

Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2007

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

Attendance

Commissioners Present: J.C. Alonzo, Faith Brennan, Marty Kraft, Rachel Treanor, Jim van Eman, Stephen Hopkins, Jim Scott, Bob Berkebile

Commissioners Absent: Carol Adams, Shawna Bligh, Sherry Jackson, Thomas Kimes, Jim Sheppard, John Ware, Andrew Bailey, Jenny Erdman

Others present: Richard Rocha – Visitor; Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development; Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Scott Cahail – Water Services Department; Ron McLinden – Sierra Club; Kevin Chafin – Bridging the Gap; Dustin Jensen – Metropolitan Energy Center; Robert Contaldi

Meeting was convened at 4:10 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, as amended, but not approved.

Committee Reports

1. Energy – No Report
2. Social Justice – No Report
3. Water – No Report
5. Landscapes – No Report
6. LEED Committee – No Report
7. Communications – No Report
8. Compliance – Rachel Treanor
 - a. Attended meeting of the Environmental Coordinating Managers (ECM) on April 26, 2007 at which reports were given on recycling, LEED Standards & Training, and Climate Protection Progress Report. New recycling bins have been distributed throughout the various City Hall locations.
 - b. “Hot topic” – Will look at water discharge permits
 - c. Jim van Eman noted the City is not enforcing the current building codes with regard to International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Need to educate City staff – permits/inspections. Bruce Wiggins suggested a meeting with Don Booth, in a non-adversarial manner to talk about the issue. Rachel and Jim will follow through.
9. Office of Environmental Quality
 - a. Climate Protection Plan Progress Report (CPP) was presented to the Mayor and City Council on April 12, 2007 by Joanne Collins and Dennis Murphey. Focus was on the four bullet points of the transmittal letter. Resolution #070436 was adopted on a vote of 13-0. Staff is beginning to implementation the recommendations of Phase 1.

- 1) Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan – Responses to RFQ/RFP have been reviewed and respondents interviewed.
 - 2) Staff met with a representative of the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) to discuss the potential for KC membership. The CCX is a commodity trading business. There was general discussion of CCX requirements. The CCX would require us, as a member, to commit to annual GHG reduction goals. We could sell credits, buy credits or bank credits.
 - 3) Energy efficiency measures in City buildings are proceeding
 - 4) Interviews were held for a Bike/Ped Coordinator
 - 5) Mark McHenry has agreed to discuss leveraging the new \$500,000 for tree planting and will also discuss native plantings
 - 6) Bob Jackson, Home Weatherization Program, has secured an additional \$250,000 from MGE for low income home energy efficiency improvements.
 - 7) Staff will speak with Steering Committee regarding setting a community-wide goal for GHG emissions reduction and about getting the Work Groups operating again.
 - 8) Dennis made a presentation to department heads.
- b. IPCC Report #3 was released last week focused on mitigation of climate change impacts. The summary contains trends summary and general cost projections.
 - c. Citibank has just announced a commitment of \$50 billion over 10 years to address climate change. This includes \$31 billion for wind and solar energy. Citibank will also offer “climate friendly” mortgages. Bank of America had previously announced a program of \$20 billion.
 - d. Rupert Murdoch – FOX News, etc – will begin to make climate change a focus and hopes to use the power of his holdings to convince the public to take action.
 - e. Chris Figueurida is bicycling from California to Maine and stopped in KC last week. He is making presentations at elementary schools along his route on healthy heart issues and GHG-free travel.
 - f. New City Council structure was presented. Dennis met with Jan Marcason, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee about the Climate Protection Plan. She will be the lead from that committee about sewer issues.
 - g. Commission terms of service - There are 5 Commissioners whose appointments currently terminate July 31st. Regarding commission appointments, Ed Wolfe is the Mayor’s new Chief of Staff, but we do not yet know who will handle appointments.
 - h. Ozone, due to good weather, has not yet been a problem.
 - i. The Environmental Achievement Awards ceremony was great. Five awards were handed out. Each awardee received a mounted photo with their name and achievement on it.

Old Business

1. EMC Annual Report – JC Alonzo has requested a time in a Business Session of the Council to present the annual status and report to the Council. He will try for June.
2. Retreat – The retreat is scheduled for Friday evening, July 20th and Saturday, July 21, 2007. The retreat location is to be determined.

The Chair asked for ideas for the agenda and for discussion topics. Friday evening will be more informal and there might be a speaker. Saturday will be the work day. Topics may include:

- a. EMC advocacy and policy roles
- b. Committees
- c. Strategic plan to ensure that climate change can be a springboard for other discussions and decisions in the future for sustainability. Reference was made to Jaime Lerner, former Mayor of Curitiba, Brazil who said in a presentation that we in KC need to find the appropriate KC pressure points.
- d. Applicability of the CPP to neighborhoods – Need to find a way for people to feel empowered to act and move ahead, to understand implications and to get engaged in the process.
- e. How and when should the EMC invite people to events
- f. Connection to MARC – Reaffirm connection to regional issues and questions

Open Discussion

1. Wet Weather Community Panel – Scott Cahail – Emphasis and requirements of the EPA were outlined. It was noted that EPA requires documentation and that efforts be measured to verify performance. An EPA memo was shared in which EPA supports green infrastructure. The Green Solutions Sub-committee has completed a summary of their recommendations which they want to take to City Council on May 24th prior to the Business Session. Connections will be made to the EMC and to the CPP. Scott noted that Black and Veatch indicated only 25% of about 800 projects have significant green potential. The message of the Wet Weather Panel is the need to find ways to improve infrastructure and, at the same time, improve quality of life.
2. Dennis Murphey noted there will be a recognition ceremony for the results of the recent Sustainable KC competition. The ceremony will be May 23rd at the Downtown Public Library from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
3. APWA luncheon – Award to Recognize KC Life as having the project of the year for its environmental programs in the \$10 million to \$100 million range.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm. Next meeting is June 13th at 4:00 pm.