



Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Notes – Strategic Planning - January 7, 2012
Meeting Location: Lakeside Nature Center

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Lance Conley, Molly Davies, Spencer Fields, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Robin Martinez, Chuck Moore, Jason Parson, Jack Schrimsher, Tom Wyrsh

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept.
Guests: Peter Shemitz

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 8:15 am; a quorum was present

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff and guests to the EMC meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and noted a bit about their background and expectations.

B. Office of Environmental Quality Report – Dennis Murphey

1. Brief presentation of paper detailing City Council actions to promote sustainability since 2008
2. Brief presentation of paper detailing sustainability activities by KCMO City staff
3. Reference to brochure detailing sustainability in KC in 2009 – where we are and where we are going – and noting the brochure is being updated
4. The City has a Green Solutions Team, comprised of department heads and chaired by Dennis Murphey. There are several working teams and, as part of that structure, the City is developing a set of sustainability indicators that will be posted online for public information/education and transparency. The first set of indicators will address municipal operations with planning to expand it to include community wide indicators.
5. Sustainability development planning has included the old Municipal Farm on which has been developed community garden plots
6. Complete Streets Initiative concept has been initiated along Grand Blvd in a planning consortium begun by Mariner Kemper and bridging The Gap
7. The City received two energy efficiency grants which we have been implementing
 - a. Formula grant - \$4,823,200 – Inclusive of eight municipal projects; one of these projects, facilitated by MARC, involves nine other local jurisdictions
 - b. Competitive grant - \$20,000,000 – EnergyWorks KC – Provides for programs and activities at the neighborhood level and at the regional level.
8. Environmental Compliance program – City has an Environmental Management System, managed by OEQ, in place that governs actions by City departments and reporting. The City Manager receives the reports as do the department heads.
9. Environmental Training Program – Environmental training for all City employees – basic training and education on environmental issues, as well as professional certifications, is managed by OEQ.
10. Andy Bracker administers an effective Brownfields program
11. Curbside recycling is a program considered important enough that it has survived several budget reductions
12. The City has incorporated a range of sustainability requirements in to contract boilerplates
13. The City has funded, in a grant to MARC, staff for the Green Impact Zone which is making an impact in that set of neighborhoods
14. Programs/activities that have been started and need support
 - a. Overflow Control Plan (OCP) – The EPA has agreed to an extended timeframe due to implementation up front of green solutions. It is critical that this agenda be pushed. Use of local labor, which has not been a major element of implementing the program so far, also needs to be addressed
 - b. Adoption of a sustainable procurement ordinance for goods and services
 - c. Climate Protection Plan goal of 80% diversion of materials from landfills

- d. Overall implementation of the Climate Protection Plan
 - e. Urban agriculture is most recently supported by a revised Development Code. The City is in a partnership with St. Louis and Columbia to produce a study of best practices for urban agriculture and top post the results of the study on a website by the Missouri Extension Service.
15. Coming Up ...
- a. Upgrade of the Development Code supporting various transportation and energy efficiency allowances and development of a sustainability checklist that will be usable by developers to know what the City expects of them. Such a checklist could be used as a set of criteria to meet if City money is sought.
 - b. Energy Code Update - Discussion as to whether or not the City should adopt the 2012 version of the International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC 2012)

C. Commissioner Interests – a brainstorming exercise

- Conservation based water rates
- Climate adaptation strategies
- Changing technology
- Changing demographics
- Changing market conditions
- Productive use of vacant lots – e.g., cover crops rather than mowing
- No till farming and gardening; Bio Char
- Education in public school system – How do we get climate education into our schools
- Multi-generation environments
- Educating the medical community to engage private physicians in environmental health concerns
- The built environment and codes
- Collaborative activities; Adaptive reuse; Better resource management; Break down silos; Identify those who can be links to and among others
- Understand revenue streams and how changes could be implemented
- Evaluate answers to City Council question of how and ordinance or resolution supports achievement of sustainability in KC
- How EMC can attain a position of greater influence
- Codes; Natural trails
- Appropriate thinking – save energy/save money
- Partnership with the KCMO School District
- Public safety and crime – driving environmentally poor behavior choices
- Establish nodes of thinking and avenues of action
- Development of appropriate metrics
- Create patterns of resilience informed by a bold vision – Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal (BHAG)
 - Lots of money invested in misinformation by powerful forces and, because of their impact, we might not be able to change the course of events
 - Create a model for 21st century living and claim it for KC (see Oberlin Project); Have pilots in our community with nodes of community – e.g., Discovery Center – Project Living Proof – surrounding neighborhoods
 - Communicate with officials in ways other than “chicken little”
 - Be bold enough to proclaim a model of vitality and include many factors;
 - Design the future – If you want to predict the future – design it (Buckminster Fuller).

D. Setting Priorities – First Thoughts and Common Issues

Umbrella concept – Model of vitality; Big idea; Focus on what solutions look like

ISSUES	WORKING GROUPS
Using economy/savings as the entry point	
Living wage / Jobs	Jason, Chuck, Molly
Kansas City – the greenest city / vibrant local government	
Education / Action and connections	Spencer, Peter, Robin, Molly
Health – Attract attention / Healthy homes / Physical and systems / Environmental Justice	Lance, Jensen, Molly, Elizabeth
White paper – conservation utility rates	Carol, Jensen, UMKC
City Council vision / Ordinance resolution re sustainability	Jensen

Various nodes and levels of "living proof"	
Segregation; Sprawl; Transportation	
Building a healthier heartland (MARC)	
Adopting new technology	
Integrated services / Neighborhoods – what's missing?	
Building codes / Energy efficiency	Tom, Peter
Urban food forests; Cover crops on vacant land	Marty

Other significant issues:

- Overhaul the way EMC distributes information
- Become the City Council's vehicle for discussion of issues and a feedback mechanism
- Adopt a strategy to synchronize public/utility repairs/improvements and track cost savings
- Seek partners – Bayer, Midwest Research (MRI Global), Ewing M. Kauffman Foundation, Cerner, BNIM, Sprint, universities, banks and finance institutions, Ford, Yellow Freight, DST, KCP&L, Hallmark

- E. Bancroft School Redevelopment – at 23^d and Forest – could be a model of new synergies
- F. New technologies to advance sustainability may include the new KC Stats on the City website as well as the Star Community index – can these work together? A major complicating factor is individual behaviors which can cancel out technology based improvements

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2012 at Mid-America Regional Council

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm