

**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2007**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 2nd Floor, Westview Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: John Ware, Faith Brennan, Marty Kraft, Jim van Eman, Stephen Hopkins, Carol Adams, Rachel Treanor, Richard Rocha, Jim Scott

Others present: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Sherri Lewis & Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development; Scott Cahail – Water Services; Matt Gigliotti, Law Department; Ron McLinden – Sierra Club; Tom Jacobs & Rebecca Karbaumer - MARC; Sarah Shmigelsky

John Ware, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 pm; A quorum was present

A. Introductions were made by all attending

B. G-Mail Account – Stephen Hopkins

The G-mail account established is to function as a library, or filing system, of critical documents for the EMC. The ID and password were made available to the Commissioners. A significant problem is that the account is not accessible by City computers. Matt Gigliotti expressed concern about public access to documents of the EMC. He stated that e-mails sent to the g-mail account could also be sent to another e-mail system that might be more accessible. The EMC thanked Stephen for his work in setting up the account.

C. Minutes – Minutes of the meetings of September and October, 2007 were reviewed. Carol Adams made a motion, seconded by Jim van Eman, to accept the minutes of the meetings of September and October, 2007 as presented. The motion passed.

Two letters previously authorized by the EMC to be sent to the Mayor and City Council and members of the City Plan Commission did not get delivered. John Ware was asked to update the mailing date, sign the updated letters and get them delivered as appropriate by November 15, 2007.

D. Committee Reports.

1. Transportation – Stephen Hopkins – The Chastain Light Rail Plan was repealed by City Council which is planning for a new ballot issue in 2008. The Kansas City Star released a concept plan to be funded locally for modern streetcars which would be less expensive but would run slower. Ron McLinden noted the citizens task force, of about 36 people, has met regularly for 6 months to develop a new light rail package. The draft plan encompasses about 12 miles from Vivion Rd south to the Plaza with a branch east to Prospect at some point on the line. There is the possibility Clay Chastain may file suit which would trigger use of the Nutter repeal petition on the February, 2008 ballot. The 3/8¢ tax for KC ATA must still be renewed leaving 1/8¢ tax authorization. The task force recommends submitting a package for federal funds while the Mayor prefers a regional approach rather than a starter line. Jim Scott believes the EMC should continue to

- voice its support of a light rail system but in the context of an updated comprehensive plan. John Ware noted that a light rail line is consistent with the Climate Protection Plan process and recommendations and the EMC should help the City envision a sustainable future as the basic principle.
2. Climate Protection – Jim van Eman – The Phase 2 process includes 2 work groups – (a) Buildings and Infrastructure, and (b) Transportation and there are several sub-groups which are active.
 3. Solid Waste Management – Jim van Eman
 - a. The main issue, with household hazardous waste management, is how to better educate the general public to reduce purchases of toxic supplies.
 - b. Construction & Demolition Waste Management discussion is successfully moving forward with a workshop sponsored by the City. A second level in this process will be a web seminar (webinar) early in December. Finally, a DVD of the webinar will be posted online for general access.
 - c. There will be a tour on November 16, 2007 of the new LaFarge waste to energy plant in Sugar Creek that will burn otherwise non-recyclable plastics and other waste products.
 - d. MARC and EPA are sponsoring a webinar about the waste stream and climate change
 - e. Climate Protection Planning process – Jim expressed that there seems to be a lack of sense of an over-arching process and a need for a plan for implementation of Phase 1 recommendations. There seems to be a dislocation between the Steering Committee and the Work Groups. A general discussion followed about the difference between planning and implementation, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, between a strategic plan and programming. Carol Adams challenged the EMC to figure out how to cheerlead for what has been accomplished.
 4. Compliance – Rachel Treanor – Andy Savastino distributed copies of the Environmental Management System Annual Report.
 - 4-a. LEED – John Ware – No report
 5. Water & Air Quality – Carol Adams
 - a. Wet Weather Panel - Studying utility rates (cost of service); A citizens committee is to be appointed to look at financials; The issue is environmental justice in the context of raising rates; this will help determine how fast the recommendations can be implemented. A second issue is how long the US EPA will allow the City to implement the changes/improvements.
 - b. Green Solutions Policy is now the implementation framework addressing assignments, responsibility and staffing needs. Assistant City Manager John Franklin has convened a group of department heads which has put together a draft administrative regulation and a detailed plan. This will be City-wide in scope and not just for Water and will change the way the City does business. Most recently, the Parks Board has endorsed its own Green Solutions Policy.
 6. Membership and Appointments – Carol Adams – Carol will work with Rachel Treanor and Dennis Murphey to address the 7 open Commission seats.
 7. Communications & Outreach – Faith Brennan – A table of City Council members, their issues of interest and their committee assignments was passed out for Commissioners to begin to improve communications with City Council.
 8. Energy – Jim Scott – No report

9. Local Foods – Marty Kraft – The No-Till Workshop was held 2 weeks ago and, with 65-70 attendees, was well received. There were 2 good speakers and a DVD will be produced. John Ware noted that local foods is a big topic that was addressed at the GreenBuild conference.

E. OEQ Report - Dennis Murphey

1. The local mayor's conference focusing on climate protection was held November 2, 2007. A video of the conference has been posted, by Donovan Mouton, on www.kc.247townhall.org where there is also a public blog.
2. Stream Buffer Ordinance – Another meeting of the City Planning Commission is scheduled for November 20, 2007 to review the entire development code. There is no need for further presentations by the EMC. Influence on the issue should be with City Council. The code will be heard in the Planning and Zoning Committee.

- F. Announcements – Bruce Wiggins noted that Rebecca Karbaumer, MARC, will be moving to Germany. The EMC offered their “thank you” for her environmental work.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm. Next meeting is December 12, 2007 at 4:00 pm. in the Westview Room at MARC (2nd Floor).