



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2016**

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

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jim Hansen, Kimberly Hill, Julie Koppen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer, Jack Schrimsher, Emily Truebner

Commissioners Absent: Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Seft Hunter,

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Jerry Shechter – OEQ; Jomy John, City Planning

Guests: Elizabeth Fischer

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

- A. Welcome and Introductions – Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. Minutes – Minutes of the meetings of June, July and August 2016 were considered. Ben Proffer made a motion, seconded by Kimberly Hill, to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion passed.
- C. KCMO Solar Permitting Process – Jomy John, City Planning & Development
 1. The City of KCMO has just been awarded a “Gold” award as a solar ready city.
 2. The City has created a solar landing page on its website which has a wealth of solar permitting information.
 3. The solar page is divided into two parts: rooftop and ground mount and contains all the minimum requirements.
 4. The process, in general, includes
 - a. The applicant has two options to choose from – electronic plan submission or in person by appointment
 - b. There is an express application review process which takes about one hour
 - c. Application checklist is available
 5. For ground mounted solar, a building permit is required as well as an electrical permit
 6. In many cases, the permit is obtainable in one hour.
 7. There is a cold question process that includes access by phone, by e-mail or by walk-in.
 8. Start to finish, in general, residential permitting takes about 2 days; commercial permitting about 2 weeks.
- D. Dakota Access Pipeline – Robin Martinez
Robin provided a general history and began the discussion. The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) project is projected to cost about \$3.8 billion by Energy Transfer Partners and others. Issues include:
 1. the pipeline would cross the Missouri River in a couple of locations.
 2. direct impacts on water supply
 3. Army Corps of Engineers permits have been challenged
 4. There are a lot of history and archaeological resources
 5. Journalists are being arrested and protestors are being attacked by dogs
 6. Federal court has denied an injunction application but, on the other hand, action with regard to property owned by the Corps has temporarily stopped progress
 7. The carrying capacity of the pipeline is about 500,000 gallons per day and, based on historical experience, the line might leak and contaminate the Missouri River downstream from the leak. This would have a direct impact on the water supply of many communities including Kansas City.

There was general discussion about fracking and salt water injection for storage and resultant earthquakes centered in Oklahoma and radiating to other states.

There was discussion about whether the Commission wants to draft a resolution regarding the DAPL. Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Ben Proffer, to draft a resolution to the Mayor and City Council. The motion passed. There was substantial discussion about potential elements of a resolution and appropriate language. A resolution was drafted. Jim Hansen made a motion, seconded by Marty Kraft, to approve the resolution in substantial form. The motion passed.

E. Retreat Priorities

1. Green Education working group – Ben Proffer – The group is trying to set up a Google docs account for ease of drafting and editing documents and asked Matt Gigliotti for a legal opinion. Matt first noted that, as a working group of the Commission, the process is subject to the Sunshine Law. The process must be controlled by the City as the host for the Commission. The full text of the legal opinion is included in the files at City Hall as an attachment to the meeting notes.

F. Liaison Reports

1. Air Quality – Carol Adams provided a handout about “Projected Impacts in Extreme Weather in the Kansas City Region.
2. LEED – no report
3. City Energy Project –Dennis Murphey indicated the next meeting of the City Energy Project Advisory Committee is Friday September 26, 2016 at 1:00 pm at KCP&L at 1200 Main St. The main discussion will be about the draft longevity plan
4. Solid Waste Planning – no report.
5. Climate Protection Steering Committee – Dennis Murphey reported that the CPSC met on Sept 9 at 3:00 pm in the 10th floor committee room of City Hall.
 - a. Tom Jacobs reported on progress of the climate resilience workshops which, it is planned, will result in a climate resilience strategy document.
 - b. Kristin Riott made a presentation on reforestation and the tree canopy initiative. Currently, Parks & Recreation contracts with BTG to plant trees because they can achieve greater results planting smaller trees using voluntary labor. The Green Infrastructure Green Team will undertake drafting of a reforestation plan and a tree preservation ordinance. They will work in conjunction with the Regulations & Policy Green Team to develop the ordinance and the administrative regulation to govern the program. There is the possibility that funding for reforestation could be included in a capital improvements bond package in the Spring of 2017.
6. Vacant lots – Commissioner Martinez stated that the KCMO Land Bank is looking at alternatives including tree farming. The Urban Neighborhood Initiative (UNI) has a working group that is addressing this issue and has a sub-group looking at valuation of vacant property and valuation of green infrastructure.
7. Health Commission – no report
8. Water Cost of Service Task Force – Commissioner Adams reported that the Task Force is working on its guiding principles and will look at water rates. She asked for any suggestions about potential solutions.

G. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey gave a brief overview of several items:

1. SolSmart – The City has been awarded a SolSmart “Gold City” designation from the US Department of Energy and others which is to be conveyed formally at the national ICMA meeting later this month in Kansas City. The Mayor and Dennis Murphey have participated in development of a video for that purpose and for education and marketing later. The first showing will be at the conference. Apparently, there has been 13 MW of solar PV installed in Kansas City including 1.5 MW by the City itself.
2. The new residential PACE program, called HERO, is to be launched publicly tomorrow (9/15/16). The program is administered by Renovate America from California which has completed about 75,000 jobs so far.
3. The City has been contacted by a KU professor who has received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to do surveys of and case studies about cities with a target of sustainability and resilience and has gotten permission to include KCMO in the case studies.
4. The City is in the process of refilling both the Facilities Manager and the Energy Manager positions. Interviews of applicants have taken place for both positions.

H. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti reported on status of activities in Jefferson City.

1. The House has over-riden the Governor’s vetoes on a number of pieces of legislation. This includes the Clean Water Commission. The Clean Water Commission has 7 positions and the language detailing the potential make-up of the Commission has been changed. The voter ID bill veto over-ride has passed both the House and Senate and the relaxed gun control bill veto is being debated.

I. Old Business – None

J. New Business – None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm

The next EMC meeting is:

October 12, 2016 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

MARC

600 Broadway, 2nd Floor - Westview Meeting Room