



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2009**

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

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jimmy Adegoke, Bob Berkebile, Amy Bhesania, Stephen Hopkins, Marty Kraft, Jack Schrimsher, Evaline Taylor, John Ware

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter and Andy Savastino – OEQ; Debra Smith – Water Services Department; Matt Gigliotti - Law

Guests: Tom Gerend and Frank Lenk – MARC; Mike Hoey; Beverly Johnson – MOR²; Ron McLinden – RTA; Councilman John Sharp

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 August meeting of the EMC. Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Minutes of the meeting of July, 2009 were discussed. Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Jack Schrimsher, to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

C. Frank Lenk and Tom Gerend, MARC used a powerpoint to explain their newest tools to provide options for policy decisions for transportation, land development taking into account predicted population changes. The new approach at MARC takes a broader focus than ever before. MARC is asking for public input and feedback based on the revised view. The revised view, as an example, now takes into account bike/ped issues and options. They are asking what the investment in e.g. transportation might need to be if supportive of the new paradigm. Solicitations for this Fall, will be based on nine policy goals.

Dennis Murphey re-stated a comment by Councilman Russ Johnson that “solving transportation problem by adding wider roads is like solving a weight problem by loosening the belt”.

It was suggested the MARC presentation be made on September 18 to the Climate Protection Steering Committee.

The major change is from how we move vehicles to how transportation addresses sustainability and community. This is the first time in 30 years that MARC has looked at alternative scenarios in land use, etc and to quantify various impacts.

Jimmy Adegoke noted this moves the conversation forward to think about what things might look like with significant climate change. Bob Berkebile agreed that this is a significant shift in the MARC approach.

D. Proposed EMC letter re the DOE proposal for storage of elemental Mercury at the Bannister Rd facility

The letter proposed by EMC reinforces comments from Councilman Sharp and Councilwoman Jolly among others to stop consideration of this facility for the proposed use.

John Sharp indicated that at public hearings, there had been a lot of opposition. The storage facility would only be a small percentage of the area (about 10 acres of the total of 300 acres) but storage of Mercury might make the balance of the acreage unmarketable for redevelopment. The proposed use is a further blighting influence in an existing flood plain in a working class residential area. Storage will have a negative impact on use of this site, on the Three Trails redevelopment site. He wants DOE to make a timely decision and to remove this Kansas City from the list as an inappropriate site.

After review of the proposed letter, Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Marty Kraft, to approve the letter as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

E. EMC Input to Council Strategic Planning Session

A sub-committee was formed to look at the Climate Protection Plan, Energy Efficiency Strategy and City policies to develop an EMC position paper. The white paper would be sent to City Council to inform their strategic planning effort in September, 2009. This will be a public meeting and notice needs to be posted.

F. Dennis Murphey noted that Kansas City is 1 of 16 cities that have been asked to send a four-person team to a meeting in Chicago to the Institute for Sustainable Communities. The meeting will be 9/21-9/23 and will be a forum to learn from other cities. It is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and others.

G. Office of Environmental Quality – Report by Dennis Murphey

1. There will be a Shadowcliff meeting August 23-August 27 focused on the MARC Solid Waste Management Plan with elected officials and staff. The workshop will focus on integrating solid waste, energy efficiency, etc
2. MARC should find out next month if their Climate Showcase Communities grant application will be funded.
3. MARC has designated former Assistant City Manager Anita Maltbia as the director of the Green Impact Zone project.
4. US-Department of Energy is actively reviewing the Kansas City Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) application.
5. City Council has passed a resolution that the City Manager solicit a green design team for the south side of City Hall
6. The City is engaged in mowing the overgrown Citadel Plaza site. The City has to step in as CDC-KC, the designated developer, failed to properly remove asbestos when demolishing houses.
7. EJ Olimaye, a long time staff person at the Health Department, has died of lymphoma.

H. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – There was a presentation by Rick Canine promoting a mag-lev concept for trains from KC to St. Louis.
2. July was cool with moderate air quality

I. Project Reports – None

J. New Business

1. Membership – Taylor Haynes has resigned due to a schedule conflict with school classes. In addition, there are a couple of expiring terms.
2. The Chamber of Commerce will hold a combined meeting of the Energy and Environment committees. Dennis will provide information to Jerry to distribute to the EMC. The Chamber will host a reception at Boulevard Brewery. Information about the reception will also be distributed.

J. Visitor Remarks

1. 350.org is organizing an international day of recognition of the significance of carbon dioxide at 350 parts per million in the atmosphere. The recognition and day of action is planned for October 24th.
2. Jimmy Adegoke received an e-mail from a professor in Columbia working with the Missouri Energy Initiative to host a meeting to engage the energy community.
3. Deb Smith expressed frustration about alternative fuels in that the focus is still keeping us in cars rather than decreasing automobile dependency. There is an existing imbalance of funds going to private transportation at the expense of public transportation.
4. Marty Kraft noted that John Kurmann is concerned about peak oil and depletion of fossil fuels. He thought the Climate Protection Plan might have shown more urgency and he does not see much urgency at the City.
5. Beverly Johnson noted that at New Tools meetings, people are thinking more about urban agriculture.
6. Matt Gigliotti saw the movie "Food, Inc" and recommended everyone see it.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Place: MARC – 2nd Floor, Westview Room

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm