



## **Environmental Management Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2011**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council – 600 Broadway

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Molly Davies, Marty Kraft, Jack Schrimsher, Jim van Eman

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

Guests: Wes Minder – KCMO Public Works; Sadie Gardner – Bridging The Gap; Ron McLinden – Transit Action Network; Claus Wawrzinek – Sierra Club; Elizabeth Fischer

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:10 pm; a quorum was not present

#### A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff and guests to the EMC meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

#### B. Minutes of December, 2010 and January, 2011 – Deferred to the March meeting

#### C. KC Major Street Plan – Wes Minder, Engineering Section Head, Public Works Department

The Major Streets Plan assumes every street is a 4-lane road in order to preserve City rights-of-way. In the planning process, estimates of future build-out situations are used but planning has never before taken topography into consideration. This has resulted in many over-built roads. In 2007, the City got funds to begin studies to update the plan. In the process, they created traffic modeling to predict traffic and compared predictions with actual counts. Current planning now also addresses flood plains and other conditions so as to not overstate development potential. The City hired HDR Engineers, SK Design and Patty Banks as consultants. Among other things they are working on is changing alignments due to natural resources. The street planning process, which once only planned for flat, 4-lane roads, now allows for greater flexibility.

Proposed typologies address images of the street addressing character, features, etc.

There were several questions raised with a good number concerned about addressing bicycle and pedestrian issues such as the conflict between motorized and non-motorized traffic. The balance of questions were raised with concerns about allowance for green solutions. Mr. Minder indicated that the standard would be the typical curb and gutter with a case-by-case review of engineered green solutions. The EMC agreed it is concerned that green not be precluded by design. It was noted that City Planning & Development is working on modifications to the Development Code specifically focused on transportation efficiency to which Mr. Minder responded the plan could be modified later to address issues that arise.

It was indicated that the City would like to get an ordinance to City Council by March, 2011. This end of the process is being handled by Greg Rokos, Public Works, and Jade Liska, City Planning.

It was agreed that the EMC is more interested in engineering standards than rights-of-way and that the standards need to be inclusive of green standards and solutions. The Chair noted that there is a lot of progress in this approach and that the EMC does not oppose the plan in general and that any letters that

get written should acknowledge that other things should be considered and the plan should not be considered complete without a green solutions policy.

- D. City budget issues – Deferred – Council district budget hearing schedules are posted on the City website. Those hearings begin this weekend.
- E. State legislation re renewable energy – Each house of the Missouri State Legislature has passed a resolution that would turn back the public vote on renewable energy purchases. The public passed a requirement that the utilities purchase renewable energy but the language adopted by the Public Service Commission was more restrictive in that it requires purchase from regional sources. KCP&L supports the legislative action because the PSC restrictions would cost rate payers at least \$300 million. There appears to be a need for a transition period allowing use of renewable energy credits until capacity is sufficient to purchase in this region.
- F. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey
  1. Finance and Audit Committee approved submitting an ordinance to City Council for the City to participate in the Missouri Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday in April. The ordinance has 13 sponsors. The State program allows for purchase of Energy Star appliances up to \$1500.
  2. Climate Protection Steering Committee met February 4, 2011 and had presentations on the Green Impact Zone and the grant MARC received for planning for Creating Sustainable Places.
  3. City elections are coming up soon with the primary election on February 22 and the general election on March 22, 2011. This will be followed by the election on the earnings tax on April 5, 2011. There will be at least five newly elected persons.
  4. OEQ will have a meeting at Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council to continue to develop the deconstruction element of the EnergyWorks KC Initiative. Wells Fargo donated 26-27 houses to Ivanhoe some of which will need to be demolished. We are working with them to develop an “on-the-job” learning experience for demolition in the future that will include training by The Reuse People and will be in conjunction with Habitat ReStore.
  5. The Chamber of Commerce will host a forum Friday, February 18, 2011 on Climate Change and National Security. They are hosting Prof. David Orr and Col. Mark Mykleby in the forum moderated by Bob Berkebile.
- G. Liaison Updates
  1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – MARC is working on a new program to model urban forestry to assess characteristics of the forest, what is happening in and to the forest, and its benefits to this region.
  2. Solid Waste – No report
- H. Old Business – None
- I. New Business – None
- J. Remarks and Announcements –
  1. Molly Davies – UMKC has established an all-campus-wide Environmental Sustainability Committee to address research, curriculum and outreach. The mandate for the committee is from the office of the Provost.
  2. Marty Kraft – Please look at his new website – [www.organotill.org](http://www.organotill.org)
  3. Dennis Murphey – An article in today’s KC Star noted that Bad Seed has maintained operations during this winter.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2010 at MARC at 4:00 pm. However, Carol Adams will not be available and she asked that the Commission be polled whether to move the meeting to March 16<sup>th</sup> instead. Staff was asked to send out the flyer for the Chamber event as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm