

Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2008

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

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Faith Brennan, Linda Clark, Marty Kraft, Dustin Jensen, Rachel Treanor, Jim van Eman

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

Guests: Ron McLinden – KC Regional Transit Alliance
Molly Davies – UMKC
Kevin Chafin – Bridging The Gap
Claus Wawrzinek – Sierra Club
Marilyn Sanders – City Clerk's Office

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:15 pm; A quorum was not present

- A. Carol Adams welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests and asked everyone to introduce themselves
- B. Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk's Office, administered the oath of office for all Commissioners present. It was noted that those Commissioners not in attendance would need to make arrangements with the City Clerk to be sworn in.
- C. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting was deferred due to lack of quorum
- D. OEQ Report – Dennis Murphey
 1. The City of Lawrence is beginning a climate protection planning process and will pattern its process after that done in KC
 2. Dennis spoke at the St. Louis climate action summit that was attended by about 40 St. Louis area communities to stimulate a climate protection planning process. Of the St. Louis area mayors, 7-8 have signed the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. None has yet developed their baseline inventory. Dennis indicated a very warm reception from them.
 3. Hunter Lovins was in KC as the third speaker in the Conversations on the Environment. The public meeting at the downtown library was very well attended. At that presentation, she indicated that her Climate Protection Manual for Small Businesses will be published this summer. Ms. Lovins also had breakfast with the Civic Council and discussed how to push the "America's Green Region" effort. Dennis also noted that the Conversations on the Environment series may be extended beyond this first year. Based on the possibility of extending the series, Jerry Shechter noted that the national Affordable Comfort Conference (ACC), which was held in KC in 2003 (and referred to as "ACC-KC"), will return in 2009. He said the local planning committee, on which he sits, will be looking for a keynote speaker and proposed combining the two events. The keynote speaker for the 2003 event was Bob Berkebile.

4. Richard Love, author of Last Child in the Woods, will be in KC, courtesy of Rainy Day Books, on April 23, 2008. He has a second book coming out. Molly Davies noted that UMKC is hosting activities on April 22, 2008 – Earth Day – with a student forum. She will find out if Mr. Love’s stay in KC can include the student forum. Dennis noted that Mr. Love there will be a reception, on 4/23, at 6:30 pm in the Plaza Library Auditorium, followed by a presentation at 7:00 pm. For those who want to attend, RSVP to: 701-3407.
 5. Majora Carter will return to KC on April 25, 2008 and will participate in the “Green Summit” to be held at Bartle Hall. The kick-off speaker will be Congressman Cleaver. Bob Berkebile will speak and there will be a charrette focused on green design.
 6. The Climate Protection Plan Steering Committee will meet again on Thursday, March 20, 2008 in the MARC Board Room. Congressman Cleaver will attend and will talk about the federal action agenda.
 7. The KC ordinance requiring City buildings to be built to LEED Silver rating is being revised to eliminate ambiguities and make compliance and securing certification clear. Revised language will be presented to the LEED Standards Committee.
 8. Bartle Hall Ballroom has achieved LEED Silver rating and there are four more projects in process.
 9. The City Manager has signed the Green Solutions Administrative Regulation which creates the Green Solutions Team. The Team will be facilitated by John Franklin, Assistant City Manager and Jim Buckler, Acting Director, Water Services Department. The Green Solutions Policy and the AR make it clear that the focus is not just on infrastructure. Section 3.3 of the AR addresses Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Bike/Ped, etc.
 10. Serious discussions are being held with the Aviation Department about the potential for building a wind farm on airport property. Since this has already been done in Boston, addressing possible FAA concerns may be a bit easier.
- E. City Budget – Dennis Murphey – Dennis spoke very briefly about the budget indicating that everything is currently in flux. He noted the Council must adopt a budget by March 27, 2008 and that there are several proposal versions. There was general discussion of a range of issues including the lack of clarity of revenues at the time the budget is being developed. Dennis noted that the City is changing its fiscal year to the calendar year to have a better picture of revenues for budgeting. Kevin Chafin, BTG, noted the recycling centers are potentially in jeopardy but that the Mayor, in his list of budget items to cut or support, supports funding for the drop-off centers. Due to the lack of quorum, the EMC could not tack an official position at this time. It was noted that individual Commissioners could, as individuals, testify. The next hearing will be at the Finance and Audit Committee next week.

EMC Retreat – Carol Adams – Several of the Commissioners, including Carol Adams, Faith Brennan, Jamie Green, Marty Kraft, Dustin Jensen, Jack Schrimsher, Jim Scott, John Ware had lunch last week. Jerry Shechter, OEQ, also attended. Carol offered an brief summary of the meeting and noted the tentative date for the retreat is May 10, 2008. The retreat would be a 1-day event beginning at 8:00 am and ending mid-afternoon. Linda Clark noted this is Mother’s Day weekend. **John Ware has graciously**

offered that the meeting could be held at 360 Architecture in the Crossroads District.

Carol indicated the slideshow done last year would be shown, the EMC history would be presented and there would be time for Q&A. This would be the groundwork for the balance of the day and topics identified in the notes of that meeting would be covered. (I have inserted the topics as I read them from the lunch meeting summary.)

Topics for the retreat include:

- Slide show and orientation for new Commissioners
- Sharing the interests, skills and connections each member brings to the EMC
- A review of our progress to date and the current context
 - Recap of current OEQ activities
 - National, State and local legislative updates
 - Natural Capitalism – How this concept may inform EMC goals/actions
 - Resources
- EMC's administrative responsibilities on behalf of the City
- EMC's role as an advocate for continued environmental innovation
- Consideration of environmental priorities identified by the Mayor and City Council
- Setting both short-term and forward looking goals for the EMC
- Strategy discussions: What is required? How to be most effective?
- Organization of EMC Committees to support goals

~~These topics include:~~

- ~~1. National, State and local updates~~
- ~~2. Natural Capitalism— How this concept may inform EMC goals/actions~~
- ~~3. Social Equity, Health, Housing, etc~~
- ~~4. Review of current Committees & Need for new committees~~
- ~~5. Resources~~
- ~~6. Skills of the Commissioners and how each may best contribute to the goals of the EMC~~
- ~~7. Administrative duties to the City as an EMC Commissioner~~
- ~~8. Relationship with the City Council and influence the EMC might have~~
- ~~9. What is required and How to best be effective~~

It was suggested that Commissioners speak with members of the City Council in advance of the retreat to determine their environmental priorities. Carol offered the following as a start:

To - Mayor Funkhouser and Members of the City Council

The Environmental Management Commission is planning a retreat on May 10 for the purpose of defining short term and long term goals and strategies for the EMC. The volunteers who serve on the EMC want to facilitate innovative thinking to help the City address the full range of environmental issues we face. In preparation for the retreat, we would like to meet informally with you to gain a better understanding of your environmental priorities. A member of the Commission will be in contact with your staff to request an appointment.

Commissioners were asked if they wanted to conduct such an interview.

~~John Ware has graciously offered that the meeting could be held at 360 Architecture in the Crossroads District. (moved)~~

F. Committee Reports

1. Local Foods – No Report
2. Transportation – Ron McLinden was asked to offer comments – The comment period for the KCATA scoping process is open through Monday, March 17, 2008. It was asked if the EMC might want to say something about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposal is for a general corridor and is not specific. A significant problem is seen that the general public does not understand the issues.
3. Climate Protection – No Report
4. Solid Waste – Jim van Eman – Presentation of the Solid Waste Management Plan to City Council has been postponed.
5. Compliance – No Report
6. LEED – Dennis noted that he has had a conversation with Tim Wurth, Lincoln University, and that they want to build in KC and to meet at least LEED Silver standards. Centerpoint, at Richard's Gebauer, is intending to build to LEED standards for the new buildings.
7. Water and Air Quality – Carol Adams –
 - a. Water Quality - A new set of meetings will be held in neighborhoods, in the next 3 months, to discuss wet weather issues and solutions. Scott Cahail can be contacted about the meetings. At the last Wet Weather Community Panel meeting, a detailed green solutions strategy was presented. There is also a lot of hard work by the Funding Task Force to identify ways in which to pay for the required work. The Task Force is holding public meetings around the city to gauge support. Jim van Eman agreed there is a critical need to get information on projected costs and possible revenues to the public. People are talking about water and sewer system issues as a result of projected fee increases. The waste water utility fee is way too low to address current issues. These are watershed-based problems but there are different problems in different parts of the region. Part of the discussion is on how best to stimulate green policies and solutions. Marty Kraft noted that **irrigation for local food production needs to be considered in the rate structure** ~~may be a way to help make things cheaper~~. He was asked to send an e-mail to Carol Grimaldi.
 - b. Air Quality – The requested ethanol waiver for KC, with regard to requiring E-10, is going nowhere with the Governor's Office. MARC sent a letter to the Governor asking for relief from the requirement due to the impact of E-10 on increasing VOC's. For summer of 2008, there will be no fuel relief. There ~~may be~~ **is new** national legislation to reduce diesel emissions. There was a general discussion of the new intermodal facility and its potential on KC air quality given air flow patterns.

H. New Business

1. Faith Brennan – There is some question about KCP&L's compliance with their agreement with Sierra Club and CCPC. Claus Wawrzinek, Sierra Club, noted that KCP&L is not backing out of the agreement. But, due to cost of turbines and financing issues, they are not going ahead with the new wind capability immediately. They still intend to meet the projected 2012 target.
2. Kevin Chafin, BTG –
 - a. Keep KC Beautiful will have an entry contest for landscaping

- b. Partnerships with KC Urban Forestry are being formed to use summer volunteers to help do a tree inventory. Training will be in April and May.
 - c. BTG has gone public with, and is asking everyone to, do 5 green things. These 5 things are noted on their website and were covered in the last issue of Greenability magazine.
 - d. The Three Trails recycling drop-off facility has installed a hybrid solar-wind system to generate electricity. The system is portable and will go wherever the drop-off center is located.
 - e. BTG is still working on a new site for replacement of the mid-town drop-off site that used to be at 48th & Troost.
3. Dennis Murphey had a telephone conference call with the St. Louis Dispatch Editorial Board. They have run negative ads regarding the KCP&L Agreement. There has also been lobbying efforts by major industrial users including Ford and Chrysler against SB 1277 which allows electric and gas corporations to recover expenses for approved energy efficiency investments.
 4. Bruce Wiggins – The Development Code has been sent to City Council following approval by the City Plan Commission. The Stream Setback Ordinance will again be addressed by developers who are lobbying against its approval. There appears to be a lot of misinformation being disseminated about the provisions of the ordinance.
 5. Carol Adams – Meeting notes ?????? (Sorry – can't decipher my notes – too much else was going on) **I can't think of anything I added worth reporting!**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Next meeting is April 9, 2008 at 4:00 pm. in the Westview Room at MARC.