



Environmental Management Commission Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2017

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

Commissioners present: Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Jim Hansen, Kimberly Hill, Seft Hunter, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, Ben Proffer, Jack Schrimsher, Nacente Seabury, Emily Truebner

Commissioners Absent: Carol Adams, Julie Koppen, DJ Pierre,

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Matt McKinley, Jerry Shechter – OEQ; Matt Gigliotti – Law, Aaron Shroyer – Neighborhoods and Housing

Guests: Alecia Kates – MARC, Dianne Cleaver – Urban Neighborhoods Initiative (UNI), David Mitchel – 350KC, Joy Heaviland - Heartland Conservation Alliance, Mary Beth Ogle

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

- A. Welcome and Introductions – Co-chair Bob Berkebile welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves. Nacente Seabury, the newest appointed Commissioner is attending her first meeting and was welcomed.
- B. Minutes – A motion was made by Molly Davies, seconded by Jim Hansen, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November, 2016; the motion passed. There were no minutes for December, 2016 because that meeting was cancelled.
- C. Vacant to Vibrant Working Group of the UNI – Dianne Cleaver, Executive Director, UNI and Alecia Kates, MARC
 1. Dianne Cleaver provided a brief but detailed background of the Urban Neighborhoods Initiative (UNI) noting that this initiative is one of the “Big 5” activities of the Chamber of Commerce. The focus of UNI is to address a range of revitalization needs and issues in ten neighborhoods east of Troost. Ms. Cleaver provided a set of handouts. The UNI has several focus areas based on a model adopted from Atlanta. The model is called “purpose-based” communities. As part of the overall focus of healthy neighborhood development, areas of focus include education, mixed income housing and neighborhoods, health and wellness, with the UNI as the backbone organization for planning and implementation. In August 2016, the UNI, addressing education needs, opened a charter school; UNI is planning housing development and is a partner with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) in a program called Urban Catalytic Redevelopment. UNI is planning to development “patient capital” which is to be a resource that is available in a manner that has the neighborhood development process as a core focus. The organization also has a working group called Vacant to Vibrant that includes a wide range of members addressing the set of vacant property issues. At its base, UNI has adopted the EMC’s Vacant Properties Report – “Best + Most Sustainable Uses of Vacant Properties”. This is a high priority focus because approximately 50% of the properties in the target neighborhoods are vacant.
 2. Alecia Kates, MARC, spoke specifically about the Vacant to Vibrant working group called Green Spaces and Urban Farms, of which she is the chair. A major objective of the working group is to identify and overcome barriers in the ten neighborhoods building upon the EMC task force report. The focus areas of the working group include a comprehensive implementation plan, integrating various redevelopment concepts into demonstration blocks with green applications as a significant part of initial planning, building and valuing community assets, and development of a mobile app to assist people in identifying potential uses for vacant properties, especially those that have the potential to be income producing. The was general discussion and questions/answers. A website is being developed called Greening KC.
- D. Retreat Priorities
 1. Education – Jensen Adams – The State of Missouri has decided to participate in the Green Ribbon program form schools. The problem, at this time, is the federal deadline of January 15, 2017, for submission of documents to nominate schools.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Air Quality – No report
2. LEED – No report
3. City Energy Project – Jensen Adams – The CEP is coming to its planned ending date. The Advisory Committee has had its last meeting, the Energy Empowerment Ordinance was adopted by City Council and the Energy Empowerment Program has been implemented. As a major part of the legacy of the program, Jennifer Gunby, who is the onsite technical advisor for this program from the Institute for Market Transformation, has been planning with the Metropolitan Energy Center for development of a Clean Energy Resource Center. Formal launching of the CERC is planned for May 2017. And, the Mayor's Energy Challenge is in process with 48 buildings committed by 9 local organizations of which 35 are from KC Public Schools.
4. Solid Waste Planning – No report.
5. Climate Protection Steering Planning – The next meeting of the Steering Committee is being planned for February, 2017.
6. Vacant Lots – No additional report
7. Health Commission – Seft Hunter – It was suggested that Sarah Martin Anderson, a very good speaker about performance tracking focused on quality and equity. This could be a good follow-up to the STAR Community Rating presentation by Aaron Shroyer.
8. Water Cost of Service Task Force – No report.

F. Office of Environmental Quality – STAR Communities Rating - Dennis Murphey and Aaron Shroyer

Dennis introduced the concept of STAR rating index noting that the presentation is similar to the presentation recently provided to the City Council Business Session. This has been a year-long effort coordinated by Aaron Shroyer, who is a Cookingham-Noll Management Fellow with the City.

Aaron Shroyer provided the background information about STAR noting that this is a rating system developed by and for cities. His presentation addressed scoring, lessons learned and what is expected for the future. He also noted this is the leading framework for and by local governments and, so far, 57 jurisdictions have received a STAR rating with a large number currently in process.

The rating system includes 7 overall goals, 44 objectives with 108 outcomes measures and 408 action measures for a total of 516 evaluation measures from which to assign points. Of the total of 720 possible points, KCMO achieved 480 points based on 334 measures which resulted in a 4-STAR designation. This placed our award at 11th overall of the 57 rated cities so far. St. Louis, Columbia and Wichita achieved 3-STAR while Lawrence is also 4-STAR rated. Aaron presented greater details about each of the evaluated measures and answered questions about them. It was suggested that the EMC consider using the results as part of its planning and at a retreat.

Aaron noted we now have an active sustainability dashboard that is accessible at: www.kcmo.gov/greenstats and we have included many of the measures into the KCStat performance measurement system.

G. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti – Discussion included

1. City Council adopted a resolution opposed to the Dakota Access Pipeline and in support of the Standing Rock Sioux. He also noted that new national pipeline permits have been added relating to shorelines.
2. The US Department of the Interior has added 24 new national landmarks of which one is the Huron Cemetery in KCKs
3. Missouri DNR – There has not yet been a new director announced and there have been no new rules since the general election.

H. Old Business – None

I. New Business - None

J. Visitor Remarks

1. Joy Heaviland, Heartland Conservation Alliance announced a walk is planned on Martin Luther King Day from 1800 Swope Parkway to Bruce R Watkins
2. Marty Kraft noted he has flyers (see handouts) for a workshop for gardeners at Tracy Community Garden

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm

The next EMC meeting is:

February 8, 2017 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
MARC - 600 Broadway, 2nd Floor - Westview Meeting Room