



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2012**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

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

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

Guests: Ron McLinden – Regional Transit Alliance; Daniel Dermitzel

Carol Adams and Bob Berkebile, Co-Chairs, opened the meeting at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Co-Chairs welcomed commissioners, staff and, on behalf of the EMC, the guests attending the meeting.

B. Minutes – Tom Wyrsh made a motion, seconded by Jim Hansen, to approve the minutes of the July and August, 2012 meetings. The motion was approved.

C. Vacant Land – Discussion facilitated by Carol Adams

Carol presented a powerpoint from the Cleveland, OH program regarding planning for their vacant lots program highlighting how they addressed the issue, who was on the team, what are the main elements of concern and implementation strategies. A slide in the powerpoint detailed the organization chart that could be adapted to our use. Dennis Murphey noted that with the additional money the City has made available for abandoned property demolition, there will be even more vacant lots.

Dan Dermitzel noted it is good that they have a centralized office for neighborhoods to go to, they have a “pattern book”, basic criteria for implementation, a website, options for movable (raised bed) farms, etc. He noted there is an organization in the KC area that focuses on food forests. The long term challenge is who steps up to take on maintenance and what resources are available.

This process is understood to be somewhat parallel to how KC developed its Climate Protection Plan in 2008 – based on an EMC report that pointed in the appropriate direction. Various elements of the process and structure were discussed, such as: including economic development stakeholders, potential for non-profit facilitation and implementation, etc. Jason Parson noted the Bancroft School renovation, with the Make It Right Foundation, is surrounded by vacant lots that need to be addressed.

Sal Madge suggested that not all lots may be suitable for agricultural use and that there may be other uses that help to create a draw for other elements such as economic development.

Ken Kramme suggested the large group that will get together needs to gather a lot of information and then break into functional, task-focused groups.

A first step will be to survey who has what mapping capabilities and data.

Ron McLinden suggested an incremental approach beginning with smaller a smaller group and a small area.

D. OEQ Update – Dennis Murphey

1. The City is just completing its annual A-133 compliance audit which, among other programs, is looking at both EECBG programs.

2. The US Department of Energy will be in Kansas City 9.19 through 9.20.12 to review the BetterBuildings grant operations.
3. The smaller of the two EECBG programs – the Formula Grant – is almost 100% completed and staff is working to reconcile budget and expenditures and wrap-up the program. A single program element – replacement of older light bulbs in City Hall publicly accessible common areas with LED bulbs – is projected to be completed by the end of October, 2012.
4. The Green Solutions Steering Committee met in the last month and considered
 - a. Changes in City contract formats to include language requiring vendors, consultants, etc, to address sustainability in some fashion; and
 - b. A proposal for a new Sustainable Procurement Policy. The City Manager has decided he wants to codify the policy by an ordinance which replaces the existing procurement policy.
5. On September 27, 2012, a report on urban agriculture will be presented at the Council Business Session by Mary Hendrickson of the University of Missouri Extension, representing the other grant partners including the Cities of Kansas City, Columbia, and St. Louis.
6. Solar – The proposed ordinance for a master lease agreement for rooftop solar applications on 40 buildings will be heard at the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee tomorrow, The ordinance is to approve negotiating an agreement with Brightergy. There will be a second ordinance for an agreement with KCP&L for another 40 buildings. The solar arrays will be installed in groups of 10 with additional groups installed based on satisfactory performance. There will be 20 year leases and the unit cost for electricity will be less than we are currently paying. Ultimately, there will be a 2 MW capacity generating 2.6 million kWh. This equals about 1% of total City operations and 3% of electric power for buildings.

Matt Gigliotti noted the following:

1. It will be necessary for a Treasury grant application to be filed by Brightergy
2. Any potential lease is subject to negotiations – Brightergy and KCP&L

Molly Davies noted UMKC is already doing this and so is Academie Lafayette.

E. Liaison Reports – Carol Adams

1. Bannister Complex – A redevelopment firm has been selected called Central Point which has a great track record for remediation projects across the country. It appears they have the capacity to do the work needed.
2. Air Quality - This has been a horrible year for air quality/ozone performance. In general, we could expect consequences but the issue is nationwide and not just this region.
3. Clean air transport rule has been struck down in court. The problem is we cannot solve air quality problems originating from somewhere else.

F. Old Business – None

G. New Business

1. Molly Davies – The UMKC University Sustainability Committee met 9.11.12 and established new greenhouse gas (GHG) emission goal to equal or exceed that established by the City in its Climate Protection Plan.
2. UMKC bus ridership is up significantly and car use is down – reducing GHG emissions. UMKC has been talking with Johnson County Community College, and others, to expand transit activities. UMKC has a student imposed, built-in student fee of \$14 per semester for bus passes.

H. Visitor Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

October 10, 2012

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Mid-America Regional Council – 600 Broadway