



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2015 - Retreat

Meeting Location: Water Services Department, Missouri River Auditorium

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Caroline Davies, Julie Davis, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Kimberly Hill, Seft Hunter, Julie Koppen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer, Jack Schrimsher

Commissioners Absent: Jim Hansen

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter, Andy Savastino – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Marleen Leonce – Public Works Department/Solid Waste Division

Guests: Hon. Katheryn Shields, KCMO City Council, 4th District at Large

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. Minutes – Action deferred to the next regular meeting.
- C. Presentation – Molly Davies
Commissioner Davies showed the slide presentation she made at the Environmental Achievement Awards.
- D. Office of Environmental Quality - Dennis Murphey –
 1. Presentation based on the powerpoint slide show provided to the Mayor and City Council at a Business Session in October. Discussion included
 - a. Transportation
 - (1) Streetcars and mass transit
 - (2) The City is looking for federal and other resources for the proposed MAX line for Prospect Ave.
 - (3) Top priority of connecting to good jobs
 - (4) Connections to health services
 - b. Zoning/Economic Development
 - (1) Encouraging density
 - (2) Re-evaluating zoning requirements, parking requirements, etc
 - c. Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EE/RE)
 - (1) Advanced developments which will lead the market – 2nd & Delaware in the River Market and BNIM headquarters in the Crossroads District
 - (2) Connection between tax incentives and city requirements for developments
 2. City Energy Project (CEP) – Discussed details of the Energy Empowerment (Benchmarking & Reporting) Ordinance; It appears that about 25% of the buildings which will be required to benchmark are already engaged in benchmarking and uploading data (reporting) to Portfolio Manager. Nationally, it appears that there is an energy use decrease of about 8% following benchmarking. The increased availability of data will help to focus actions, financing options, etc.
 3. In completing the greenhouse gas inventory update to 2013, it was found that the City decreased electricity use by 21%, relative to 2000, while communitywide, use increased by 14%. Part of the City's success is from implementing the Climate Protection Plan.
 4. Sustainability Circles – A direct benefit of participation in the Sustainability Circles process has been revitalization of the four Green Solutions Green Teams.
 5. STAR Community Index – Over 40 communities have already been assessed; over 60 communities are in the assessment process or are giving consideration to starting. The assessment process, and later with additional program implementation, will provide for a good interface with the KC Stat data aggregation process.
 6. Green and Sustainable Procurement Ordinance was adopted by City Council including the use of the Envision™ infrastructure assessment process.
 7. Urban agriculture is moving ahead including new grants for water access for vacant properties.
 8. Solar – There are 59 buildings with 61 PV systems and the City needs resources for more.
 9. Challenges –
 - a. Sustainable development

- b. Trees – maintenance, replacement and expansion
 - c. Resiliency – MARC, KCMO, Johnson County and Bridging The Gap were approved by DOE to participate in the Climate Action Champions program to identify realistic weather scenarios for the near future in support of actions to achieve resiliency.
 - d. Regional – Expansion of regional efforts to achieve sustainability and resilience.
 - e. Carol Adams expressed interest in
 - (1) revisiting solid waste management programs over the next few years.
 - (2) Connections with the Health Department and the Health Commission
 - (3) Development standards
- E. City Council Priorities – Goals and vision is not necessarily explicit but elements are included in each goal
- F. Roundtable discussion – Each Commissioner was asked to put forward any ideas they might have for EMC work in the near future – See attached table of ideas

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm

The next meeting is:

December 9, 2015
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, 2nd Floor – Westview Meeting Room

ROUNDTABLE TOPICAL IDEAS

“Urgency of the Moment”

“Create excitement about positive things”

“See it when you believe it”

“Provide more options and strategies”

- Current systems becoming obsolete – social/economic/food/energy/water – How can we address this trend?
- How do we/can we communicate? - “Listening as opposed to suggesting”
- Pre-emption by the State of Missouri
- Champion the pilot programs - “Awareness of pioneering”
- Carbon war room; online
- Regional conversations
- Governance for resiliency

EMC and Commissioners –

- Role clarification
- Focus of the EMC; What's the point of the EMC
- How should we best implement the role of the EMC in the community
- Becoming more proactive
- Concrete goals and action items
- Liaison with the Health Commission and Health roadmap
- How do Commissioners best contribute to the EMC
- Map of neighborhoods – Overlay Commissioners' residences
- Analyze and distribute case studies
- Take range of issues/concepts/strategies to 1-2 neighborhoods to vet the ideas
- Conversations in social justice/culture

Education and Communication

- Embedding in culture; Connections; Social dialog
- Scaling up – K-12; college & university level; communitywide
- Kansas City Public Schools
- Getting students integrated into community
- Solid waste
- Affordable Housing
- Community engagement and participation
- Public health
- Raise the sense of what is possible
- How get the community to want the education
- Making information relevant to people

Storm water & Waste water

- Engagement and incentives
- Health
- Landscaping
- Water capture and re-use
- Connections with sports activities
- Upstream constraints
- Water security and resiliency
- Research (Climate Protection Plan?)

Health

- Link personal with community health
- Native landscaping and health
- Pesticides
- Violence as a public health issue
- Trees – Maintenance, replacement and new
- Solid waste

Economic development

- Tax incentives and permits
- Tax benefits and standards

Solid waste

- New tools to change public perceptions and raise awareness
- State legislation/legislators emphasis and tools
- Emphasis and tools
- Food recovery and hauling
- Trees – downtown; replacement; relation to crime; relation to health; quality of life
- Somebody else's job to keep the city clean
- Raising food that keeps and creates soil
- Compost
- Enterprise department/fund
- Tires/recycle to manufacturers
- Health

Art

- Compelling arguments
- Connections/education/engagement
- Sustainability/Quality of life

Sustainable Neighborhoods

- Being intentional
- Affordable Housing and Healthy homes
- Neighborhood applications – e.g., Manheim Park – LEED-Platinum homes
- KC Green Neighborhoods
- Community Development Corporations (CDC)
- UMKC – Jake Wagner, Center for Neighborhoods