



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2012

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council – 600 Broadway

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Tom Brink, Molly Davies, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Ken Kramme, Sal Madge, Robin Martinez, Chuck Moore, Jason Parson, Jack Schrimsher, Tom Wyrsh

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jenifer Degen, Andy Savastino – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept., Eric Bosch – Public Works, Sgt. Mark Stinson – Police

Guests: Jacob Wagner (UMKC faculty), Jared Daniel & Chris Fasl (UMKC students), Steff Hedenkamp, Dale Duncan & Bryan Gross – Helix

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting; a quorum was present

A. Welcome and Introductions

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

B. Minutes of May 9, 2012 – Minutes were unanimously approved.

C. East Patrol/Crime Lab Project – Eric Bosch

Eric Bosch and several members of the City project team & Helix Architects gave an overview of the East Patrol/Crime Lab Project at 27th & Prospect and showed schematic drawings of the plans for the site. Issuance of bonds by the City made it possible to proceed with a needed project to construct a new East Patrol station, Crime Lab, and evidence storage facility. After evaluation of approximately two dozen potential sites, the location between Prospect & Brooklyn and between 26th & 27th was selected. The City's desire is for the facility to be an anchor for additional redevelopment & revitalization of the area. It is located at two significant KCATA stops (27th & Brooklyn and 27th & Prospect) and the project team is trying to make it a community-oriented facility (with an outdoor basketball court & public access to a multi-purpose building, with a gym). The East Patrol/multi-purpose building and the Crime Lab/evidence storage facility will be LEED Gold buildings. The site will incorporate storm water BMPs and will employ deconstruction rather than demolition for buildings in the project area, whenever feasible. Weekly meetings have been held with the public in a church near the project site to keep them apprised of project plans and activities. Approximately 85% of the property needed for the project has been acquired and the City is continuing to pursue negotiated purchases for the remaining tracts, where viable owners can be identified and there are no unresolved title or tax issues.

Jacob Wagner and the UMKC students expressed substantial concerns about the site selection (an area of significant home ownership) and design aspects of the site (especially its set-back distance from Prospect & distance from the bus stop at 27th & Prospect and the East Patrol building entrance, approx 300 ft.). It was characterized as a suburban design in an urban neighborhood with too large a footprint and too much greenspace.

One of the Helix staff members pointed out that the area in general was originally developed as an inner ring suburb in Kansas City.

A considerable amount of discussion ensued and the project team agreed to meet separately with the folks from UMKC to provide an opportunity for further input from Jacob Wagner & his students re design elements that might be considered for incorporation into the final design. It was clearly stated that the site selection decision was final and not subject to further consideration.

D. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. An RFP has been issued for a 20 year solar lease to install 40 – 80 photovoltaic systems of 24kW capacity each on the rooftops of City buildings. Three such 25 kW projects are in the process of being done on Water Services buildings.
2. City Hall was recently awarded an Energy Star rating due to the extensive energy efficiency retrofit activities implemented. This is an amazing accomplishment for a historic 75 year old building.
3. The City is working on a sustainable redevelopment plan for the old Municipal Farm site that was the site of the former municipal jail. A study will be performed in concert with EPA and NREL (U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, CO) re the potential for developing an energy-generating facility using biomass fuel at the site. The City will also evaluate the potential for developing a solar energy farm on the property. Andrew Bracker, the City's Brownfields Coordinator, and Gerald Williams, an Area Planner for the City, are the lead staff.
4. The City has adopted upgrades to its energy codes (a slightly modified version of 2012 IECC standards) that are very similar to the upgrades recently adopted by Overland Park, KS. Other jurisdictions are considering similar upgrades that will likely result in a majority of the metro area population living in areas with comparable, enhanced energy codes that will significantly improve the energy efficiency of newly-constructed and renovated buildings.

E. Environmental Achievement Awards – Elizabeth Fischer

Elizabeth gave an update of the recommendations from the EMC sub-group who reviewed the 18 proposals received from City staff for consideration of Environmental Achievement Awards. The group recommended (and the EMC approved) making awards to #8 (conversion of the City's Municipal Court to a paperless operation), #9 (Central Fleet's paperless work order initiative), #12 (the Active Living KC Team project, that included Public Works, City Planning, & the Health Dept.s), #15 (the code enforcement initiative targeted at illegal trash dumping). In addition, even without an application submitted, the EMC decided to provide an Environmental Achievement Award to the City Clerk's Office for their effort to go paperless with City Council by providing materials via laptops & electronic tablets vs. the former 3-ring binders. The EMC decided to defer a decision until the July meeting whether to make awards to projects #1 (the Brush Creek Feasibility Study by the E-Team at Water Services) & #2 (the Blue River Rescue & Coal Mine Road Enhancements).

The Environmental Achievement Awards ceremony will be held on August 8 at 4:00. Although the original plan was to hold them in the MARC Board Room, Tom Brink volunteered to see if it would be possible to host the awards ceremony at the Kauffman Foundation. Carol Adams has invited Mayor James to attend and an invitation will be given to all the City Council members to attend. Molly Davies will work on PowerPoint materials to be used at the ceremony.

F. Liaison Updates – None

G. Old Business – It was noted that the proposed sustainability update to the City's Development Code will be presented to the City Plan Commission at its July 3 meeting and any support from EMC members would be welcome & helpful.

H. Follow up on Retreat Discussions & Planning for July Meeting – Forest Decker, Parks & Recreation Dept., has prepared a paper on a possible Vacant Lot Program for the City. He will be invited to attend the July meeting to discuss it with the EMC.

I. New Business – None

J. Remarks and Announcements – None

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2012 at MARC at 4:00 pm.