



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2014**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, Westview Room

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

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

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

Guests: City Councilman Scott Wagner; Joe Wiedemeier (Burns & McDonnell); Jake Wagner (UMKC); Nadja Karpilow (MARC)

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 October 2014 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Mattress Recycling Initiative – Nadja Karpilow
 1. Nadja made a presentation re the new mattress recycling facility by Avenue of Life in the former MoDOT building at 5117 E. 31st St. Mattresses are a significant problem, since they take up lots of space in landfills, they don't compact well, and they contain materials that should be recovered and reused. Recycling of mattresses is a labor intensive activity, requiring manual separation of wood, metal, foam, polyester, and cotton components – this becomes an opportunity to create new jobs.
 2. MARC convened a variety of stakeholders (including homeless shelters & various organizations working with homeless people) and Desiree Monize with Avenue of Life stepped forward to lead the effort to explore creating a local facility. MARC's Solid Waste Management District has provided significant funding to Avenue of Life (approx. \$376,000 in grants) for acquisition of balers, a portable loading dock, and other equipment for the facility. After visiting a minimum security prison in Hutchinson, KS where inmates were deconstructing mattresses and reusing the wood to make chairs, benches, planters, etc. MARC researched local end markets of mattress component materials and talked to local groups, including landfills, municipalities, retail operations, and sources of used mattresses (hospitals/hotels/universities).
 3. Mattresses for processing at Avenue of Life's facility are collected at local landfills (Courtney Ridge & Lee's Summit) and by local municipalities. Avenue of Life is also working with Sleepyhead Beds (a program to provide beds to kids).
- D. Task Force – “Best + Most Sustainable Uses of Vacant Properties” – Robin Martinez & Jake Wagner
 1. Last minute input was received in the last couple of days, but final editing of the report is nearly done. Dominique Davison (a local architect) and Jake Wagner (UMKC professor of urban planning & design) are putting the document into a graphical presentation form. Many of the graphics derive from work by students for Dr. Wagner's class.
 2. Jake Wagner provided a general overview of the report & its approach to the issue of vacant lots & vacant buildings (that have a high likelihood of becoming vacant lots if timely action is not taken soon after their abandonment). The Task Force prefers to use the term “vacant properties” to encompass vacant lots & buildings. The recommended approach to vacant properties includes prevention, analysis & stabilization, and reuse/redevelopment/repurposing (i.e. green infrastructure, urban agriculture, infill development).
 3. The Task Force views the issue thru multiple lenses, including social equity and budgets (the City spent \$6.8 million in 2009 – 2013 for mowing & cleaning vacant lots (in addition to significant costs for demolition of buildings).

4. The Task Force wants to reframe the perspective on vacant properties as an opportunity for community resilience, sustainability, urbanism, and equity (job creation).
 5. After a considerable amount of discussion by the EMC, next steps were identified: finalize the report and Councilman Wagner will request a presentation to be included on the agenda of a future Business Session of City Council in December (after the report is presented to the EMC at its Dec 10 meeting and approved)..
- E. Legal Brief – no items were presented
- F. Liaison Reports
1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – no meeting was held in November.
 2. City Energy Project – Tom Brink – The next meeting of the City Energy Project Advisory Committee (CEPAC) will be held on Dec 5 at the Kauffman Foundation to begin a discussion of a draft energy benchmarking & reporting ordinance for submittal to the City Council for potential adoption in 2015.
 3. LEED Standards Committee – Jim Hansen – The next meeting will be held on Dec 18.
- G. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey
1. Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update and Roadmap – The inventory is complete and The Brendle Group, the consultant for the City & Johnson County, KS) is finalizing a Climate Action Roadmap. Presentations of the inventory report were made to the City Council, City Manager & department directors, & the Climate Protection Steering Committee last week. In the interest of time, the presentation of the inventory report (hard copies were provided to the EMC members at the meeting) will be deferred to the Dec 10 EMC meeting.
 2. Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) is holding its annual energy benchmarking & energy codes conference at the downtown Crowne Plaza next week & Dennis will be making a presentation re KC's participation in the City Energy Project.
 3. KCIC's Annual Sustainability Awards breakfast was held on Oct 16 at the Roasterie Factory. Dennis "interviewed" Ashok Gupta (NRDC Senior Energy Economist) as the keynote presentation. Bridging The Gap received a Sustainability Stewardship award in recognition of their extensive efforts to assist KCIC (KC Industrial Council) members with "zero waste" programs.
 4. On Dec 2, the City Energy Project will be the topic of Bridging The Gap's Green Business Network event at cfm Distributors, Inc.
 5. On Dec 5, MARC's Sustainable Success Stories event will be held at the Kauffman Foundation. Three City initiatives will be recognized this year: EnergyWorks KC, the Middle Blue River Green Infrastructure Pilot Project, and Friends of Kansas City Problem-Solving Courts Garden.
 6. The 1st PACE (property-assessed clean energy) loan has been made in KC. Using QECBs (Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds from KC) the Missouri Clean Energy District has loaned \$571,000 to the Wornall Plaza condominiums for energy efficiency improvements to the 88-unit building located just south of the Country Club Plaza.
 7. On Nov 6 – 7 the Heartland Sustainability Network (sustainability directors from cities/counties in IA, MO, KS, NE, & OK) met in Iowa City with state climatologists & university climate scientists to discuss preparation of localized realistic future weather scenarios that should be used to identify vulnerabilities & risks to municipal operations resulting from climate change. The intent is to pursue joint efforts on preparing climate adaptation/resiliency plans for local governments in the Heartland network.
 8. The Division of Energy in the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) is developing a Comprehensive State Energy Plan for Missouri. DED held a series of public meetings/listening sessions across the state in October and is putting together 6 working groups to assist in preparation of the plan. A group of key stakeholders in KC (the City, the Greater KC Chamber of Commerce, KCP&L, and NRDC) are providing input to the DED that emphasizes energy efficiency & renewable energy as key elements of the state plan. Copies of three related items were provided to the EMC by Dennis:
 - a letter from Mayor James to Governor Nixon re the importance of addressing access to energy efficiency & affordable housing to all Missourians in the state energy plan
 - a request for the City Council to include an item in its 2015 legislative agenda for the MO General Assembly that prioritizes energy efficiency as the strongly-preferred approach in the state energy plan to meet the energy needs of all Missouri residents & businesses at the least cost & with the greatest environmental benefits
 - a news release from Clean Air Missouri reporting results of a survey that indicates 77% of likely Missouri voters favor a state energy plan that will reduce carbon pollution by moving from coal-fired generation of electricity to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other cleaner sources of power generation.

- H. Old Business – Membership Changes – Dennis will follow up with Mayor James' Office re appointments to address expired terms of current members who wish to be reappointed and new appointments for vacant positions on the EMC.
- I. New Business – Dennis will do a presentation re the 2013 GHG Emission Inventory Update at the December meeting. Dennis will also contact Michael Shaw to request a presentation at the January EMC meeting re an update on solid waste issues, including a new processing facility on City property, expanded glass recycling, etc.
- J. Remarks from Guests – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

The next monthly meeting is

December 10, 2014 at 4:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2nd Floor, Kansas City, MO