



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes September 13, 2017**

Meeting Location: Health Department, 2400 Troost Ave, KCMO

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Jim Hansen, Julie Koppen, Ben Proffer

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Kimberly Hill, Seft Hunter, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Jack Schrimsher, Nacente Seabury, Emily Truebner

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino and Jerry Shechter – OEQ; Katie Chandler – Law, Jonathan Lecuyer – City Auditor

Guests: Alecia Kates – MARC, David Mitchell and Stephen Melton – Sierra Club, Joy Heaviland and Ayana Curran-Howes – Heartland Conservation Alliance, Versa Williams – Surface Water Solutions, Kelly Gilbert and Sara Lamprise – MEC, Mary Ellen Vincent

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm; A quorum was not present. Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. No action taken on approval of minutes.
- C. Vacant to Vibrant – Alecia Kates, MARC Urban Neighborhood Initiative (UNI) committee
Ms. Kates distributed a copy of the various sections of the newly published vacant lots guide and its attachments. The guide is a neighborhood-focused document based on the Detroit Future Cities Guide for their neighborhoods. The guide includes design templates for application of adopted concepts for addressing ways to analyze and use vacant lots. UNI will continue to add templates and functionality as time and resources permit with annual updates planned.

General discussion –

- 1. The RFP process for neighborhood small implementation grants will begin October 2017 with training workshops. Training will include help in designing a makeover for your own vacant lot. After the workshop, neighborhoods/individuals can apply for a grant up to \$5,000. For the future, UNI is looking at follow-up grants for maintenance.
 - 2. The UNI target area encompasses 10 neighborhoods/450 blocks.
 - 3. The EMC Vacant Lots report is being used as a base for the UNI activities as well.
 - 4. City Council Resolution #170536 directs staff to seek environmentally responsible ways to address vacant properties, both publicly and privately owned, and rights of way. Staff is gathering data, by September 25th, to develop a report to City Council.
 - 5. Parks & Recreation and Public Works are studying the use of goats to control vegetation
 - 6. There is the possibility of partnership with KC Native Plants
 - 7. Land Bank has \$1.2 million annually for mowing; Neighborhoods and Housing Department has \$0.5 million for mowing. Both amounts are normally expended before the end of each fiscal year.
 - 8. A suggestion was made to consider asking sustainability-oriented groups to assist.
- D. KCMO responses to the climate emergency – City Council Resolutions – Dennis Murphey
Framing – On June 1, 2017, the United States federal government announced the USA was leaving the 2016 Paris Climate Accord. A group called US Climate Mayors, consisting of about 50 mayors, signed a letter of commitment to continue addressing climate issues; Mayor James was one of the original signers. Currently, over 360 mayors have signed the letter and many city councils have adopted similar resolutions. Kansas City adopted Resolution #170484 on July 20, 2017; a copy of the resolution has been provided to the Commissioners. City Council recognized that reaffirmation is one thing while taking action is another. On August 10, 2017, City Council adopted Resolution #170586, sponsored by CM Scott Taylor; a copy of the resolution has been provided to the Commissioners. Pursuant to the resolution, staff has been directed to evaluate the feasibility of 10 initiatives and to report to City Council by March 2018. Dennis reviewed the 10 initiatives of the resolution.

- Items A, B and C - focus on two levels – (1) actions by KCMO, and (2) challenging other jurisdictions and entities to take similar steps.
- Item D – the City would work with others such as The Clean Cities Coalition and the Center for Climate & Energy Solutions (C2ES);
- Item E – PACE programs have begun to address this issue and the City is already working with both PACE programs; PACE programs are expanding in Missouri.
- Item F – the development of 5 – 1 MW community solar facilities is being jump-started by a grant received by Westside Housing Organization to develop such a facility in the Westside.
- Item G – Disclosure of energy efficiency and renewable energy data in economic development proposals that include tax incentives.
- Item H – Will work with Sam Swearngin, Kelly Gilbert and MARC, which already has a purchasing collaborative, plus possibly the Climate Mayors group for a potential nationwide collaborative.
- Item I – The first year of implementation of the general obligation bonds just approved by voters provides \$900,000 to begin the synchronization process.
- Item J – KCMO updates its building codes every six years; the next update period is 2018.

Staff is considering creation of a focused work group for each of the ten elements of the resolution. OEQ will make a presentation to the Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) at its next meeting – September 22, 2017 – to enlist their participation. The EMC Commissioners were asked to think about their interests and participation. Carol Adams suggested participation by any of the Commissioners should be early in the process and then to stay with it for the duration.

- E. Retreat Priorities – Jensen Adams – KCP&L has begun to emphasize energy efficiency and schools. Schools are also getting interested in the Native Plant Initiative. School focused strategies are being developed nationally and there is also proposed federal legislation.
- F. Liaison Updates –
1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – MARC is beginning transportation planning with Smart Moves transit plan – see www.kcsmartmoves.org ; currently, however, there are insufficient resources. MARC has an air quality database available.
 2. LEED – No report
 3. Solid Waste Planning – No report
 4. Climate Protection Steering Committee – The next meeting is this Friday, September 22, 2017
 5. Vacant Lots – No report
 6. Health Commission – No report
- G. OEQ Report – Dennis Murphey
1. The tree planting work group is intending to develop a viable citywide planting plan on public and private property. The Arbor Day Foundation will work with KCP&L regarding trees as energy efficiency projects that might be potentially Commission (PSC) involvement is required.
 2. KC Green Fair – Andy Savastino – The next fair is this coming Thursday, 9.21.17, to be held at City Market for the first time. The theme of the fair is energy efficiency.
 3. The City has submitted an application to be considered to be chosen a FIFA (soccer) host city. Our submission was a part of a joint submission of the USA, Canada and Mexico. There is a strong sustainability element throughout the application and an emphasis on youth soccer.
 4. Dennis has been contacted by KCTV-5 with an interest in urban heat island effect
 5. The City has issued a news release noting the start of painted, dedicated bicycle lanes on Grand Blvd.
- H. Legal Brief – No report
- I. Old Business – No report
- J. New Business – No report
- K. Remarks
1. Kelly Gilbert, MEC – This week is National Drive Electric Week; The new, 100% electric Chevy Bolt is now available in KC area.
 2. Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) has just received a couple of new grants including one that has funding for new KCI electric buses.
 3. A new travel corridor is being created along I-70 in support of CNG vehicles

4. Jerry Shechter noted that Kelly Gilbert has just been appointed the new executive director of MEC.
5. The VW settlement agreement has been negotiated but not yet signed. There may be \$40 million available in Missouri.
6. Jonathan Lucuyer, Assistant City Auditor, asked for input on various audit items.
7. David Mitchell, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) – noted the CCL will make a presentation to the EMC next month about carbon fees and dividends.
8. Stephen Melton, CCL – has spoken with northland residents who are happy that KC is active regarding climate change.
9. Joy Heaviland - Heartland Conservation Alliance –has a new intern and will hold a bicycle event at 8:00 am on September 23, 2017.
10. Mary Vincent - Sierra Club –has questions regarding fewer KCPS students coupled with lots of busing; Jensen Adams addressed the issue. Urban Heat Island was brought up as an issue in terms of concern about roofing colors and sidewalks.
11. Molly Davies – Commissioner
 - a. UMKC has an alum named James Mitchell who is now working for the Carbon War Room/Rocky Mountain Institute. He was working on shifting the global shipping industry to CNG, for which he received a European award. He is now moving to the energy sector, particularly municipal energy, and working with cities trying to shift to 100% renewable energy. As an alum and former KC resident he would be interested in providing any assistance to KC and OEQ as we work on the new energy efficiency/renewable energy resolution. His MS thesis at Oxford was on stranded assets.
 - b. UMKC will host a lecture by Bill McKibben, founder of the international organization 350.org, at Pierson Hall on Friday, October 6, 2017; online RSVP required to attend.

The next EMC meeting is: October 11, 2017
 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 Health Department – 2400 Troost Ave

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm