



Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

January 8, 2015

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Lois Sechrist, Dianne Benjamin, Jeff Mishkin, Bob Elgin, Richard Juang, Tim Michels, Scott Eidson, Sinan Alpaslan (as Staff Liaison), Steve Kraft (Council Liaison)

Absent Excused: Jenny Wendt (staff Liaison)

1. Meeting called to Order, Roll Call at 6:00 p.m.
2. Opening Round
 - a) Jeff Mishkin will take the exam for the LEED Green Associate Certification
 - b) Jeff Mishkin congratulated Tim Michels for working with Jenny and City Staff to secure the State Energy Loan for the City.
 - c) Bob Elgin attended a Sierra Club meeting about new homes.
 - d) Tim Michels is exploring/researching Community Solar Programs with Mayor Welsch.
 - e) Lois would like to take a class (Finance and Accounting in Sustainability) but it will be Thursday nights from 6 – 8:30pm in the spring and she may miss two meetings. There were no objections. Scott, Jeff, and Tim will chair the meetings in her absence.
3. November 13, 2014 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes approved with a minor spelling correction.
4. New Business
 - a) NFWF grant application – Jenny worked with Community Development on a grant application for improvements to the northwest corner of Olive and Midland. These improvements include a Community Garden, Rain Garden, Native and adaptive planting, Solar panel, LED lighting, Permeable paving.
 - b) St. Louis Jefferson Solid Waste Management grant application – Recycling Drop-off area improvements – was submitted in December. Results will be announced in early February.
 - c) Loop commercial recycling program start-up – Jenny visited the Loop Special Business District meeting to start the discussion of standardizing commercial recycling in the Loop. A St. Louis County Grant opportunity will be used to try to get funding for this project. Bob Elgin will work with Jenny on the solid waste programs.
 - d) River City Recycling Rewards Program/Grant Opportunity – Catherine Werner from St. Louis City will be contacted to determine if this is something University City could learn from. The program is for St. Louis City residents but UCity could look at it as a model.

5. Old Business

- a) State Low Interest Energy Loan project granted. Tim indicated a new loan application will be coming out in spring and it would be beneficial for the City to apply for this to use for street lights, heating the soccer dome, solar panels etc.

6. Reports

a) Ecosystems/Habitat – Dianne Benjamin

- i. The GPC had recommended that the weed ordinance be ready by Spring 2015. Jenny will track this and Mr. Kraft will follow up with it.
- ii. Dianne will talk with the Green Center regarding presenting to the GPC.
- iii. Dianne and Lois will participate in the environmental working group for the Comprehensive plan update.
- iv. Dianne will find out the participation rates in the Bringing Conservation Home program.

b) Water/Stormwater – Richard Juang

- i. The group brainstormed ideas to assist Richard with developing projects.
- ii. Stormwater and site management are credit components for LEED projects, so it would be beneficial to be familiar with this topic.
- iii. Richard will check with MSD about the Deer Creek Watershed rain garden program, RainScape Rewards.
- iv. Richard will explore resources from the River Des Peres Watershed Coalition.

c) Council Liaison Report: Councilmember Kraft is pleased with the Commission's ideas and suggested that if City Staff does not have expertise in certain areas, the commission can help find experts.

- i. The proposed Delmar Harvard residential development is located in a historic area. The developer's plans are in the preliminary stages and have not been approved.

7. Closing Round

- a) Tim suggested the City have a heating/cooling district for the library, police department, and City Hall.
- b) Dianne indicated the weekend would be "Eagle Days". There will be shuttles to the Chain of Rocks Bridge for eagle viewing.
- c) Lois will provide Jenny with the most recent goals update.

8. Meeting adjourned: 7:20pm