



## Green Practices Commission

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### Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

#### November 13, 2014

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Lois Sechrist, Dianne Benjamin, Jeff Mishkin, Bob Elgin, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Steve Kraft (Council Liaison)

Absent Excused: Scott Eidson, Tim Michels

Absent Unexcused: Richard Juang

1. Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call at 6:02 p.m.
2. Opening Round
  - a. Dianne discussed the University City electronics recycling event.
  - b. Jeff Mishkin and Jenny Wendt attended a RCGA Green Business Challenge seminar at Burns & McDonnell in Chesterfield discussing the success of a retrocommissioning project at a national airport.
  - c. Jeff Mishkin attended a breakfast meeting of Forestry Commission members and others. The group discussed the need for Commissions to come together with ideas and action items.
  - d. Steve Kraft sent the electronics recycling event information to his constituents.
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. The October 9, 2014 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes were approved with two changes.
4. Special Presentations
  - a. Ray Lai, Department of Community Development, discussed the University City Comprehensive Plan process.
    - i. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to create development goals for the City for 10 – 20 years.
    - ii. The Comprehensive Plan process will take approximately 18-24 months. The Plan is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2015 or mid-2016.
    - iii. A city-wide workshop will be held November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the University City Library for residents and business owners to give input on the plan.
    - iv. Issue-specific groups will be created for Environment, Transportation, Land Use/Parks, etc.
    - v. People who cannot attend the workshop can go to the website to access an online survey and a mapping tool.
    - vi. Dianne brought up the concern of public safety and justice. No specific category in the Comprehensive Plan covers this topic, but Ray indicated this topic will be included.

## 5. New Business

- a. Jenny discussed a possible upcoming bond issue and long term capital improvements that are being considered by a Capital Committee made up of City Council members and residents.
  - i. Staff has been working on items for the committee to discuss and evaluate. The items relevant to the Green Practices Committee are 1) Solar Panels on City buildings, and 2) Installing energy efficient city-owned lighting to replace Ameren-owned street lighting.
- b. Lois reviewed Dynamic Governance rules for new members to understand how meetings are transacted.

## 6. Old Business

- a. Jenny indicated the State Energy Loan Application has been turned in.
  - i. Items in this application include lighting, HVAC, and the replacement of the pool pump.
  - ii. The results will be announced at the end of December 2014 or the beginning of January 2015.
- b. Lois gave an overview of the UCity Build a Better Block Event on November 1, held at the corner of Midland and Olive.
  - i. The Green Practices Commission received positive feedback regarding using some of the land for butterfly friendly plantings such as milkweed.
- c. The RCGA Green Business Challenge score cards are due Monday, November 17. Jenny will give an update on University City's results at the next meeting.

## 7. Reports

- a. No reports were given this month. Updated reporting assignments are listed below:
  - i. Ecosystems/Habitat: Dianne Benjamin – January, April, July, October
  - ii. Water/ Stormwater: Richard Juang – January, April, July, October
  - iii. Air Quality/ Transportation: Scott Eidson – February, May, August, November
  - iv. Waste/ Resource Conservation: Bob Elgin - February, May, August, November
  - v. Land Use/ Open Space/ Parks: Lois Sechrist – March, June, September
  - vi. Energy: Tim Michels – March, June, September
  - vii. Green Buildings: Jeff Mishkin – March, June, September
- b. Mr. Kraft did not have a City Council report.

## 8. Closing Round

- a. Jeff discussed the appreciation dinner and how nice it was. He also congratulated Tim Michels (with Staff's assistance) for completing and submitting the State Energy Loan application before the deadline.
- b. Lois attended a meeting at Washington University regarding the Sustainability Certificate programs offered through University College. There was a discussion of possible field work connected to the programs. Lois spoke about the many possible projects that the students could help the City with, including a waste audit. Dianne suggested a Solid Waste Business District project in the Delmar Loop, Olive Business District, or the Bartmer Industrial area.

9. Meeting Adjourned – 7:22 p.m.