



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2008**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 1st Floor, Broadway Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Amy Bhesania, Faith Brennan, Taylor Haynes, Marty Kraft, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Jim van Eman, Evaline Taylor, and John Ware

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Bruce Wiggins – Aviation Department

Guests: Ron McLinden – Regional Transit Alliance (RTA); Kevin Chafin and Richard Gordon – Bridging The Gap (BTG); Carolyn Davies – UMKC; Mike Hoey; Mary Beth Ogle; Carolyn Szczepanski – The Pitch

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:10 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Carol Adams welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- B. Approval of the minutes – Jim van Eman made a motion, seconded by Jack Schrimsher, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2008. The motion passed.
- C. Solid Waste Issues – Jim van Eman – Electronics recycling, also referred to as “e-waste” and “e-cycling”, is becoming a major issue.

Dr Richard Gordon, Bridging The Gap (BTG), was asked to address the issue for the EMC. BTG has had to stop the practice of accepting e-cycling as there is a charge on the other end to BTG to recycle the materials. The City Council has not given BTG the authority to collect fees/accept money for anything at the drop-off sites.

There are a number of issues that require leadership. In Missouri, between 2001 and 2007, approximately 15 million televisions, computers, etc, comprising 436,000 tons of waste was collected. About 50,000 tons were recycled, the balance was stored in some fashion or sent to landfills. E-waste accounts for about 10% of the stream into the landfills but from 50% to 75% of the heavy metals. And this part of the waste stream is growing 2-3 times faster than the balance of the solid waste stream.

The question now is what to do with the materials as the bottom has dropped out of the recycling market ... primarily due to the worsening economy. Dr. Gordon suggested the EMC could provide vision and leadership in helping to create a life cycle perspective (1) recognizing the cost to de-manufacture and recycle as part of the original base cost and not as an add-on cost and (2) holding vendors accountable. Currently, responsibility is transferred to dumps in other parts of the globe – China, Africa, etc – where materials are burned.

We need to begin to formulate plans for how to address this issue. For example, City Council could allow BTG to accept money at the drop-off centers.

D. City Budget

1. Discussion document – The EMC intends to offer informal input into the City budget process and will do so earlier than normal public review process. The focus is to identify environmentally preferable strategy choices that can be made now so as to make sure that KC is economically and environmentally better off later. Discussion topics included:
 - a. the strategic role of the OEQ
 - b. climate protection strategies that do not increase City spending which may include such concepts as local carbon exchanges and carbon offsets.
 - c. improved development code that emphasizes environmentally preferable options
 - d. conversion of solid waste division to resource recovery as an enterprise endeavor with continued curbside recycling
 - Suggest that a materials recovery facility (MRF) would be a high priority as a project funded from federal economic stimulus package
 - The 87th Street landfill could be an other economic stimulus project in creation of a composting facility
 - e. promote urban agriculture through the use of vacant land

The schedule to get the City's budget proposal to City Council, to the public for review and input and for approval was reviewed.

The primary issue is looking at the overall situation strategically and suggesting priorities to move toward sustainability. It was suggested that the correspondence be separated into two letters: (1) City budget, and (2) economic stimulus package and that support be shown for OEQ staff and maintenance of core services.

E. Liaison Updates

1. The EMC supported sending a letter congratulating and commending the City and the Wet Weather Panel for completing and greening the OCP.
2. MARC Air Quality Forum – A presentation was made linking increased soil moisture to reduced ozone production and increased air quality.
3. The proposed new development code has not yet been adopted by City Council.
4. Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) – Jim van Eman noted the SWMD will conduct a citizen survey re solid waste management. He also noted the SWMD has adopted a new strategy to reduce regional waste by 80% by 2023 with a reduction of 40% by 2013. The area is currently diverting 25% of the waste stream.

F. EMC Project Reports – Deferred to the January meeting

G. New Business – None

H. Calendar of Upcoming Events

1. December 22, 2008 - Mayor Funkhouser will hold a public forum re City fiscal issues
2. January 8, 2009 – in the morning – There will be an overview discussion of the Stream Buffer Ordinance followed by staff workshops on implementation.
3. Dennis Murphey was in St. Louis at the Focus St. Louis forum environmental sustainability task force; they want to use Kansas City as a case study.
4. Bob Berkebile reminded the EMC of the MARC Academy for Sustainable Communities and the good list of speakers for the various classes.

5. Dennis Murphey noted the Annual Environmental Report for FY2008 is now available.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2008

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Place: MARC – 2nd Floor, Board Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.