

**Environmental Management Commission****Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2015**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, Westview Room

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

Commissioners Absent: Tom Brink, Maria Coppock, Julie Davis, Jack Schrimsher

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

Guests: Gretchen Waddell Barwick – Sierra Club

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves. It was noted that, due to family health issues, Commissioner Tom Brink has submitted his resignation to the Mayor's Office.
- B. Minutes –Robin Martinez made a motion, seconded by Molly Davies, to approve minutes of the meeting of May 2015 as presented. The motion passed.
- C. Environmental Achievement Awards – Julie Koppen
Five nominations were received this year. Several of the applications are short on data/information about what they have achieved and, as a result, more information will be requested. Of the five applications received, two were supported for awards while two were suggested for tentative approval for award pending receipt of additional information. One of the five applications was not suggested for award because the project is too new and showed no achievements. Jensen Adams made a motion, seconded by Bob Berkebile, to accept the committee suggestions to approve two awards, provide provisional approval for two projects pending receipt of information and return of the fifth application. The motion passed.

Carol Adams, on behalf of the EMC, offered her sincerest thank you for the work group's time and effort.

- D. Green and Sustainable Procurement Ordinance – Dennis Murphey
 1. Elements of the existing Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Ordinance, adopted in 1999, were detailed and compared to the elements of the newly drafted ordinance proposal titled "Green and Sustainable Procurement Ordinance".
 2. The initial work in drafting the suggested policy background for the new ordinance was completed a couple of years ago by the Green Solutions Resource Management Green Team. The draft was presented to the City Manager who asked that it be completed as an ordinance and, subsequently, an Administrative Regulation (AR). Jerry Shechter worked with Jim Brady, Law Department, to develop the ordinance and AR drafts. These have been completed. Councilwoman Circo and Councilman Taylor will co-sponsor the legislation. A timeline for presentation to City Council has been developed
 3. A preliminary presentation will be made to the department directors on Tuesday June 16, 2015; A presentation will be made at the Council Business Session on Thursday July 9, 2015; the ordinance will be presented to City Council for public hearing on July 15, 2015.
 4. After adoption by City Council, the Administrative Regulation draft will be finalized and circulated. It is proposed that an Implementation team be assembled which will include the Green Solutions Resource Management Green Team to develop the necessary implementation items.
 5. At the request of Councilwoman Circo, references to the Envision Infrastructure Rating System will be added.
 6. Dennis requested the EMC consider providing a letter of support. Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Julie Koppen, to provide the Mayor and City Council a letter of support encouraging their adoption of the ordinance. The motion was adopted on a unanimous vote. The draft letter of support is to be presented to the EMC at its meeting of July 8, 2015.
- E. Benchmarking and Reporting Ordinance – Dennis Murphey

The name of the ordinance has been changed from the Benchmarking and Reporting Ordinance to the Energy Empowerment Ordinance.

1. On May 21, 2015, City Council adopted Resolution 150300 charging staff to identify existing incentives to assist businesses and institutions in benchmarking, reporting and improving their buildings; the resolution also requires staff to develop an outreach plan to promote participation in the project by building owners. The Mayor has requested staff recommendations regarding the potential for tying together future assistance for developments proposed with benchmarking and reporting.
2. In the Council adoption process, Councilman Ford requested a 2-week delay to give staff time to do more outreach in the northland area. The presentations to various entities in the northland went well.
3. On June 4, 2015, Ordinance 150299 – the Energy Empowerment Ordinance - was approved by a vote of 12 to 1.
4. Provisions and changes to the ordinance draft will be presented to the CEP Advisory Committee at its first post-adoption meeting on Friday June 12, 2015. One of the central changes is a provision that ENERGY STAR scores not be published in the directors' annual report without building owner consent.
5. To do items include research for and development of a report on incentives per Ordinance 150299; development of implementation rules/regulations, and an outreach plan.
6. Because Tom Brink was the EMC representative to the CEPAC, a replacement needs to be identified. Jensen Adams was appointed the new liaison to the CEPAC.
7. It was noted that the City cannot require State and Federal buildings comply with the Ordinance. Instead, the City will attempt to work out various memoranda of understanding.
8. Kudos were given to Councilman Scott Taylor who, in the face of stiff opposition, championed the ordinance approval process.

F. Office of Environmental Quality - Dennis Murphey

1. Sustainability Circles – Jerry Shechter

Sustainability Circles is a concept promoted by a San Francisco group called “REV” that focuses on assisting private and public entities in developing a Sustainability Action Plan. REV has contracted with Bridging The Gap to be their local liaison and facilitator and BTG has assembled a group of 10-12 initial partners including: KCP&L, which is subsidizing the tuition costs for all participants, the City of KCMO, KC Public Schools, UMKC, UMB, KC Chiefs, Posty Cards, Surplus Exchange, and several others. The process occurs over a 6-month period with individual plans to be submitted in July for completion in September, 2015.

The City of KCMO already has the Climate Protection Plan, from 2008, and the Climate Action Roadmap, from 2014 and has taken this opportunity to use this process as a tool to revitalize the Green Solutions Green Teams. Each Green Team has a set of suggestions, for potential inclusion in the sustainability action plan, which are being reviewed now. That process will include establishing metrics for each action item in the plan.

2. New Brownfields Grant – The City has received a new Brownfields Grant in the amount of \$500,000. The grant is relatively flexible and will allow for some small portion of the funds to be used in support of data aggregation for the Vacant Properties Task Force. These funds may be usable as a match for another grant (See Old Business). Both resources, therefore, may be used in support of implementing critical recommendations from the EMC report titled “Best + Sustainable Uses of Vacant Lots”

G. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality – No report
2. LEED – No report
3. CEP – No additional report
4. Solid Waste – No report

H. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti

1. This has been an interesting legislative year in that the fewest pieces of legislation were passed in the last few years.
2. The proposed Right to Work bill was vetoed by the Governor
3. The City of Columbia, MO was considering local legislation banning the use of plastic bags. In response, the State passed legislation pre-empting such local initiatives, as was done in Arizona. HB 722 included banning the ban on plastic bags and banned local legislation on minimum wages, except for city ordinances adopted no later than August 28, 2015.
4. HB 92 addressed solid waste management districts adopting some joint recommendations and adding textiles while imposing a moratorium on tonnage fees.
5. Waters of the State legislation defined those waters deleting US waters but keeping enforcement provisions.
6. A Clean Water Policy Statement was adopted establishing statewide policy. The Missouri Clean Water Law somewhat addresses affordability by (1) establishing lower threshold making implementation more equitable, and (2) added water treatment facilities in addition to sanitary and sewers
7. Ambient Air Quality Monitoring – Changes were made to the Missouri Clean Air Act – SB 445; M-DNR cannot go to EPA once the point source monitors SO₂ without utility consent.
8. New – Joint commission to review non-point source planning and others for another level of legislative review and creates the requirement for an implementation report.

9. Urban Agriculture zones – Modifications to include produce and reallocate to schools with agriculture programs.
10. SB 500 – Modifies honey sales provisions allowing for separation from manufacturing facilities at certain thresholds; no longer need to show evidence of inspections.

I. Priorities for 2015-2016

1. July 2015
 - a. Environmental Achievement Awards
 - b. Climate Protection Steering Committee – Another meeting needs to be scheduled

J. Old Business

1. Vacant Lots Task Force - Center for Community Progress (CCP) has made available a grant program that could be used in support of implementing critical recommendations from the EMC report titled “Best + Sustainable Uses of Vacant Lots”. Following review of the parameters of the grant, requiring a match of up to \$10,000, that could provide up to 200 hours of national expert consultants. Applications are due no later than June 30, 2015. On behalf of the City’s Vacant Properties Task Force, Jerry Shechter requested the EMC consider writing a letter of support for the proposed application. Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Jim Hansen, authorizing the Co-chairs to develop a letter of support for the CCP grant application and to deliver it to City staff. The motion passed.

K. New Business

1. Bob Berkebile – Westport Garden Club started a new native landscaping initiative which has grown to be regional in focus. Bob suggested the Garden Club be invited to speak to the EMC.
2. Dennis Murphey – Twin Creeks development, north of the river, will be presented to City Council at the Business Session on June 11, 2015.
3. New Council orientation – There will be a number of orientation sessions for incoming City Council representatives and Dennis Murphey will make a presentation regarding sustainability.
4. Marty Kraft – Urban Ag Farm Tour will be held June 27th-28th. One of the stops on the tour will be the garden at Niles Home, at 23rd & Brooklyn, to which everyone is invited.
5. Jensen Adams – Schoolyard Garden Summit is a project of the KC Public Schools, KC Community Gardens and US-GBC at Paseo High School on July 14th. There will be a focus on food curriculum and community engagement.
6. Rachel Guthrie – FYI - Native grasses, involving The Land Institute (Wes Jackson), have been planted at Roanoke Park

L. Visitors’ Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm

The next regular monthly meeting is:

July 8, 2015 at 4:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, 2nd Floor - Westview Room
Kansas City, MO