

Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2007

Meeting Location: Council Dining Room, 8th Floor, City Hall

Attendance

Commissioners Present: J.C. Alonzo, Faith Brennan, Stephen Hopkins, Marty Kraft, Rachel Treanor, Jenny Erdman

Commissioners Absent: Shawna Bligh, Sherry Jackson, Thomas Kimes, Jim Sheppard, Bob Berkebile, John Ware, Richard Rocha, Carol Adams, Jim Scott, Jim van Eman, Andrew Bailey

Others present: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Jerry Shechter, Sherri Lewis, Katie Grotegut – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Scott Cahail – Water Services Department; Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development; Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Claus Wawrzinek & Ron McLinden – Sierra Club; Kevin Chafin – Bridging the Gap; Ali Alonzo

Meeting was convened at 3:00 pm by EMC Co-Chair JC Alonzo and introductions were made. A quorum was not present.

Minutes of the last meeting - As there was no quorum, Minutes of the last meeting were accepted, but not approved; there were no changes suggested.

Committee Reports

Water Committee – Rachel Treanor reported that she attended the last meeting of the Wet Weather Solutions Panel. Discussions and presentations were made about the following:

- Water quality modeling associated with various storm events and sewer overflows from various storm events.
- Stream set-backs in the proposed Zoning Ordinance – presentation by Patti Noll and Scott Schulte. Current plan is to include setback provisions in the Development Code, but may have to separate the issue and consider a separate setback ordinance due to some vigorous opposition from developers especially with regard to property takings. Discussions are underway to see if issues can be resolved. The Chair suggested heavy involvement by the Commission members and suggested asking Patti Noll to update the Commission at the next meeting.
- Faith Brennan noted that Brush Creek Basin meetings are now addressing green alternatives; The next such meeting will be on April 11, 2007 at the Bruce R. Watkins Center at 3700 Blue Parkway at 4:00 pm.

Landscapes Committee – Marty Kraft had no report; Faith updated the Commission on Tulips on Troost Avenue. There will be a community celebration on April 21, 2007 for the George Harrison Memorial Peace Park.

LEED Committee – Dennis Murphey reported that reviews have been performed of two recent projects - Fire Station #35 and Shoal Creek Police Station - to see how close they might have come to achieving a LEED Silver rating. It was determined that FS-35 might have attained the LEED Silver rating if commissioning and other LEED prerequisites had

been incorporated into the project, while Shoal Creek would not. The overall lesson learned is that to achieve LEED ratings, the LEED status must be included at the beginning of each project. There will be 3 training sessions for City staff – March 26, March 28 and April 4 – to introduce staff to LEED. BNIM will next look at tools needed to fully implement LEED.

Communications – Faith Brennan asked Jerry Shechter to report on status of the EMC and Climate Protection Plan (CPP) web pages. Jerry reported that the EMC page is now live with most, but not all of the desired changes have been incorporated. Those changes, for the most part, will be completed. The CPP webpage should be live, but not complete, within a week.

Compliance – no committee report

Office of Environmental Quality

- Andy Savastino reported on status of the Environmental Achievement Awards. Ten nominations were distributed to the 3 EMC members who will serve as judges. We are waiting on an acceptable date from the Mayor to schedule the awards ceremony.
- Jerry Shechter gave a brief update on distribution of compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) donated to the City as a part of the Million Lights campaign. The City has received over 23,000 CFLs so far. We have distributed over 6,000 CFLs to neighborhood residents, with a target audience of low-income and senior citizen households. CFLs have been distributed in all 6 City Council districts and there have been special agreements to distribute through both the City's Home Weatherization Program (5,400 CFLs) and through the Housing Authority of Kansas City, Mo (1,296 CFLs), all of which are targeted for low income, elderly and disabled. We are waiting for another shipment of 10,000 CFLs already committed. There was discussion about CFL safety and disposal. It was noted that Bridging the Gap is working on a solution to CFL recycling.
- There is a new website – www.18seconds.org – which provides regular updates on CFLs purchased nationally. The information on that site indicates that, since Jan. 1, 2007, about 250,000 CFLs have been purchased in the KC metro area.
- Dennis Murphey noted that a City Safety Manager will be hired to begin work in the new fiscal year.
- Climate Protection Plan update – Dennis reported on the process and status to date. He noted that the 4 Work Groups had made a wide range of consensus recommendations that will be presented to the Steering Committee March 15, 2007. The presentations will be made at the Discovery Center beginning at 3:00 pm. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2007, at which time the Steering Committee is expected to make its decisions on what to include in their report to City Council. That meeting is scheduled for 3:00 pm on the 10th Floor in City Hall. There were several questions asked in open discussion. Dennis noted that an error had been made in projected GHG reduction as a result of traffic signal synchronization. We had earlier noted a total of 337 tons annually when, in fact, this is a daily amount with the total actually closer to 80,000 tons annually. The full set of recommendations to go to the Steering Committee is about 40 pages, including 32 consensus recommendations from the work groups. Marty Kraft indicated he felt the process is not public enough.

With regard to communications, Dennis noted that we are planning to use the CPP Progress Report, once adopted by City Council, as a base for discussions in neighborhoods. Ron McLinden suggested a real campaign style approach with a graphic image to be used universally.

EMC Charter – The EMC Charter is to be reviewed looking at goals, advocacy, policy, communications, etc. The Chair asked the 2 basic questions – What the EMC should do? and What role the EMC should play? going into the foreseeable future. The following ideas were offered: (1) EMC retreat (has been done before), (2) Assign the issue to a committee to consider. JC Alonzo stepped down as Chair to speak in favor of a retreat possibly in May or June and to include the new Mayor and City Council. There was general discussion. The Chair is to send out an e-mail to all Commissioners and will create a Retreat Committee to plan an event (probably a day-and-a-half on a Saturday/Sunday). It was noted that the City’s Manager’s office has paid for the retreat in the past.

Old Business

None

Open Discussion

1. JC reported that some cities are working with retailers to stop selling invasive plants.
2. National Geographic is airing a live series, on the internet, with a “crane-cam” about the movements of Sand Hill Cranes
3. Dennis Murphey will be making a presentation at the USGBC/EEBN event on March 16, 2007 about the Climate Protection Plan process and status. It will be a lunch meeting at the Discovery Center. Advance registration is required.
4. A question was raised about any activities being planned for Earth Day. There was no specific response.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm. Next meeting is March 14, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. (meeting location to be determined – preference for City Hall).