



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2014

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Tom Brink, Caroline Davies, Julie Davis, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Robin Martinez, Jack Schrimsher

Commissioners Absent: Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Lance Conley, Maria Coppock, Sal Madge, Tom Wyrsh

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

Guests: Penny Hamell – UMKC student; Rachel Guthrie – Stinson Leonard Street

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. The Chair noted that resignation notices had been received from Jason Parson and Elizabeth Fischer leaving two vacancies on the Commission. Interested parties should complete the City's online application form.
- B. Minutes – Ken Kramme made a motion, seconded by Tom Brink, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 2014 as presented. The motion passed
- C. Legal Briefing – Review of EMC Rules of Procedure (ROP) – Matt Gigliotti
Following review of the ROP and discussion, Robin Martinez made a motion, seconded by Molly Davies, to maintain the Rules of Procedure unchanged. The motion was adopted.
- D. City Council Priorities – Advance KC – It was noted that the priorities draft contains nothing explicit regarding sustainability and environmental impacts. The central question for Commissioners was whether or not to make any policy recommendations to City Council advocates of sustainability at this time. Carol Adams suggested individual Commissioners have conversations with specific City Council members and then report back to the Commission.
- E. Environmental Achievement Awards – Molly Davies and Julie Davis
Ms. Davies distributed the current criteria for awards. She noted that many of the projects/activities submitted for award review were becoming mainstream in the various departments. Many of those things are interesting but the question is whether they are noteworthy for an award. Further, the question remains as to how the information about what city staff are doing gets out to other staff and to the public. A tiered system was discussed with awards for either individuals or for teams. The awards reviewers should consider dollar savings impact as well as other elements, such as social equity impacts and benefit to quality of life for both staff and general citizens. One key might be to revise the awards to require some kind of innovation. After discussion, it was decided not to change the name of the award because the award has been branded and is known by city staff. With regard to the application form, it was decided to add a response element regarding social equity impact.
- F. Sustainable and Beneficial Uses of Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez
The task force has completed presentations by experts and is in the process of synthesizing information and has drafted an outline for its report to the Commission. A central theme will result in a recommendation that the city identify resources to collect and manage data about vacant lots to help drive policy decisions. The task force has gotten great help from Dr. Jake Wagner, and the students in his Urban Design Studio, at UMKC and from City Planning and Development Department. Robin indicated the task force would like to extend the time in which to present a final report. The original direction to the task force was to report to the Commission by April 2014. The Commission extended the time to allow for a more comprehensive report, and to recognize the Environmental Achievement Awards, and the City budget process.

G. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. City Energy Project

- a) The City Energy Project (CEP) Advisory Committee held its first meeting at the Kauffman Foundation. Dennis thanked Tom Brink for providing the space and for volunteering meeting space for the committee into the near future. The next meeting will be March 21, 2014, at the Kauffman Foundation, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm
 - b) The Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) is in the process of interviewing applicants for the CEP staff person that will be housed in the OEQ office. It is expected the person will be hired in April.
 - c) The national director and the outreach manager of the CEP visited KC in February. They met with City Manager Troy Schulte and with Mayor James. Others meeting with them included Metropolitan Energy Center, Bridging The Gap, AIA, USGBC, Greater KC Chamber of Commerce, and city staff. It was noted that KC is the only one of the 10 participating cities that came into the program with the chamber as a partner.
2. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Update is underway. The selected consultant, the Brendle Group from Ft. Collins, CO was in Kansas City area for two days meeting with staff of the KCMO and Johnson County and with representatives of the various utility companies that will be involved in data collection.
 3. City Council has approved participation in the Green Sales Tax Holiday again this year. During the week of April 19 – April 25, consumers will be able to purchase certain Energy Star® rated appliances without State or City sales tax.
 4. A program was held on March 7th at the Discovery Center about green infrastructure. The meeting was sponsored by the Water Services Department for all city departments to share what they are doing to implement green infrastructure improvements. There are a lot of inter-departmental projects that have not been publicized. The City Manager attended the 3-hour discussion.
 5. The Heartland Sustainability Directors Network (HSDN), of which KCMO is a member, has participating sustainability directors from Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The network was just awarded a grant, exclusively for regional sustainability networks, from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) and the Summit Foundation, in the amount of about \$33,000. The grant is to support collaboration on climate adaptation/resiliency activities. Our grant will include climatologists from five states to help in identifying localized weather event scenarios in the future based on changing climate conditions. This is our first effort to address climate adaptation and resiliency. Robin Martinez suggested that insurance companies might be a partner as they have been doing climate risk assessment research.

H. Liaison Updates –

1. City Energy Project – Tom Brink – The CEP Advisory Committee has begun to meet. The committee is comprised of a lot of quality people that are expected to positively contribute to the process.
2. Air Quality Forum – Meeting was cancelled; No report
3. LEED – No meeting; No report. Dennis said he would contact City Architect Eric Bosch about projected meetings, etc.

I. Old Business –

- a. Julie Davis asked about Bob Berkebile's urban acupuncture approach to Westport Middle School; Molly Davies noted the building will house multiple activities including the Academie Lafayette and some residential uses.

J. New Business –

Carol Adams noted that next month's agenda will include JC Alonzo presenting the Envision Rating System for infrastructure and an update about the East Patrol Redevelopment. The agenda for May could include the Westport School as well as transportation - the future of light rail and commuter rail.

K. Remarks

1. Marty Kraft reminded the Commissioners that Vandana Shiva will be in KC in April; she is extremely inspiring and he encouraged everyone to attend.
2. Jerry Shechter noted that the Parks & Recreation Department has purchased a 100% electric bus they will use in support of the community centers; He also noted that ReclaimKC, which is a spin-off of one of the EWKC sub-grants, is a partnership between KCK Community College and Metropolitan Energy Center. They have been approached by Ft. Leonardwood about reclaiming/recycling wood from old buildings on the army base to be deconstructed.

3. Carol Adams said she heard that Missouri Organics has acquired (or will acquire) wood milling capability especially for trees that are coming down
4. Molly Davies – Students internships have been established with the Sports Authority focused on greening the marathon
5. Molly Davies noted the KC Public Schools have hired Jensen Adams as their first Sustainability Manager
- 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2014 at 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2nd floor - Westview Room