

**Environmental Management Commission****Meeting Notes - February 8, 2012**

Meeting Location: MARC Offices

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Robin Martinez, Jack Schrimsher, Tom Wyrsh

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

Guests: None

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners and staff to the EMC meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. The Co-chair asked the Commissioners to complete and turn in the required conflict of interest form to the City Clerk's Office.

1. Minutes – Tom Wyrsh made a motion, seconded by Robin Martinez, to adopt the minutes of November, 2011, and December, 2011. The motion passed. Robin Martinez made a motion, seconded by Ken Kramme, to amend the meeting notes of the Retreat on January 7, 2012. The motion passed.

B. Office of Environmental Quality Report – Dennis Murphey

1. City Budget – The City Manager has submitted his budget recommendations to the Mayor who will provide his comments at the City Council Business Session tomorrow.
2. Notice has been sent to the Mayor and City Council about having received the first 100% electric Ford Transit Connect and that it has been assigned to OEQ. There are plans being made to showcase the vehicle and the two publicly accessible charging stations at the Performing Arts Center on the first Friday in March, 2012. It is planned to have the vehicle at the next Home and Garden Show as well as Parks & Recreation's 100% electric bucket truck.
3. Solar Decathlon – KC came in 2nd in the choice for a location for this event behind a former Marine base in Irvine, CA. University of Science and Technology
4. Last week, City Council adopted an ordinance opting into participation in the State of Missouri "Show-Me Green Sales Tax Holiday" for the week of 4.19 to 4.25.12. Conversations are being held with Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties regarding their opting in as well.
5. Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Circo requested that OEQ prepare an update write-up about progress addressing Climate Protection Plan implementation and targets. OEQ will ask for funding in the next budget to update the greenhouse gas inventory and the Plan.
6. KC has a new bike share program with funds from Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation. Initial parking stations are in downtown.
7. Kansas City Industrial Council (KCIC) has selected three KC, Mo projects for 2012 awards. All three activities are a part of one project funded in significant part using Department of Energy EECBG Formula Grant funds through the General Services Department. The three activities are: (1) energy efficiency upgrades to City Hall, Wolf Garage, and Health Department buildings, (2) the Sustainable Energy Education & Communications (SEEC) project, and (3) software purchased and installed to track building energy use.
8. City Manager's Office, in a follow-up to a Council resolution, has created an inter-departmental committee re: food policy and food access.
9. As part of the working Green Teams, the City is developing an initial set of sustainability indicators, focused on municipal operations, that will be publicly displayed as a dashboard on the City's website.
10. EnergyWorks KC (EWKC) staff are working to get financing incentives in place. As part of EWKC, the City has executed a contract with Bridging The Gap (BTG) for water conservation services.

11. The City is close to proposing energy code upgrades for City Council review and adoption. It is likely that staff recommendations will be submitted by early March, 2012. The focus has been on upgrading from the 2006 version of International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC) to 2012 IECC which will arguably result in new buildings 30% more energy efficient than under the adopted 2006 IECC. The Home Builders' Association recently voted to support remaining at 2006 IECC standards. Overland Park may be the first to officially publish a proposal to move to 2012 IECC. This is an issue on which EMC could take a position. Greg Franzen, the City's Code Official, may be willing to communicate with the EMC at a future meeting. Jim Hansen volunteered to be the point of contact.
 12. There is an opening on the MARC Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) that was previously filled by EMC Commissioner Jim van Eman. The Co-Chair asked for Commissioners to consider filling the vacant position.
 13. As another part of the EECBG Formula Grant, City will recommend revisions to the Development Code that address such areas as transportation efficiency, solar access, and others. Patty Noll, City Planning and Development, and Dennis Murphey met with a group of development attorneys who opposed regulatory changes regarding vehicle idling near schools and playgrounds. They said that green and sustainable development does not have a nickel's worth of value in Kansas City. The Co-Chair indicated this could be an area where the EMC might want to take a position.
 14. Andy Savastino presented the "Environmental Management System and Green Solutions Annual Report". The document address environmental compliance and green activities by department for the period through April 30, 2011. Maria Coppock noted she was concerned about spending \$400,000 per year on leaf and brush pick-up when leaves and brush could just compost in place.
 15. Terry Leeds has been appointed as permanent Director of Water Services Department.
 16. The City now has seven new packer trucks in service fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG).
- C. City Budget – The City Manager's budget proposal, which has been sent to the Mayor, is on the City's website for public review. The budget proposal includes:
- no decrease in OEQ staffing
 - decrease in Fire Department staffing by 105 positions
 - some lay-offs across all department
 - Finance Department announced their Quarter 3 analysis for the current fiscal year indicates a short-fall of \$15-\$20 million.
 - Carol Adams encouraged Commissioners to attend one or more of the budget hearings to learn what people are concerned about.
 - Elizabeth Fischer expressed concern about illegal dumping with a possible increase in attendant cost since the changes in bulky item pick-up and asked whether this might interest the EMC as an issue which overlaps into the issue of blight. Robin Martinez and Marty Kraft volunteered to speak with Joe Egan, at LCRA regarding cover crops on vacant land LCRA might receive.
- D. Follow-up on Retreat discussions
1. There is interest in conservation based utility fees for water and waste water. Molly Davies' students have been studying the issue and will make presentations in class. It was suggested the EMC ask Molly about a presentation to the EMC. It was noted that utility tax revenues are down and still dropping and that it would be worth discussing the connection and impact.
 2. Elizabeth Fischer suggested that transportation and sprawl is a very broad set of topics in which the EMC should be interested. She suggested inviting someone like Ron McLinden to talk about the street car proposal and a summary of what is happening regionally. Dennis Murphey noted that the KC ATA is now considering CNG busses. It was suggested that Ron be asked to make a presentation in May or June. Scott Cahail indicated the Total Transportation Policy Committee is looking for new members.
- E. Liaison Updates - None
- F. Old Business – Noting additional
- G. New Business
1. Carol Adams recommended to the EMC the new play called "The Great Immensity", which is a world premiere at the Reparatory Theater, dealing with climate change.
 2. Dennis Murphey noted the City is updating the booklet on sustainability activities published in 2008. The new booklet will be published mostly in electronic format.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2012 at Mid-America Regional Council
The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm