



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – July, 08, 2009**

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

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Amy Bhesania, Nora Smith (substitute for Taylor Haynes – non-voting), Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Rachel Norton, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Evaline Taylor, Jim van Eman, John Ware

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter and Andy Savastino – OEQ; Scott Cahail – Water; Kate Bender – City Manager’s Office; Matt Gigliotti - Law

Guests: Merita Johnson; Mike Hoey; Beverly Johnson – MOR²; John Lutz; Daniel Heryer – BADSEED Farm; Ron McLinden – RTA; Camealia Murray – Perfect Home KC

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests to the July meeting of the EMC. Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Minutes of the meetings of May, 2009 and June, 2009 were discussed. Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by John Ware, to accept the minutes of both meetings as presented. The motion passed.

C. Office of Environmental Quality – Report by Dennis Murphey

1. KC, MO Annual Report for the calendar year 2008 has been published and copies were provided to the Commissioners. Dennis pointed out the theme and emphasis of the report on sustainability. He also pointed out some interesting features of the report. It is not known how many copies were printed, the prime audience beyond the Mayor and City Council, nor the scope of the intended distribution. The Commissioners decided to invite Ava Gardner to attend a meeting to talk about the distribution of the report and how it is being received.
2. In the media, there has been a Notice of Intent published by the US Department of Energy for public input regarding the potential scope of an environmental impact statement for storage of elemental Mercury. Dennis will provide a copy of the notice to the EMC. The public hearing will be at the Plaza Embassy Suites on July 23rd from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
3. Green Impact Zone (the Zone) – There has been a lot of activity in the planning for the Zone. Brookings Institute and Policy Link have been here to talk. Councilwoman Circo has introduced an ordinance transferring \$1.5 million from District 5 capital funds to MARC for the Zone.
4. The EECBG application was submitted to the US-DOE on June 23rd and the DOE is already reviewing the package.
5. OEQ is working on an application, with MARC as the primary grantee, for a program called Climate Showcase Communities. \$10 million is available, from the US-Environmental Protection Agency, for grants in the range of \$100,000-\$500,000 for a 3-year period. Other partners include the GKC Chamber of Commerce, Johnson County and Mission, Kansas. Tom Jacobs, MARC, asked for a letter of support fro the application and provided, via Dennis, a draft suggested letter. Various Commissioners asked for more detail, as discussed by Dennis, to be placed in the letter. The application is due in two weeks so the letter would need to be completed within one week. Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Marty Kraft, to

authorize the Chair to draft an appropriate letter of support and to provide it to MARC. The motion passed with Amy Bhesania abstaining.

6. Staff is waiting for the EECBG competitive grant guidance to be published
7. At last week's legislative session, City Council recognized the recipients of the EMC 20090 Annual Achievement Awards with a proclamation and congratulations for what they had done respectively. Carol Adams spoke briefly in support of staff initiative and actions.
8. Kansas City Power & Light has announced that Gov. Nixon will be in Kansas City, at UMKC, next Monday to sign the Energy Efficiency Investment Act.

D. Liaison Updates - None

E. EMC Project Reports

1. Urban Agriculture – Marty Kraft – With a brief background about urban agriculture, Marty Kraft presented Dan Heryer who is the co-owner of BADSEED Farm located at 1201 W. Bannister Rd. Mr. Heryer provided a brief description of his 2.5 acre farm and noted they participate with four other urban organic growers selling at an organic market at 1901 McGee each Friday from 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm. His farm contains four rotational pens for livestock – dairy goats and chickens – which provides food and supplemental revenue for the farm. There has been a complaint about the farm in that there are three goats while code only allows two. They are in the appeals process, with the Property Maintenance Appeals Board (PMAB), and are asking for a variance from the code based on the manner in which they raise and treat the animals. Issues include whether the applicable codes would allow for a variance under special conditions. A small group decided to meet with Mr. Heryer to explore issues and options. The next meeting of the PMAB is scheduled for August 13th at 9:00 am.

Marty Kraft briefly discussed an issue of City workers pulling up flowers planted by a neighbor.

F. Old Business - None

G. New Business

1. Priority Topics - The Chair would like the EMC to consider priority topics for the rest of the year and a Fall policy event with the Mayor and City Council – possibly in November.

Issues could include

- (a) transportation funding assuming that the gas tax is not a viable long-term solution,
 - (b) long-term enabling legislation the City should be thinking about,
 - (c) evaluating Kansas City in a manner similar to the scorecard being done now by Seattle. Scott Cahail noted he had just come out of a meeting of the 4-A Collaborative discussing how to advance sustainability issues including such mechanisms as a scorecard. The Star Communities, with Dennis on the Board, is putting together a national ranking system with performance measures.
 - (d) John Ware indicated the Council may be interested in EECBG implementation in the Fall and the EMC could use this to help define its action steps. Everyone agreed this should be a listening and dialog event rather than a presentation by the EMC. The EMC needs to determine what the Council needs from the EMC.
 - (e) another suggestion for EMC consideration was energy codes as an issue for next year.
 - (f) Jim van Eman suggested an updating discussion about the Climate Protection Plan (CPP) might be a touchstone to help show measures of implementation and highlighting those measures needing to be funded. He stated it is important to keep referring to the CPP as our roadmap and to keep noting progress in implementation of the various adopted measures.
2. Ron McLinden suggested addressing the MARC development alternatives for adaptive land use, consistent with the CPP, and that MARC is going to seek funding for four more Bus Rapid Transit routes based on inclusion of the concept of nodes of development. The question is how to turn this into policy and to provide incentives for compatible development. The EMC will ask Frank Lenk, MARC, to make a presentation in August.

3. Scott Cahail asked for discussion of code barriers to renewable energy applications.
4. Jack Schrimsher would like the EMC to continue to emphasize bike/ped growth and to be engaged in public education regarding aggressive and assaultive behaviors by auto drivers. It was agreed this would be an effort focused on a long-term impact. Ron McLinden noted that discussions appeared to be weighted in favor of bicycles over pedestrians and that too many intersections are less than pedestrian friendly. He asked that the EMC, and others, be more sensitive to non-motorized traffic.
5. Jim van Eman noted the farm tour was successful and that the Niles farm/garden, done by Marty Kraft, appears to be productive and blends well with the neighborhood.

H. Remarks from Visitors - None

I. Calendar of Upcoming Hearings, Meetings and Events – None noted

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Place: MARC – 2nd Floor, Westview Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.