

**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2008**

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

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Amy Bhesania, Faith Brennan, Taylor Haynes, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Jack Schrimsher, Rachel Treanor, Jim van Eman

Staff: Dennis Murphey & Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development, Joe Guarino – Law Department; Scott Cahail – Water Services Department; Clyde Bolton – Health Department

Guests: Ron McLinden – Regional Transit Alliance

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 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 – Faith Brennan made a motion, seconded by Jim van Eman, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2008. The motion passed.
- C. 2008 Retreat Follow-up
 1. Changes in Rules of Procedure were presented, in draft form, at the June meeting for consideration at this meeting. After discussion, two motions for changes were made.
 - a. Jim van Eman made a motion, seconded by Bob Berkebile, to amend Article VIII by deleting the last sentence and adding in its place the following language: Amendments to the Rules will be presented at least one meeting in advance of any official action and shall require an affirmative vote of at least the majority of the seated membership for passage. The motion passed.
 - b. Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Rachel Treanor that the second sentence of Article IV be amended to read: “Except as otherwise stated in these Rules, the affirmative vote of at least a majority of those active commission members who are attending and voting at a duly held business meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of this commission.” The motion passed.
 2. Appointment of Vice-Chair and Corresponding Secretary. John Ware and Dustin Jensen have expressed an interest in these positions and have ideas they would like to develop and present to the Commission. Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Jim van Eman, that John Ware be appointed Vice-Chair and Dustin Jensen be appointed Corresponding Secretary. The motion passed.
 3. Revised Synthesis and recommendations: 2008 EMC Retreat was discussed. Each Commissioner was asked to confirm their agreement to participate in one or more of the proposed projects. (See handout) All agreed. Overall, each Commissioner was asked to be communicative and to share information openly as appropriate. Carol Adams proposed that there not be regular reports on each project at each EMC meeting, but that reports be provided at critical points appropriate to each project. Faith Brennan expressed some concern about the vision statement reference to “oversight” of City activities, etc by the EMC, implying some responsibility the Commission does not have. Jack Schrimsher responded that, given the context at the inception of the EMC, independent, citizen oversight was, in fact, the intent. No action was taken.

D. Liaison Updates

1. Carol Adams provided information regarding the new federal ozone standard, noting that ozone readings in the region so far this year would not meet the new US-EPA air quality standards. Legal action, by Missouri and other states, against the EPA's new standards is being contemplated. There was general discussion about the standard and the expected impact on Kansas City and others cities.
2. Climate Protection Plan – Bob Berkebile reported the Climate Protection Steering Committee recently met and resolved several issues. The plan document is being prepared to be presented to the Mayor and City Council. He said the plan is bold and clear in its recommendations and is at least as forward looking as any other in the country. In part, this stems from the diversity of both the Steering Committee and the large number of participants in the work group process. He said the process followed by the EMC's leadership has been effective and the EMC should be proud of what has been accomplished to date. Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Faith Brennan, authorizing Bob Berkebile to craft a letter of support for the Plan from the EMC to the City Council. The motion passed.

Dennis Murphey provided an update on preparation of the plan to be sent to City Council. Dennis said changes requested by the Steering Committee had been integrated into the document and that City staff are securing signatures from the Steering Committee for the transmittal letter. Only a limited number of printed copies will be made until the document has been presented to the Mayor and City Council. As was the case for the Phase 1 Progress Report, it is anticipated that most people will receive an electronic copy of the Plan. A meeting is scheduled for July 14th with Council representatives Cindy Circo and Jan Marcason. It is expected that the Plan will be referred to one or more Council committees and it is hoped that City Council will take action in July. Finally, Dennis noted that invitations have been sent out for the CPP Celebration and Thanx to all participants on Tuesday, July 29th, from 5 pm to 7 pm, at Boulevard Brewing Co.

3. Solid Waste – Jim van Eman provided an update about several solid waste management issues. He discussed the issue of funding for the household hazardous waste site. He suggested that Michael Shaw, Solid Waste Division of Public Works, be invited to talk with the EMC. Further, there have been discussions with Lisa Danbury, MARC, and Councilman Terry Riley about the concept of resource recovery rather than waste management. Logistically, it may be October before a discussion with Shaw and the full EMC can be scheduled. As a follow-up to a citizen's concern at the last meeting, the Commission further discussed changes in the bulky items pick-up program and concerns about possible increases in illegal dumping. It was noted that the drop-off recycling program is also in flux. Ron McLinden suggested the best time for EMC input might be just before budget preparation in the Fall. Finally, the Solid Waste Management Plan has not yet been presented to City Council.
4. Ron McLinden, Regional Transit Alliance, was asked to give his impressions of status of transit issues. He noted that double digit increases in KCATA ridership have been documented. There has been excellent involvement of public officials from around the region in transit issues, including light rail, and there has been excellent support from MARC staff. A City Council resolution is needed within 6 weeks in order to place light rail on the ballot for November, 2008. There is fear that, if the ballot issue fails, it may kill any regional plan. An RTA survey has recently been completed that indicates majority public support for a 12-mile starter line and that support is greater than support for a 6-8 mile starter line. Bob Berkebile expressed concern that the results of the survey had not been made available for discussions at the Chamber of Commerce.
5. Green Solutions Administration – Dennis Murphey reported the focus currently is on the Overflow Control Plan (OCP) and the recommendations of the Wet Weather Community Panel. The City has been discussing a letter to US-EPA requesting an extension of six months to submit the plan in order to include more green elements. Some consultants had

indicated that EPA would oppose inclusion of more green elements in the plan. However, EPA and Missouri Department of Natural Resources (M-DNR) both appears amenable to such a request, but with conditions to be met. The letter should be approved by City Council tomorrow - July 10, 2008. Council representatives Riley, Circo, Marcason and Sharp have formed a working group to review the items to be included in the letter. The letter must address accomplishing the required basic solutions and must address both what is to be accomplished within six months and beyond six months. The letter and the plan will emphasize connections with other initiatives such as the Climate Protection Plan and others.

Murphey reported that John Franklin, Acting Director of Water Services Department and Assistant City Manager, along with Mark McHenry, Parks and Recreation Department Director, are co-chairs of the Green Solutions Committee of department directors and City staff. This committee was established per Administrative Regulation 5-5 recently issued by the City Manager to integrate green solutions into City operations and into the City's planning and development processes.

- E. With regard to the upcoming elections, the EMC endorse candidates. Individual Commissioners can ask questions of candidates. Faith Brennan volunteered to take the lead in developing a set of questions to guide individuals. Joe Guarino, Law Department, cautioned the Commissioners to be very careful how they represent themselves publicly on any ballot issue or race. Commissioners must be careful to avoid the appearance that they speak for the EMC.
- F. The name of the Commission – Marty Kraft expressed some concern about the name of the Commission, that it implies management of the environment when, in fact, we do not really manage the environment. In reality, we hope to be involved in protecting the environment. Joe Guarino noted that to change the name of the Commission would require many changes in the Charter and other ordinances. Others pointed out that the name is not “Environment Management” and that the EMC's job is to advise the Mayor regarding the City's environmental affairs. There was general agreement that, rather than making the name an issue, it is more important to make sure that the real intent of the EMC is built into and integral to proposed actions over time.
- G. New Business – None
- H. Calendar of Upcoming Events
 1. Monday and Tuesday – July 21 and 22, 2008 – The City will provide additional training to its staff on implementing LEED projects.
 2. Tuesday, July 29, 2008 – Climate Protection Plan Celebration from 5 pm to 7 pm at Boulevard Brewing Co.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Place: MARC – 2nd Floor, Board Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.