



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2014**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, Westview Room

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Molly Davies, Julie Davis, Rachel Guthrie, Jim Hansen, Julie Koppen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, and Jack Schrimsher

Commissioners Absent: Lance Conley, Maria Coppock, Ken Kramme, Sal Madge, Tom Wyrsh

Staff: Dennis Murphey and Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department

Guests: Manuel Abarca, Congressman Cleaver's Office

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
- B. Minutes – Jim Hansen made a motion, seconded by Julie Koppen, to approve minutes of the meeting of September 2014 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Legal Brief – No Report
- D. Task Force - Sustainable and Beneficial Uses of Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez
 1. Final editing of the report is done. The text is being provided to Dominique Davison, Architect, and Jake Wagner, UMKC, who have graciously offered to put the document into a graphical presentation form. Many of the graphics derive from work by students for Dr. Wagner's class. Robin and Dennis met earlier this week with Councilman Scott Wagner who has agreed to sponsor a presentation to the City Council at a Business Session – probably in November. Councilman Wagner asked what the next steps would be for the Task Force and suggested that the Task Force consider what its “ask” would be for City Council. Several people who have worked on the task force will be asked to be presenters. One of the key points will be a request to appoint a staff person, maybe in the City Manager's Office, to be the point in gathering data on vacant properties that will drive policy decisions. It was emphasized that no new programs are currently suggested but that the staff would connect what already exists in different agencies and sources. Another key point will be to address air quality issues emphasizing the need for re-forestation along identified corridors. It was also noted that Councilman Wagner plans to attend the EMC meeting in November – just before the Business Session presentation.
 2. Carol Adams asked about suggested next steps. It was decided to take action at the November meeting.
 3. Bob Berkebile asked about any emphasis on bio-diversity. There is a new list of trees and other appropriate vegetation to be published in the Spring of 2015. He clarified his comment using the example of planting milkweeds in support of the Monarch Butterfly. Robin noted there was an existing list in the Vacant Lots Guidebook published by the City that will be referenced. It was further suggested that, with proper planning and implementation, money can be saved from reduced maintenance costs which could be used in support of the staff position. We need to show how these dots can be connected.
- E. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey
 1. The Sustainability workshop at Shadowcliff was successful. Three people from Jackson County attended and participated. They are trying to figure out how to embrace sustainability in Jackson County. It was noted that support would be expected from County Legislator Scott Burnett.
 2. Within a couple of weeks, the first ordinance will be presented to City Council to approve a PACE project using re-allocated Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECB). There is a second project being discussed.
 3. Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) vacancies have been filled. In the process, it was recognized there had been no formal framework for the CPSC when it was formed in 2007. City Council has passed an

ordinance that established duties and terms of service. Three year staggered terms were adopted for the existing appointees. Dennis agreed to forward the ordinance to the Commissioners.

4. Dennis participated on a panel in New Mexico, at a conference of the Environmental Grantmakers Association, providing information about the City Energy Project in Kansas City.
5. Bridging The Gap has submitted an application for funding to the Kresge Foundation to address climate resiliency in low income neighborhoods.
6. Gov. Nixon has appointed 50 people to a statewide steering committee to develop a comprehensive state energy plan by the end of May 2015. Meetings are being held across the State now. A meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2014 at Penn Valley Community College to discuss pricing and rate processes. OEQ can provide information about the committee and its activities. Following the meetings and working group sessions from November to February, the committee is charged with drafting the state energy plan in the period from February to May 2015.
7. There was general discussion about the proposed EPA rules to reduce GHG emissions from existing power plants and time frames for finalizing the rules. In order to address the emissions reduction issues, the City will likely suggest that the CEP be used as an example/model approach.
8. EnergyWorks KC – Staff will present a program wrap-up on the impacts of EWKC to the Mayor and City Council at the Business Session on October 23, 2014.
9. Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update and Roadmap – The consultant to the City and to Johnson County, The Brendle Group, will be providing the following
 - a. Friday, October 10, 2014 – webinar updating stakeholders on the inventory update results and focusing on the Roadmap – the proposed guide for future activities to achieve established goals
 - b. Wednesday, October 29th – Brendle will provide training to Johnson County staff in the use of the inventory spreadsheet developed as a tool for future inventory updates
 - c. Thursday, October 30th – In the morning, Brendle will present their inventory findings and Roadmap for Johnson County to the Johnson County Commission. In the afternoon, they will make the parallel presentation, for KCMO, to the Mayor and Council at the Business Session.
 - d. Friday, October 31st – Brendle will provide inventory spreadsheet training to KCMO staff. A presentation will be made to the City Manager at a meeting of all department directors. And, in the afternoon, Brendle will make a presentation to the Climate Protection Steering Committee.

These are all public meetings and Commissioners are invited to attend.

F. Liaison Updates –

1. City Energy Project – Tom Brink and Dennis Murphey – There was robust discussion about the status of possible sub-committees such as, outreach and education.
 - a. The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) will hold its annual conference on codes and benchmarking in KC in November.
 - b. US-GBC and CEP are jointly sponsoring a workshop on Building Energy Audits on October 7, 2014
 - c. At the December meeting a discussion will be started about the potential city benchmarking ordinance. There was general discussion about the general provisions of the ordinance as drafted.
 - d. The Mayor's Energy Challenge has a goal of 200 buildings and it appears, with current participants, the goal appears achievable.
2. Air Quality Forum – No report
3. LEED – No report

- #### G. Old Business – Membership Changes –
- The Co-Chair reminded Commissioners there are several vacancies to be filled. It was not known if Tom Wyrsh and Lance Conley had sent resignations to the Mayor's Office. OEQ will follow up.

H. New Business –

1. Julie Koppen
 - a. At the last EMC meeting, an issue was brought up regarding a teacher training session at the University of Missouri that focused on climate change denial which was covered by an article in the Huffington Post. Julie spoke with representatives of MU who indicated that what took place appears to be a violation of university conflict of interest provisions given that the instructor is a paid representative of a utility company. MU has undertaken a review of its policies.
 - b. Julie, who was a judge to choose among the 30 submitted applications for the MARC Sustainable Success Stories honorees, noted that **eight have been chosen to be honored. These eight** are: (1) After the Harvest, (2) Connecting for Good, (3) EnergyWorks KC, (4) Friends of KC Problem-Solving Courts Garden, (5) The Giving Grove, (6) Green Works in KC, (7) University of Kansas Jayhawk Boulevard

reconstruction, (8) Johnson County WIC Community Garden, and (9) Middle Blue River Basin Green Solutions Pilot Project of KCMO.

2. Carol Adams requested that Commissioners think about what the EMC should consider in the future. Some suggestions included:
 - a. KCMO Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Roadmap as a base for future recommendations
 - b. Service projects – sponsored by EMC and invite City Council members – Possible method to orient newly elected Council representatives
 - c. Field trip to see buildings and projects that have been done – e.g., Household Hazardous Waste site, etc
 - d. Focus on elements of the Climate Protection Plan and follow up for sustainability of EnergyWorks KC projects
3. Rachel Guthrie
 - a. Recommend legislation to the city such as curbside glass recycling extensions. It was noted the EMC has a history of making such recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. It was also noted the City and Ripple Glass are already talking.
 - b. Curbside compost pick up
 - c. Move away from Styrofoam toward compostable materials
 - d. Yard and food waste curbside pick up
 - e. Increase in HHW drop-offs

Bob Berkebile noted that the EMC has always strived to be wholistic in its approach with a connection to the truth and proposing transformative yet actionable ideas.

I. Remarks from Guests – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

The next monthly meeting is

November 12, 2014 at 4:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2nd Floor, Kansas City, MO