



## **Environmental Management Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2016**

Meeting Location: MARC, Westview Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 600 Broadway, KCMO

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Jim Hansen, Seft Hunter, Julie Koppen, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer, Jack Schrimsher, Emily Truebner

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Caroline (Mollie) Davies, Kimberly Hill, Marty Kraft

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

Guests: Penny Harrell and Dean Pearson – 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.
- B. Minutes – A motion was made by Julie Koppen, and seconded by Jim Hansen, to adopt the draft minutes for the February, 2016 EMC meeting as corrected. 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. City Budget – Carol Adams –Several of the Commissioners attended budget hearings or other events. A letter from Urban Neighborhoods Initiative was discussed regarding the proposed GIS/data staff position requested by City Planning and Development (CPD). It was noted that the EMC has submitted letters to the Mayor regarding proposed city budgets in the past. Robin Martinez stated he spoke with Jeff Williams, Director of CPD and commented that the inclusion of this position would be a good start toward addressing the issue identified in the Vacant Lots Task Force Report. Seft Hunter noted the budget appears to be missing issues of equity. Budget hearings lacked an overall policy framework which allowed for unrestrained and unfocused comments. There was a focus on deconstruction as part of the proposed \$10 million bond for vacant properties. Dennis Murphey noted that John Wood, Director, Neighborhoods and Housing Department had asked OEQ for input on the issue. The question is what is the default position the city will follow? There was discussion about the potential content of the letter that EMC might submit. A triage approach was suggested in addressing demolition/deconstruction/renovation. It was agreed that Carol Adams would draft a letter to be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council.
  2. Education Work Group – Jensen Adams, Ben Proffer and Mollie Davies have met twice. They have so far focused on creating written justification for the work group identifying stakeholders, looking at opportunities and barriers. They have reviewed the Green Schools Initiative. The work group plans to continue meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month and reporting to the EMC.
  3. Environmental Achievement Awards – Carol Adams – Carol Adams has met with a number of City staff to obtain opinions and suggestions about the awards activity. She attended the Environmental Coordinating Managers (ECM) meeting and got good feedback. Suggestions included (1) adding a new category for process changes – that have a long term impact on business as usual, (2) reviewing submissions for the past that were not chosen for awards and that may now be more mature, (3) an award for tenacity and impact over time, and (4) providing copies of the award photos to individual staff participants rather than just a larger single copy to the department.
  4. Other –
    - a. Seft Hunter wants to more clearly define opportunities between the EMC and the Health Commission. He asked that someone, such as Dennis Murphey, be identified to speak to the Health Commission about resilience.
    - b. Rachel Guthrie is interested in planning and implementing lunch and learns in neighborhoods

D. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams - No report
2. LEED – Jim Hansen - No report
3. City Energy Project – Dennis Murphey noted the City Energy Project Advisory Committee met Feb 19, 2016. The meeting was focused on obtaining feedback about draft rules for implementing the Energy Empowerment Ordinance. A range of training opportunities for building owners and managers has been planned and will begin in June. Staff is working on longevity planning for the CEP concept. Metropolitan Energy Center, with Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, have submitted a grant to the US Department of Energy for a customer service center for building energy efficiency.
4. Solid Waste – Marleen Leonce, Recycling Program Manager, is starting a new advisory group for solid waste/recycling issues. Dennis Murphey noted the Solid Waste Program has been moved from Public Works to Neighborhoods and Housing.
5. Climate Protection Steering Committee – Dennis reported that two new members have been appointed to the Steering Committee. Meetings have been set up with each of the new members to talk about the committee and the programs.
6. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez – No additional report.
7. Health Commission – Seft Hunter – See above, item C-4.

E. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. A position was included in the budget to add staff to OEQ for implementation of the Energy Empowerment Ordinance. The new position will establish systems for and implementation of data collection and analysis. Pending approval in the budget, the position will begin May 2, 2016.
2. The annual ShowMe Green Sales Tax program enabling ordinance was adopted.
3. Reminder that the focus topic for the Business Session of March 17<sup>th</sup> is City Forestation and Vegetation Plan. Rachel Guthrie noted she had met with Kristin Riott, Bridging The Gap, about the presentation and about the benefits of trees and native landscaping. Rachel indicated she is interested in relevant codes are in place for trees and plantings, etc.
4. The Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) has finalized its approval of filings from KCP&L addressing energy efficiency rebate programs. The current projected program total is \$103 million with possible consideration of increasing that amount at a later date. There was general discussion on several of the details.
5. Matt Gigliotti talked about the upcoming art and Earthday events. This set of events includes the City as well as the KC Public Schools for, among other elements, a focus on arts education for 2017. Planning has just begun.

F. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti – A bill has been discussed that promotes water quality and nutrient rights trading. Kansas City is interested from a source water protection perspective. There was discussion about the Missouri Coalition for the Environment regarding their lawsuit on lake nutrient criteria. DJ Pierre noted SB 572 is focused on municipal courts with parts prohibiting their ability to address prosecutions and fines for development violations.

G. Old Business - None

H. New Business –

- a. Rachel Guthrie noted there is church at 42<sup>nd</sup> & Wyoming that is planning to expand. As part of its expansion plans, they would tear down an historic church building and wanted to express her concern about those plans.
- b. It was noted that the Earnings Tax vote is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm

The next meeting is:

April 13, 2016  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Mid-America Regional Council  
600 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Westview Meeting Room