

**Environmental Management Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2007**

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

Attendance

Commissioners present: Bob Berkebile, John Ware, Faith Brennan, Marty Kraft, Jim van Eman, Carol Adams, Rachel Treanor

Others present: Andy Savastino, Sherri Lewis, Ashley Porta & Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development; McLinden, Claus Wawrzinek – Sierra Club; Dustin Jensen – Metropolitan Energy Center, Airick Leonard West – Ivanhoe Neighborhood, Ben Evans & Mark Dixon – Your Environmental Road Trip (YERT), Wick Thomas & Lauren Miller – TWIG (Think, Work, Inspire, Grow).

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

- A. Introductions were made by all attending
- B. Implementation Status – 32 Recommendations of Phase 1 of the Climate Protection Plan – Jerry Shechter
 1. Jerry recapped the update which Dennis Murphey had provided the EMC in September.
 2. Next, Jerry addressed a range of items and issues for which updates have not previously been provided. These included:
 - a. City has adopted a Green Solutions Policy that applies to all City departments. In addition, the City Council has adopted a long-term goal to make KC, MO a nationally recognized green city within 5 years.
 - b. City is beginning to review the existing Environmentally Preferable Procurement Ordinance to update it and bring it into line with the newly established green policy.
 - c. A staff proposal for a Green Permitting Program has been drafted and is being reviewed. Bob Berkebile wants to make sure this includes C&D Waste Management requirements.
 - d. KC, MO is the first city in the EPA 4-state region to have completed at least part of a climate protection plan.
 - e. Have been looking Chicago Climate Exchange membership but believe there is little benefit to us at this time – and it is expensive to join.
 - f. An internal carbon offset program has been suggested for review as have several other programs.
 - g. General Services/Facilities Management is considering hiring an Energy Manager to work on energy improvements in city facilities.
 - h. Bob Berkebile noted that the Clinton Climate Initiative is coming to KC and that we need to be able to work with them. Jerry, then, reported on the EPA Sustainable Skylines Initiative. The initiative includes such partners as: KC, MO, KDHE, MDNR, MARC, Johnson County, the Unified Government, Bridging The Gap. Six projects have been defined and a press conference is being planned for the end of January, 2008. Bob Berkebile asked for a 1-page

description of the KC, MO project to determine if a partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative is possible.

- i. LEED certification of buildings are underway or there are plans to submit for certification, including: Bartle Hall Ballroom Expansion, SE Community Center, Black Archives, KCPD Metro Patrol Station, Mohart Center.
- j. LEED training is on-going for City staff.
- k. Construction & Demolition Waste Management Training has been accomplished in several formats: (1) panel discussion, (2) web seminar, and (3) DVD of the webinar to be placed on the web for public access.
- l. Alternative fuels – (a) City received award for having 50% of its fleet converted to alternative fuels, (b) KC-ATA may be seeking advice on how to best switch to alternative fuels.
- m. Wet Weather Community Panel has developed a Green Solutions Policy for implementation in the City's long term control plan.
- n. City street light shave all been converted to energy efficient lighting (high-pressure sodium) and traffic signals are being converted to LED.
- o. Recycling is improving inside City facilities and the long term Solid Waste Management Plan should be completed by early Spring, 2008.
- p. Parks & Recreation has begun using native plantings on city property with the objective of having planted 900 acres within 3 years.
- q. KC, MO has been a partner in development of the Playbook for Green Buildings, Neighborhoods and Infrastructure. The Playbook was launched on Nov. 2, 2007 at the Mayor's Conference in Seattle. Staff is getting feedback that it is already being used by planning staff. The list of partners in Playbook development was circulated.
- r. The Million Lights Campaign has surpassed its goal set 1 year ago. Partners have included: KCP&L, UMKC, and others. CFLs have been distributed through neighborhood and homes associations, Habitat for Humanity, the Housing Authority of KC, MO, various community centers and non-profit community development corporations and, of course, the City Home Weatherization Program.
- s. The Citywide Trails master plan is nearing completion.
- t. The City's Bike/Ped Coordinator has been very active.
- u. The City has proposed a new Development (Zoning) Coded that is in the final stages of being adopted.
- v. The City's Building and Rehab Codes are being reviewed for upgrading to the 2006 versions.
- w. The GKC Chamber of Commerce, following a fact finding trip to Seattle, has established the Climate Protection Partnership with over 100 partners committing to assessing their respective carbon footprints and then taking appropriate action. The C of C plans to bring the partners together after the first of the year to address the "how to" for planning and resources for implementation.
- x. KCP&L signed an agreement with the Sierra Club and the Concerned Citizens of Platte County and, subsequently, held its first Energy Efficiency Forum in September and has announced the second in the series to disseminate the information from the first forum. The second forum will be in 3 meetings – 12/13, 12/17, and 12/19.

- y. Sixteen Mayors signed on to the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement on Nov. 2, 2007, at Rockhurst University, and was the single largest such signing in the country. The signing was planned by the Mayor and City Manager of Mission, KS.
- z. MARC is developing a regional sustainability training program
- aa. The Electric Vehicle Program, in conjunction with the EPA Sustainable Skylines Initiative, may benefit from National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) assisting us in analyzing several buildings for solar/wind potential.

General comments:

Bob Berkebile –

- (1) Old light technology is still being installed for street lights. Should begin to develop the case for switching over to LED technology.
- (2) Should encourage City project managers to plan and design for LEED Gold as at least 1 study (Capital E by Gary Katz) shows that the cost for LEED Gold is, in fact, less than for LEED Silver.

Lauren Miller, TWIG, had questions about CFLs, the Mercury contained in them and how we address the issue. She was told the we provide an informational handout, from EPA, with every CFL that includes the addresses of all local recycling spots that take CFLs.

C. Minutes – Minutes of the meetings of November, 2007 were reviewed. Carol Adams made a motion, seconded by Bob Berkebile, to accept the minutes of the December meeting as presented. The motion passed.

D. Committee Reports.

- 1. Transportation – No Report.
 - 2. Climate Protection – No Report.
 - a. Solid Waste Management – No Report.
 - 4. Compliance – No Report.
 - 4-a. LEED – John Ware – No report
 - 5. Water & Air Quality – Carol Adams - Meetings have been cancelled. The Stream Setback provision of the Development Code will be on the docket on Dec. 18, 2007 at 11:00 am and supporters are needed. It is expected that staff will not support changes requested by the development community and that the development community will object. The issues were explained.
 - 6. Membership and Appointments – Carol Adams – A list of nominees for new Commissioners, to be forwarded to the Mayor's office, is almost complete.
 - 7. Communications & Outreach – Faith Brennan – Still asking for Commissioners to help in improving communications with City Council.
 - 8. Energy – Jim Scott – No report
 - 9. Local Foods – Marty Kraft – The No-Till Workshop DVD should be ready and available soon.
3. OEQ Report – No Report

E. Transportation –

1. Ron McLinden noted that the CPP Transportation Work Group is researching the potentials for a “flex-pass” or “eco-pass” system on busses such as the program in Denver.
2. Bob Berkebile noted this is a critical time for light rail in KC. There needs to be collective and active support of a comprehensive, regional, integrated transportation plan. The EMC should get focused on this and issue a statement that such a plan is critical for the vitality of the metropolitan area. There is currently tremendous chaos that should be guided into a plan but that we also need a starter initiative. The MARC regional transit plan is being revived and the EMC could have a real roll to play with stakeholders. He suggested a letter to the Mayor or a personal visit. Targets should be the Mayor, the Chamber’s Transportation Task Force, and others. We need to develop a common vision for the future and then deal with specifics. The philosophy and focus should be on high quality service and then look at how to do it physically.

F. Where is the EMC? - John Ware

The EMC has realized successes in many ways but the current structure may not serve us well for the near future. This issue should be considered and the committee structure, defined at the retreat, may need to be changed. Bob Berkebile stated this may be the most critical year in the existence of the EMC.

G. YERT – Bob Evans – The group – Your Environmental Road Trip – has undertaken a task to visit all 50 states in 52 weeks to learn what others are doing to address climate change and sustainability and to spread information everywhere they go. They are making a video record of the experience.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm. Next meeting is January 9, 2008 at 4:00 pm. in the Westview Room at MARC (2nd Floor).