



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes October 11, 2017**

Meeting Location: Health Department, 2400 Troost Ave, KCMO

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Jim Hansen, Kimberly Hill, Julie Koppen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer, Nacente Seabury, Jack Schrimsher, Emily Truebner

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Seft Hunter

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino and Jerry Shechter – OEQ;

Guests: Ayana Curran-Howes – Heartland Conservation Alliance, Sara Lamprise – MEC, David Mitchell, Frank Zilm and Stephen Melton – Citizens Climate Lobby, Scott Klamm – MRI Global

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm; A quorum was present. Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. Minutes – Robin Martinez made a motion, seconded by Nacente Seabury, to approve the minutes of the meetings of July, August and September, 2017 as presented. The motion was approved.

C. Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) – Stephen Melton

Mr. Melton thanked the City for all it is doing mostly currently, Resolutions 170484 and 170586. Mr. Melton discussed the CCL carbon pricing proposal indicating the CCL goal is passage of a national carbon fee and dividend approach. He distributed a packet of information that also contains sample language of a draft resolution and presented a Powerpoint, a copy of which is in the packet. There are 69 supporting members of CCL on the national, state and local levels. The CCL only agenda item is education about and passage of a carbon fee and dividend program as a best first step. IRS would administer the process of collecting the fees and distributing appropriate dividends to households nationwide on a share basis based on family size and respective ages. CCL contends there would be more jobs created in clean energy than fossil fuels. Dividends, it is assumed, would be applied as an offset to fees (higher costs).

Mr. Melton referenced a book called “The Conservative Case for Carbon Dividends” by the Climate Leadership Council and provided projections of changing costs and returns to households over time. Various sectors of the population would benefit differently over time; low income households would benefit at a higher level than others to begin with but that benefit would decrease over time. Also critical is that higher carbon intense lifestyles would result in greater total fees. An implicit assumption in the argument is that households would choose to make their properties more energy efficient. However, there were concerns expressed, by Commissioners, about the ability of low income households to pay for those improvements.

Jim Hansen made a motion, seconded by Emily Truebner, to ask the Mayor and City Council to adopt a resolution in favor of a national carbon fee and dividend program. During discussion, there were concerns expressed about the potential impact on the low to moderate income population. Among the concerns was a belief that this population does not have the economic capability to make needed energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements and adjustments. On a vote of 4 in favor and 7 against, the motion was not adopted. As an alternative, there was support for additional discussion at the December meeting. The Chair asked Commissioners to submit questions/comments to Jerry to be forwarded to Mr. Melton. Mr. Melton was asked to review the questions and to provide responses to Jerry for distribution prior to the December meeting.

D. Responses to the climate emergency – City Council Resolutions – Dennis Murphey

Resolution #170586, as amended, was adopted August 10, 2017. On August 28th, Dennis met with KCP&L to discuss the Resolution. KCP&L identified 9 of the 10 initiatives, not including traffic signal synchronization, in which they would participate and staff was identified.

On October 11th, Dennis met with Chuck Caisley, KCP&L, Troy Schulte, City Manager, and Ashok Gupta, NRDC, at which there appeared to be a clear alignment of interests. There may be interest in a green tariff to purchase green power for specific customers at current prices. KCP&L can go to the Public Service Commission (PSC) to request this line of action. KCMO could advocate in favor of the tariff. There is also an interest in community solar projects which might be folded in with the tariff request. The City Manager expressed an interest in toward carbon free municipal operations.

KCP&L noted Resolution 170586 aligns with their business plan.

Meetings are currently being planned to discuss:

- Economic development applications
- Traffic signal synchronization; Public Works is planning a pilot project along Broadway and will study all arterials.
- Training of codes officials and inspectors, coincident with beginning the work to adopt the newest energy (IECC 2018) and other codes, with Jeffrey Williams, Director of City Planning & Development
- Electric vehicle (EV) purchasing with KCP&L, Sam Swearngin - Fleet Manager, KCMO Purchasing Division, MARC, Clean Cities Coalition, and others. Discussions will include the VW settlement and CMAQ funds.

Planning for future meetings includes:

- PACE, and other financing, focused on low income households
- Increasing energy and water efficiency in the built environment
- EVs in low income communities
- Tree planting initiative, and tree preservation, including energy efficiency benefits
- Targeting 90% of City facilities for ENERGY STAR® certification; This is currently being reviewed

Dennis expressed optimism that all 10 initiatives can be evaluated as feasible, at some level. If any Commissioners has an interest in working on one or more of the initiatives, please contact Jerry Shechter. The same presentation was made to the Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC). We plan to start with smaller groups and then expand stakeholders for each initiative.

Robin Martinez noted the PSC is currently sponsoring two workshops on distributed energy and believes the City should participate.

E. OEQ Report – Dennis Murphey

1. Andy Savastino reported the 2017 KC Green Fair was held last month. During the event, the latest six KC Green neighborhood recipients were recognized.
2. The City is collaborating on an application to FIFA for the 2026 games and we made the first cut. The field of applicants will soon be narrowed to 12-15 cities in the US, Mexico and Canada. A positive element of the application is that all venues are in place. A key element in the application is sustainability.

F. Commission Operations – Letter from Rachel Guthrie, Commissioner

The Chair noted that, in the letter, Rachel raised several issues that have been talked about by the Co-chairs which they believe merit consideration and discussion. The Commissioners should be thinking about how the effectiveness of the EMC can be improved. It was suggested the November meeting be set aside for this discussion. Staff was asked to provide (or provide access to) documents including (1) the consent decree, (2) EMC by-laws (titled “Rules of Procedure”) for direct background information. The discussion is to include thoughts about possibly restructuring the EMC and changes in the work of the Commission over time and into the future.

G. Retreat Priorities – Jensen Adams – No report

H. Liaison Updates –

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – We experienced no violations of the standards this summer
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 – Robin is trying to get information from the Land Bank and Water Department regarding green infrastructure. Neighborhoods and Hosing Department is currently recruiting to fill a new position of Vacant Lots Coordinator. Julie Koppen noted that Mayor James had signed on to “10 minutes walk to a park” philosophy.
6. Health Commission – No report

I. Legal Brief – No report

- J. Old Business – No report
- K. New Business – Work sessions for residential input into the Business Plan are in process. This is an opportunity for residents to engage directly with city officials and staff, to learn and to provide input.
- L. Remarks
 - 1. Heartland Conservation Alliance will hold its Youth Council meeting on October 29th from 9 am to 11 am in Blue Valley Park
 - 2. A biochar video is on Youtube. Marty Kraft will send a link to Jerry for distribution.

The next EMC meeting is: November 8, 2017
 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 Health Department – 2400 Troost Ave

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm