



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

DRAFT

September 11, 2014

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Tim Michels, Dianne Benjamin, Jeff Mishkin, Lois Sechrist, Richard Juang, Robert Elgin (approved member, not sworn-in yet), Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Rod Jennings (Council Liaison – filling in for Steve Kraft)

Absent Excused: Scott Eidson

1. Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call at 6:08 p.m.
2. Opening Round
 - a. Lois discussed Roberts Rules and Dynamics Governance.
 - b. Tim Michels discussed retrocommissioning for existing Washington University buildings through the Building Energy Research Center
 - c. Dianne indicated the drug take-back program by the US-DEA is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th. The closest location will be Clayton.
 - d. Lois requested amending the agenda to include time sensitive matters and new Commission members.
 - e. Rod Jennings suggested updates be made at Centennial Commons to the outdated HVAC system and suggested that the City consider installing solar panels.
3. Approval of Minutes
The August 14, 2014 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes were approved with no changes.
4. Special Presentations
No special presentations.
5. New Business
 - a. Two new members have been selected and approved by City Council: Bob Elgin and Richard Juang.
 - i. Bob Elgin discussed his experience in the field of energy. He will be working with the Sierra Club on retrofits in St. Louis City. He was previously a member of the University City School Board.
 - ii. Richard Juang is an attorney at Polsinelli. His background is biomedical engineering. He has lived in University City for 11 years.
 - iii. All members discussed their backgrounds.

- b. A “Build a Better Block” event will take place at 7135 Olive at the northwest corner of Olive and Midland on October 2nd from 4 – 7pm.
 - i. Jenny talked about the GPC handing out seeds and information on “Milkweed for Monarchs” to promote the idea of using some of this lot for planting milkweed and other native butterfly friendly plants.
 - ii. Tim Michels discussed taking this to a national level working with the US DOT to promote this type of planting along highways across the country.
- c. Jenny discussed the no-idling policy in the University City municipal code. The code specifically refers to no idling for more than 3 minutes when it is below 90 degrees. It was agreed that this code should be corrected.
 - i. The University City administrative rules and regulations indicate no-idling over 3 minutes regardless of temperature, with a possible fine or jail time when not followed.
 - ii. St. Louis County ordinance matches the University City administrative rules and regulations, without the fine or jail time.
 - iii. Dianne indicated that Grace Hill in the City of St. Louis received a grant focusing on no idling education and awareness. They may have good input on this topic.
 - iv. Jeff indicated he did not agree with “enforcement” but focus should be on awareness and education. All members agreed with this.
- d. The 2015 meeting dates were discussed and agreed upon. The meetings will occur the second Thursday each month. No meeting will be held in December.
- e. Dianne’s and Lois’s terms expired in August 2014. Both terms have been renewed.
- f. The state low interest loan program for energy efficiency projects was discussed. It was decided that certain steps needed to be taken to proceed.
 - i. Jenny will inquire if this needs to be in the form of a resolution, and if so, does it need to go to Council?
 - ii. Once that is determined, then it will be decided if this loan should be pursued.
 - iii. If the timeframe allows the process to be complete prior to the due date of October 31, it was agreed to move forward and pursue.

6. Old Business

- a. GPC Website – Jenny will get training to update the webpage.
- b. The Green Building subcommittee report will be tabled until the GPC goals are established.

7. Closing Round

- a. Jeff Mishkin: The Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a free breakfast workshop on Tuesday, September 23rd on the topic of small business.
- b. Bob Elgin will call the City Clerk to be sworn in.
- c. Jenny discussed the recycling event brochure. She will email an electronic copy to all members for input.

8. Meeting Adjourned – 7:33 p.m.