be expanded to absorb space from the Community Center. Mixed use playing fields will be added to replace dedicated sports fields.
  - ii. Rich added that additional crossings are recommended across the River Des Peres. Ballard King (design consultant), will recommend how to increase revenue from park services.
  - iii. Ed Mass, Chair of the Parks Commission, would like greater input from the Green Practices Commission.
  - iv. Tim Michels pointed out there were actually two different plans, one of which does not change the east end of the plan (the mulch piles, the Community Center, and the Public Works buildings). Tim suggested the River Des Peres on the south side of the park be enclosed. Rich Wilson indicated this could create a flooding problem. Additional discussion on

this topic ensued; the outcome was that this subject should be evaluated further.

- v. Permeable paving, LED lighting, flattened banks with native plantings are several sustainability features incorporated into the Master Plan.
- d. Ecosystems/Habitat – Dianne Benjamin
  - i. The St. Louis Audubon “Bring Conservation Home” project received new registrations after the UCity ROARS news article. Another news article will be planned to bring the subject to the public again.
  - ii. Dianne met with Jared Agee to improve the Weed Ordinance, incorporating language to avoid citations associated with native plantings. Jared is working to streamline the policy.
- e. Regional Chamber and Growth Association Green Business Challenge – update
  - i. Lynnette relayed information to Jenny on the program. Jenny attended the LEED Showcase, which provided credits for University City.
- f. GPC Website
  - i. No update
- g. Energy – Tim Michels
  - i. A State of Missouri Energy Loan Program has \$2,000,000 available to Cities for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Tim would like to determine if projects in the energy audit would qualify for the program. Lighting retrofits, solar installations and condo shares in wind farms were discussed as options.

## 7. Reports

- a. Council Liaison Report: Councilmember Kraft
  - ii. The Parkview Gardens Plan will be on the agenda at the following Council meeting with the recommendation to incorporate the plan into the University City Master Plan.
  - iii. Dianne asked if a new Director of the Chamber of Commerce has been hired. Mr. Kraft did not have a status update. .

## 8. Closing Round

- a. Tim Michels indicated there was an article in the ROARS on the new energy ordinance.
- b. Jeff Mishkin asked Steve Kraft about the status of the Trolley. City Council approved the conditional use permit. Rich Wilson indicated the project bids are due July 31. If the project is within budget, groundbreaking is planned in October. Energy efficient lighting is included in the project.
- c. Dianne indicated the Native Plant Society annual meeting was at the Green Center in June. Dianne also said that Cindy Gilberg, a native plant champion, recently passed away.

## 9. Meeting Adjourned – 7:25 pm