



Environmental Management Commission Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2011

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council – 600 Broadway

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Scott Jones, Marty Kraft, Rachel Norton, Jim Scott

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept.

Guests: Elizabeth Fischer; Claus Wawrzinek, David Mitchell

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 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 March 16 and April 13, 2011 – No action taken

C. Environmental Achievement Awards 2011 – Rachel Norton

There were 13 nominations received this year from various departments. Because Rachel had to leave, Andy Savastino made the presentations for EMC discussion. Following discussion, the EMC tentatively agreed on six awards pending review of the narratives at the meeting of June 8, 2011. It was agreed to target the meeting of July 13, 2011 for the awards presentation. Dennis Murphey will find out if the MARC Board Room is available.

D. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. Hospital Hill Run will be held June 6, 2011. This run is the oldest in KC and one of the oldest half-marathons in the country. The City has been working with the event planners to make it a green running event featuring local foods, composting of food waste, green printing, recycling, etc. Staff is working on a Council resolution for the event. There will be an article in the May/June issue of Greenability Magazine.
2. City Planning and Development has been making good progress on review of the Development Code for transportation and other efficiencies that can be codified and worked into Area Plans.
3. Dennis has a meeting with the UMKC Sustainability Committee with Tom Jacobs of MARC. They are working on establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the campus.
4. Dennis Murphey, Bob Berkebile, Cindy Circo and Troy Schulte have been talking about plans for a June 16, 2011 Sustainability Training at the Council Business Session for the current Mayor and City Council. It is hoped this will inform their new vision statement and reinforce great things being done by the City. The Mayor appears to be supportive.

E. Special Interest Projects – Marty Kraft

1. Marty reported that he has been involved in soil reconstitution planting at Niles Home on about 1/3 acre.
2. He has been working on introducing mycorrhizal fungi into the soil for a symbiotic relationship to help plants pull in water and nitrogen and to help fix carbon in the soil. He has been trying to get other growers to learn about the fungi and to participate to create healthier soil.
3. Bio-char is currently on the back burner.

F. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams
 - a. The United States Department of Forestry (USDF) presented results of their i-Tree Eco model assessing the air quality impacts of trees in this region. <http://www.marc.org/Environment/itree.htm>
 - b. Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is studying the effects of burning in the Flint Hills including its impact on urban area air quality – Wichita, Kansas City and others. Their website has a range of predictive tools to help educate regarding controlled burning.

<http://kdheks.gov/bar/air-monitor/flinthills.html>

2. Solid Waste – No report

G. Old Business

Staff has been collecting resumes and letters to go to the Mayor regarding appointments to the EMC. Staff has received letters from four person interested in becoming Commissioners. There are five vacancies to be filled following notice to the Co-Chair of intent to resign by Rachel Norton, Jimmy Adegoke and Evaline Taylor. Staff has not received written resignations from them.

H. New Business – None

I. Remarks and Announcements

1. Dave Mitchell – It is good to hear about the progress of the energy efficiency projects the City is running and that we need more of the same. We need to deal with the issue of peak oil, transportation and issues. There will be extreme stress in our economy as a result of the oil problem.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2011 at MARC at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm