



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2016

Meeting Location: MARC, Westview Room, 2nd Floor, 600 Broadway, KCMO

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Jim Hansen, Kimberly Hill, Julie Koppen, Robin Martinez, Ben Proffer, Caroline (Mollie) Davies, Emily Truebner (new EMC appointee)

Commissioners Absent: Marty Kraft, Julie Davis, Seft Hunter, DJ Pierre, Jack Schrimsher

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

Guests: Penny Harrell – Heartland Conservation Alliance

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

- A. Welcome and Introductions – Co-Chair Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves. She also noted that Julie Davis has notified us that, due to other demands upon her time, she will not be requesting reappointment when her current appointment ends next month. Emily Truebner was introduced as the newest Mayoral appointment to the EMC.
- B. Minutes – A motion was made by Mollie Davies, and seconded by Julie Koppen, to adopt the draft minutes for the Jan 13, 2016 EMC meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Retreat Follow-up/EMC Priorities – Carol Adams facilitated the discussion and asked Commissioners for update re clusters of items from the list developed at the retreat and at the December meeting.
 1. Water – Robin Martinez – Robin met with a number of stakeholders (MARC et al) re exploration of water issues. He would like to brainstorm re a water task force (including KCMO Water Services, the local engineering community, & others), and then report back to the EMC as ideas/activities develop. Robin hopes to follow a similar path as the Vacant Lots Task Force to develop a scope of work for a water task force that could address a variety of critical issues: water access, climate change impacts, conflicts among Missouri River water users, water quality/quantity, water justice issues, how water is used, KCMO Water Services Department's business model, etc. Bob Berkebile indicated these were great ideas that are interconnected and he would also like to look at links to additional areas (e.g. energy & water, landscape, food, & transportation, health, and then reach out to potential funders for pilot approaches for transformative efforts re water. We need a "systems approach" that ties in to the local native landscape effort (KC Native Plant Initiative). He would like to see the sets of issues diagrammed. Julie Koppen stated that she wants to be a part of the water initiative.
 2. Education – Jensen Adams – Jensen met with Ben Proffer, & Mollie Davies. They plan to continue meeting at 4:40 pm on the 4th Friday of the month, working on development of a white paper for a "KC Green Schools Initiative" by Earth Day 2016. There was a recent meeting in Jacksonville, FL re ADVANCE, a US Green Building Council Green Schools Initiative. There are 15 public school districts in KCMO & Mayor James seems interested in a KC Green Schools Initiative – it would complement his "Turn the Page" program and other education efforts that are a priority for him. The work group needs to identify potential proponents & opponents (e.g. the Koch brothers who are promoting a contrary curriculum initiative). Everyone agreed there is sufficient need for an EMC perspective and the potential white paper that could be forwarded to the Mayor.
 3. Neighborhood Health & Equity – Seft Hunter – Seft was not present, but Rachel Guthrie said they were thinking about convening neighborhood groups to have a joint meeting and also engage CIDs (Community Improvement Districts) as well as CDCs (Community Development Corporations). Gloria Fisher is also interested in this group. They will report back to EMC as things progress.
 4. Governance – Carol Adams – Carol noted that the public hearings on the City's FY17 budget have been scheduled (Feb 20, Feb 27, & Mar 5). The proposed budget is expected to be released tomorrow and the City will again use online tools to gather additional citizen input, beyond those who are able to attend the 3 public hearings. Carol would

like to include time on the March 10th EMC agenda for discussion re the City's proposed budget. The City Manager's proposed budget will include a position to manage energy/water benchmarking data provided by building owners subject to the Energy Empowerment ordinance enacted in June 2015 and provide tech assistance to building owners/managers. The proposed budget will also include a limited term appointment position for OEQ to provide pre-demolition environmental assessments in support of the new initiative to demolish 850 dangerous buildings over the next two FYs. It is not known whether a position has been included to coordinate vacant property data, as recommended in the EMC Vacant Lot Task Force report. The FY17 budget must be approved by the Mayor and City Council at their last legislative session in March. The budget is aligned with the 5-year business plan. Carol Adams noted the EMC often comments on the proposed budget and that the March meeting would be the last opportunity to do so.

5. Trees & Native Planting – Rachel Guthrie – Rachel said there had been no meeting of EMC members re this area since the Jan EMC meeting. Dennis Murphey told the EMC that there will be a Business Session presentation re trees in March and that he will send out a notice re the session date/time/location to Rachel & all EMC members.
6. Environmental Achievement Awards – Carol Adams – Carol will attend working meetings with Andy Savastino and City staff to discuss the 2016 Environmental Achievement Awards. Andy noted that there would be discussion of this topic at the City's Education & Outreach Green Team on Tues, 2/15 at 1:30. In addition, the Green Team will be discussing the recruitment of applicants for the 2016 KC Green Neighborhood Recognition Program. Julie Koppen will highlight the KC Green Neighborhood recognition program in Greenability.
7. Fossil Fuel Divestment – Ben Proffer – Ben plans to meet with the various pension boards to discuss their possible divestment from fossil fuel extraction companies.

D. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. Dennis met with Dre Taylor who is creating a new aquaponics facility (Nile Aquaponics) on two formerly-vacant lots at 2902 Wabash to produce tilapia. He is incorporating sustainability principles into his operation and hopes to be able to operate independent of the energy grid, relying upon wind & solar power + battery storage. He is still in need of additional resources to complete the project and Dennis has connected him to Milbank Manufacturing, a local firm who specialize in renewable energy management technology & micro-grids.
2. KCMO received a Gold-level Solar Ready Community recognition from MARC for its work to streamline the permitting process for installation of residential & commercial solar generating systems in our community.
3. Staff continue to work on preparation of a STAR Community Index application for submittal & approval later this year.
4. Dennis was invited to speak at the 8th Annual Sustainability Teach-in at Central Missouri State University re actions to address climate change & sustainability in municipal operations of KCMO.
5. Staff are working with ICMA (International City/County Management Association) on a case study to highlight the City's use of ENERGY STAR, energy efficiency, & the City Energy Project to reduce energy consumption & GHG emissions in KCMO.
6. This week the City Council will consider its annual ordinance to "opt in" to the Show Me Green Sales Tax holiday, to exempt the purchase of ENERGY STAR® rated appliances from state & city sales tax during the week of April 19 – 25.
7. At the Feb 19th meeting of the City Energy Project Advisory Committee, the CEPAC members will provide feedback to City staff on proposed rules for implementation of the City's Energy Empowerment Ordinance.
8. KCMO is one of 77 cities who submitted applications for the US Department of Transportation's Smart City grant of \$40 million. Five finalist cities will be selected to receive \$100,000 each to prepare their final applications.
9. On a 5 – 4 vote, the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS) issued a stay on EPA's Clean Power Plan that will put its implementation on hold, pending the outcome of litigation files by several states, coal companies, and others seeking to invalidate the rule to reduce GHG emissions from existing fossil-fuel power plants.
10. Opponents to the use of TIF (tax increment financing) to support BNIM's proposed new "living building" HQ in the Crossroads area, secured sufficient signatures to put the issue on a future public election ballot. Unable to await the outcome of such a vote, BNIM will look elsewhere for locations to build its new HQ office.

E. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams - No report
2. LEED – Jim Hansen - No report
3. City Energy Project – Dennis Murphey - Jennifer Gunby is working on a longevity plan; the CEP Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on February 19th at IBEW headquarters; The hiring process has begun for a new position in the CEP who will support the implementation of the Energy Empowerment Ordinance (see D-7 above).
4. Solid Waste – Rachel Guthrie - No report
5. Climate Protection Steering Committee – Bob Berkebile – No action since last EMC meeting.
6. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez – No additional report. City's website has been updated so that bids can be submitted for vacant property.
7. Health Commission – Seft Hunter – No report.

- F. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti – no report, but noted that SCOTUS issuance of a stay of EPA’s Clean Power Plan rule was very surprising and virtually unprecedented in terms of a major environmental rule issued by EPA.
- G. Old Business - None
- H. New Business – None – Announcement – John Wood, Director of the Neighborhoods and Housing Services Department, is working on a report on fair housing with the targeted publication date of October 2016. He will address what he intends to do with housing and will make recommendations to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The report will include a section on how to incentivize mixed income residential neighborhoods.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm

The next meeting is:

March 9, 2016
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, 2nd Floor – Westview Meeting Room