



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2016

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

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Jim Hansen, Julie Koppen, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer, Jack Schrimsher, Emily Truebner

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Jensen Adams, Kimberly Hill, Seft Hunter, Marty Kraft

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ)

Guests: Penny Howell – BTG/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 Molly Davies, and seconded by Ben Proffer, to adopt the draft minutes for the April, 2016 EMC meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Retreat Follow-up/EMC Priorities –
 1. Ben Proffer – Green Schools K-12 work group met Last week. The work group is gathering resources and will draft a report.
 2. Others – No reports
- D. Liaison Updates
 1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – The issue of Kansas range burning was discussed with information available at www.ksfire.org. The website also has information for ranchers about projected weather conditions related to range burning. There have been exceedences due to burning most notably in Wichita, Omaha and Lincoln. The change in ozone season from April 1st to March 1st will have an impact on KC regional exceedences. This is because range burning takes place in March and the impacts have not been measured due to the season beginning April 1st.
 2. LEED – Jim Hansen – Aviation Department submitted a variance request from LEED-Gold for a building, at the downtown airport, that will not be occupied but will be a warehouse. It is expected the variance will be approved.
 3. City Energy Project – Dennis Murphey – The CEP is continuing to work out a longevity plan for continuation of program activities after expiration of the actual CEP – which will be in about 9 months. Jennifer Gunby and others are working on a plan for a regional resource center which could be housed at the Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC). It was considered most appropriate for ongoing activities for the function, as a regional center, to be outside of City Hall.
 4. Solid Waste – Rachel Guthrie noted she had missed a meeting. On April 20, 2016, students were at the KC Design Center working on recycling issues including a recycling center for the downtown area. Molly Davies noted that, in the past, students have found difficulty addressing multifamily recycling in the real world.
 5. Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) – Dennis reported the CPSC will meet May 13, 2016 at 3:00 pm on the 10th Floor of City Hall. The agenda will include (a) the new KCP&L rebate programs. He noted the new set of programs includes (1) a focus on low income multifamily developments and one called Strategic Energy Management. KCP&L has developed two focus area groups – commercial and industrial – and the City has been asked to join the commercial group. The City Manager has approved participation beginning with an orientation/training session in June. The City has identified an Executive Sponsor – Dennis Murphey – and an Energy Champion – Lee Hinkle who is the Assistant Director in the General Services Department; (b) Climate Action Champions program, (c) Sierra Club initiative called “America Ready for 100” which was presented to the EMC last month.
 6. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez – A key recommendation of the Task Force Report was for the City to create a position to deal with vacant property data in a centralized, rational manner. City Planning & Development requested such a position in its budget for 2016-17 and it has been approved. In addition, the United Neighborhood Initiative (UNI) has been working on a number of vacant property related issues including property valuation.
 7. Health Commission – No Report

8. Water Cost of Services – Carol Adams – The group assembled by the Water Department has met and will meet on the 2nd Tuesdays of each month from 4 pm to 6 pm in various locations. The current meeting schedule and discussion topics:

June 14	Stormwater Utility, Guiding Principles
July 12	Wastewater Utility, Guiding Principles
Aug 9	Consumer Assistance Program
Sept 13	Water Rate Structure
Oct 11	Wastewater Rate Structure, Water and Wastewater fixed charges, Infrastructure replacement
Nov 8	Water Utility draft recommendations, Public Hearing
Dec 13	Stormwater Utility draft recommendations, Public Hearing
Jan	Wastewater Utility draft recommendations, Public Hearing
Feb	Consider public input and finalize recommendations
Mar	Finalize recommendations

E. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. Three significant presentations have been made to City Council in the last month. These include: (1) Business Session - April 14th – Dre Taylor on his development called Nile Aquaponics, (2) Business Session – April 21st – Kristin Riott on trees and landscaping, and (3) April 28th – Transportation & Infrastructure Committee – James Walton, Water Services Department, on climate resilience. All three were very good presentations. All of the presentations are archived for public access.
2. Climate Resilience - On April 19th, there was a focus group of the Climate Action Champions process addressing neighborhoods, public health, and climate resiliency. A 2nd climate resiliency workshop is being planned to address strategies for a climate resilience plan. That workshop will be held in August.
3. As a follow up to information provided at a previous meeting regarding the Mayor's Monarch pledge, a meeting was held with the City's code inspectors about milkweed. If someone plants milkweed, it will grow taller than current the noxious weed ordinance allows and may be the subject of a neighborhood complaint. The meeting was to educate the inspectors to be able to identify milkweed and explain to the complaining party the value of milkweed and that it is allowed under the code. Potential clarification in code language was discussed.
4. On May 3rd, there was a webinar about a new climate friendly purchasing toolkit focused on supply side (Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions for the GHG inventory). It was found that the supply chain emissions are, in fact, greater than all other (Scope 1 and 2) emissions impacts. The next webinar in the series is scheduled for May 17th and is focused on Information & Communications Technology and Diesel Fuel.
5. The Neighborhood Recognition Program is now open for 2016. The application form is available with a submission deadline of June 17, 2016.
6. The Mayor's Energy Challenge Awards celebration was held April 27th. There was general discussion about award categories and recipients.
7. JC Martel is the newest OEQ staff person. JC has been working on the City Energy Project and the Energy Empowerment Ordinance and will oversee the implementation of the Energy Empowerment Program. May 1, 2016 was the first reporting deadline of the program requiring the City to benchmark its buildings over 10,000 square feet. There have been between 115 and 130 buildings entered into Portfolio Manager for benchmarking. The next program benchmarking deadline is May 1, 2017 and is for commercial and multifamily buildings of at least 100,000 square feet.
8. There is a new national initiative called "Daylight Hour". The new initiative is somewhat similar to "Earth Hour" which asked that building lights be turned off for one hour on a specific night worldwide. Daylight Hour is asking for lights of appropriate buildings to be turned off from noon to 1:00 pm on June 17.
9. In another new initiative, the Greater KC Chamber and MARC have begun a Regional Energy Dialog focused on the future of energy generation & use in our metro area. The kick-off will include remarks by David Warm - MARC, Terry Bassham – KCP&L, and Joe Reardon – Greater KC Chamber.
10. Andy Savastino's staff has been working with Parks and Health Departments at the Garrison Community Center where, during renovation for ADA improvements, lead was found on surfaces and in ductwork. A contractor has performed a clean-up and another contractor & OEQ staff are doing follow up inspections.

F. Legal Brief – No report.

G. Old Business

1. The Environmental Achievement Awards celebration will be held on the date of the regularly scheduled EMC meeting – August 10, 2016. Jerry Shechter was asked to find out if the Health Department auditorium is available.

H. New Business –

1. Carol Adams noted she will miss the July 2016 meeting and, as a result, someone else will need to chair the meeting.
2. Dennis Murphey noted the Commerce Towers Redevelopment Project was highlighted last week as part of the activities to kick-off operations of the new streetcar. The building is located on Main St on the streetcar line. The redevelopment is notable because it is to be a very energy efficient building and is being created as a vertical neighborhood with

residential and commercial spaces and a range of amenities that can be found in a horizontal (traditional) neighborhood.

3. The ATA's MAX northern terminal and park and ride lot at 3rd & Grand will be the new headquarters for BNIM and will be managed by Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL). *[Note: It was subsequently determined that this info was incorrect – BNIM is the architect for the new buildings at 3rd & Grand, but this will not be a location for their new HQ building.]*
4. Rachel Guthrie
 - a) noted that Matt Davis, Jackson County employee (husband of former EMC Commissioner Julie Davis), has posted a photo of County Executive Frank White with President Obama's dogs at the White House supporting the Rails to Trails Rock Island Line trail project in Missouri.
 - b) KCMO Public Works has a program to install street lamp light shades to reduce glare into surrounding residences upon resident request
 - c) Veterans' Village, at 89th & Troost, will use Land Bank vacant land to construct a tiny house village for homeless veterans.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm

The next meeting is:

June 8, 2016 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council at 600 Broadway, 2nd Floor