



## Green Practices Commission

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### Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**August 14, 2014**

**DRAFT**

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Scott Eidson, Tim Michels, Jeff Mishkin, Lois Sechrist, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison)

Absent Excused: Dianne Benjamin, Stephen Kraft (Council Liaison)

Absent Unexcused: Dan Oerther

1. Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call at 6:05 p.m.
2. Opening Round
  - a. Jeff Mishkin attended the RCGA Green Business Challenge meeting at Graybar focusing on energy efficiency.
  - b. Lois attended the “Make a Difference” event through Missouri Interfaith Power and Light and US Green Building Council. Among other speakers, meteorologist Mike Roberts spoke about Climate Change.
3. Approval of Minutes  
The July 10, 2014 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes were approved.
4. Special Presentations  
No special presentations.
5. New Business
  - a. Update on Commission member terms and renewals: Dianne’s and Lois’s membership terms expired 8/8/2014. Confirmation needs to be made if renewal can be voluntary or if reappointment by council is necessary.
  - b. University City green projects – Jenny went over the current “green” projects in the Public Works Department:
    - i. The City will apply for a grant for River des Peres cleanup in Heman Park.
    - ii. The City is researching food composting, both at the business/restaurant level and a residential pilot program. Lois will check with Phil Valko at Washington University on the status of a composting study begun by a student.
    - iii. MSD has implemented MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer systems) regulations and the City is updating the associated code.
    - iv. The City is considering adding plastic bag recycling containers to the recycling drop-off at the Community Center.
    - v. The parking garage lighting has been purchased and the City should

- receive approximately \$2,500 in Ameren rebates.
  - vi. The weed ordinance will be further developed in the fall.
  - vii. Jenny will meet with Jared regarding the feasibility of applying to the Missouri energy loan program.
  - viii. The large parking lot behind Cicero's will be repaved including permeable paving at the perimeter.
  - ix. There will be an electronics recycling event November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center.
  - x. Jenny will check the status of energy audit projects to determine which projects have been completed.
- c. Goal Setting Workshop – The goals set by the GPC in 2012 will be revisited, reviewed, and updated.
- i. Ecosystems/Habitat
    - a. Need baseline of carbon sequestration (amount of biomass), carbon sink.
    - b. Currently the City is participating in the Bring Conservation Home program.
    - c. The City can also participate in Milkweed for Monarchs, adding beehive locations (U City in Bloom has looked into this), and adding bat houses.
  - ii. Water/Stormwater
    - a. River Des Peres Master Plan – Megan Fuhler is working on a grant for cleaning and clearing along the River Des Peres.
    - b. The City co-sponsored the Rainscapes Rewards program in 2012-2013, and implemented several rain garden demonstration projects.
  - iii. Air Quality/Transportation
    - a. Scott will review the Bike/Walk Master Plan and recommend projects for collaboration.
    - b. The trolley project should include opportunities to promote air quality.
    - c. Other ideas include collaborating with Great Rivers Greenway and Big Shark, creating EV charging stations, and preferred parking for hybrid/electric vehicles.
    - d. Creating or enforcing a no-idling policy for city vehicles, buses, delivery trucks etc. would promote air quality improvements.
  - iv. Waste/Resource Conservation
    - a. Lois and Jenny will collaborate on a recycling survey for businesses, starting with the Loop. Jenny is researching which businesses have recycling and which businesses do not.
    - b. Commercial/residential food composting is also being researched.
    - c. Promoting plastic bag recycling or a plastic bag ban would also contribute to waste reduction.

## 6. Old Business

- a. Air Quality/Transportation – Report by Scott Eidson  
Scott will obtain a copy of the Bike/Walk Master Plan to see how it can be implemented to improve air quality.
- b. Waste/Resource Conservation – Report by Jenny Wendt (in place of Dan

Oerther)

- i. Jenny discussed possibility of food composting. St. Louis Composting works with Total Organics Recycling (as the collector and transporter) currently for commercial accounts throughout St. Louis. There may be an opportunity for a residential pilot project. The next steps are as follows:
    - a. Check on availability and timeline of grant opportunity through St. Louis County/Jefferson County Solid Waste District.
    - b. Lois will check the interest in the 71xx block of Pershing for the possible residential pilot.
    - c. Determine if Loop Business District would be interested in food composting.
    - d. Talk to Frida's restaurant; Frida's is a customer of Total Organics Recycling and St. Louis Composting.
  - c. Heman Park Master Plan/Parks Commission – Report by Lois Sechrist  
Lois attended the Heman Park Master Plan public meeting. The plan is very general in terms of sustainability, but the consultant responsible for the plan (SWT) has a depth of experience with LEED and Sustainable Sites. There is confidence in SWT to stress the importance of sustainability throughout the master plan.
  - d. Recruiting for two Commission open positions  
The two Commission positions will be filled by the Council members who appointed the resigning members. Lois will work with the Council members to determine if there are applications and who will be appointed.
  - e. GPC Website – update  
Jenny will set up a meeting with Jared and Scott to determine how to update the web page.
2. Closing Round
    - a. Tim Michels attended a USGBC/ASHRAE meeting on “Sustainability as a Strategic Initiative”. The speaker, a Marine General, discussed the Harvard Study of Sustainable Business.
    - b. Jeff Mishkin will report on Chamber of Commerce activities in the future.
  3. Meeting Adjourned – 7:45 p.m.