



Environmental Management Commission Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2010

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

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Carolyn Davies, Stephen Hopkins, Dustin Jensen, Scott Jones, Marty Kraft, Camealia Murray, Jack Schrimsher, Evaline Taylor, Jim van Eman,

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – OEQ; Scott Cahail – Water Services; Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept.

Guests: Ron McLinden – Regional Transit Alliance; Mike Hoey

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

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff and guests to the EMC meeting with a special welcome to the three newly appointed commissioners. Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Minutes – Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Dustin Jensen, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2010 as presented. The motion passed. Because the meeting of June, 2010 was devoted to the Environmental Achievement Awards, there are no minutes. The meeting of July, 2010 was cancelled.

C. Office of Environmental Quality – Report/Update – Dennis Murphey

1. ICMA publication – The International City/County Management Association recently published a booklet titled “Getting Smart about Climate Change” which highlighted Kansas City. KC is noted for its “sensible sustainability and regional collaboration.” The booklet is available at: http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/105215/Getting_Smart_About_Climate_Change. The focus of the article is that KC has done a good job with regard to development of partnerships and by including smart growth practices and land use policies in the KCMO Climate Protection Plan. Copies of the booklet were sent to the Mayor and City Council and some members of Council have expressed their pleasure at the national recognition.
2. Staff is planning a “Green Fair” on September 16, 2010 in Illus Davis Park across 11th Street from City Hall. The fair is targeted to City employees. The event will be the mechanism for a joint launch of:
 - a. the new KC Green logo created by the Education/Outreach Team of the Green Solutions Steering Committee. The intent is to create a brand for our green programs, events, vehicles, and other initiatives.
 - b. the new sustainability education program for City employees. This will be a web-based education program for 4,300 employees (all City staff except Police) that is part of the ESCO contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. As part of the program, a set of inter-departmental and intra-departmental challenges and incentives will be created.
3. Gov. Nixon signed the Missouri Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) legislation. However, due to actions taken on the national level by the large secondary mortgage markets – FannieMae, FreddieMac, and the Federal Housing Finance Administration (FHFA) which is the regulator and conservator of both – all PACE programs are effectively shut down nationwide and are in limbo, The issue is that Fannie and Freddie buy mortgages and are refusing to purchase mortgages with PACE liens ahead of (superior to) the mortgages. It appears that Maine has developed a PACE program in which the lien is subordinate to the mortgage but we do not yet know whether it will work or if it will be accepted by PACE lenders.

4. EnergyWorks KC (EWKC) – There is a general staff push to get the program launched by October. Local staff went to Washington, DC in July for a DOE kick-off event with all nationwide 25 “Better Buildings” grantees to establish a functional, national network for mutual support.

D. Liaison Updates

1. Solid Waste – Jim van Eman – Public Works Department Eco-Center proposals have been received and a selection committee is being convened to review the submissions.
2. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams –
 - a. The air quality season has gone better than expected in terms of ozone and other pollutants. Despite the hot weather, the wind and humidity have reduced the number of ozone alert days.
 - b. The EPA air transport rule is now out for comments.
 - c. The federal Greenhouse Gas Reporting rule is in effect.
 - d. EPA is proposing a new SO₂ standard and the KC area will almost certainly be designated as non-attainment with the new standard. Local high emission sources of SO₂ include coal-fired power plants operated by Independence Power & Light and BPU. The State will develop a new State Implementation Plan (SIP) that will include stationary sources in addition to on-road and off-road vehicles. Attainment status with the new standard will be determined by both computer modeling and actual air quality monitoring.
 - e. MARC is working to update the regional Clean Air Action Plan and will host a public meeting on September 22, 2010 from 8:00 am to Noon for brainstorming and prioritizing.
 - f. Dennis noted a letter was sent to Troy Schulte from MDNR regarding their required recommendation to EPA regarding Kansas City’s attainment status designation re the new ozone standard which should be released on August 31, 2010. The State of Missouri has a short time frame to submit its recommendations to EPA. There will be a public meeting at the Discovery Center on September 19, 2010 from Noon to 2:00 pm.

E. Project Updates – None

F. EMC Fall Agenda

1. LEED – Jim van Eman will talk with John Ware. It is Jim’s opinion that the requirement for buildings to meet some LEED standard needs to be extended from just City buildings to any development taking advantage of City funds in any form.
2. Water Services Department – Water Services made a presentation to the EMC several months ago and they should be asked to come back to discuss policies relative to their extension of water and sewer lines and the issue of sprawl. EMC preference is for the meeting scheduled for September 8, 2010.
3. Improved coordination with UMKC – Dustin Jensen expressed the opinion that coordination with individual elements of UMKC, such as the Center for Economic Information, is good but not sufficient. We should, as a matter of policy, be leveraging UMKC resources in various programs and grant applications and that this requires a policy discussion. Carolyn Davies noted that Jimmy Adegoke is on sabbatical (in South Africa) for at least one year. Dustin and Carolyn were asked to draft a letter to the UMKC Provost, for the co-chairs to sign, requesting a meeting with the EMC.
4. Greening the Development Code – The process of reviewing the Development Code for transportation and energy efficiency improvements has begun. There is still resistance to the Development Code from some of the local development attorneys. A need is perceived to expand the stakeholders participating in the process. Commissioners were asked to think about the issues and to develop ideas regarding engagement of stakeholders.

G. New Business

1. Earnings Tax – this issue will be on the statewide ballot in November with the expectation that it will pass, thereby forcing a local election re the continuation of the tax every five years. This will create uncertainty in the bond market and will probably increase interest rates on the City’s debt.
2. Revision of the City Council district boundaries is a requirement of the City Charter and how/when to go about doing it is being discussed. The City’s population has increased significantly in Council Districts 1 and 2 – north of the river.

The Chair solicited ideas about what policy issues the EMC should address in the near term.

H. Remarks and Announcements

1. Dustin Jensen suggested that the success of the historic preservation movement, in terms of the national strength it has developed, should be of interest with regard to promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2010 at MARC at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm