



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes May 10, 2017**

Meeting Location: Health Department, 2400 Troost Ave, KCMO

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

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Jensen Adams, Marty Kraft, Nacente Seabury, Emily Truebner

Staff: Andy Savastino – OEQ; Matt Gigliotti – Law

Guests: Warren Adams-Leavitt (Metropolitan Energy Center), Tom Jacobs (MARC), Joe Robertson (KC Star), Mark Walter (US Sun Solar)

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm; Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves. No action was taken on the April EMC meeting minutes.
- B. The Climate Emergency – Tom Jacobs, Carol Adams

Tom and Carol introduced two resource documents, the Regional Future Scenario Planning Initiative and the Climate Resilience Strategy. These documents were used to frame the discussion by the EMS regarding future actions that the EMC can pursue.

This is the continuation of a conversation the EMC has been having about how best to energize Kansas City about the urgency of climate change. Rachel Guthrie correctly observed that EMC discussion up to this point has been using the language of alarm rather than the language of action. There was consensus that the EMC should put forth actionable recommendations for environmental stewardship and climate adaptation.

Kansas City has made strong starts in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, local food production and green infrastructure. The community has strong social equity advocates and partners. Next steps will be to identify issues and action programs that would have local impact. Several suggestions came forward:

- improve timely coordination and application of resources to support local home repair (particularly roofs) and energy efficiency
- expand curbside recycling services to include more multi-family housing
- increase public information regarding management of disease vectors like ticks and mosquitos and pests like oak mites
- fully enforce all stream setback and runoff detention requirements to minimize flooding from new development
- focus more emergency management resources on resident severe storm preparation and response to extreme heat
- partner with not-for-profits and volunteers to plant trees, install rain barrels, rain gardens and native plants
- address the disconnect between costs to renters and to landlords for energy efficiency improvements

This list is exemplary. The EMC intends to select several priorities and recommend near term actions that can be accomplished with current resources and longer term approaches for inclusion in the City's 5 Year Business Plan.

There was recognition that policy statements and aspirational initiatives can inform and motivate long term strategies. The EMC will continue to advise City officials regarding opportunities to advocate for mitigation of the rate of climate change and to partner with others with shared goals.

- C. Liaison Updates – There were no updates.

- D. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti – No report
- E. Old Business – Ben Proffer expressed concern about HB 340 which adds fees to utility bills for use of solar PV.
- F. New Business – Andy Savastino introduced the 2017 Environmental Achievement Award Nomination form. The commissioners wanted to add to the criteria some consideration for individual initiative. The change will be made and the form will be posted for distribution. Nominations will be due June 9th.
- G. Visitor Remarks – A guest posed a question to the EMC regarding storing food for use during future extreme events.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

**The next EMC meeting is: June 14, 2017
 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
 Health Department, Multipurpose Room on the lower level
 2400 Troost Ave.**