

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams



Commissioners Present: Marty Kraft, Carol Adams, Michael Kelley, Scott Klamm, C

Commissioners absent:

Staff: Sarah Benal, Andy Savastino, Jensen Adams, Stephanie Dresen, Vicki Peters, Kacey Eis, Andrew Bonkowski

Guests: Theresa G

- A. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
- B. Minutes – Carol made a motion to approve the minutes. The Commission approved the minutes as drafted.
- C. Office of Environmental Quality Report
 - a. Building Code – OEQ has received notice of selection for a Codes Innovation Award through the Department of Energy. This will help us prepare for and explore a Building Performance Standard Policy.
 - b. Energy Code – Council chose to take the ordinance back from committee that attempted to create an alternate compliance pathway for the 2021 IECC. It was held in council, and it has not been picked up again.
 - c. Ordinance 240572 – The ordinance was held, and Council has not moved forward on this yet.
 - i. Marty Kraft – is it usual for the Council to hold things like that?
 - ii. Jensen Adams – it's not usual. Both were ordinances that were introduced through Councilmembers and had less staff involvement.
 - d. MARC Solid Waste Management District – OEQ received a grant to do a pilot project for composting at city permitted events in partnership with Bridging the Gap.
 - i. Stephanie Dresen met with the Neighborhood Tourism and Development Fund to determine if any of their events might be suitable for this program.
 - e. Public Works – Received a selection award from the USDA to support their drop off program in partnership with Missouri Organics at 10-12 sites. It is going to Council to accept the award.
 - i. Public Works submitted another grant application for MARC Solid Waste Management District to complement that drop off program by also locating additional drop off sites at schools
 - f. Charging Fueling Infrastructure Grant – OEQ received an award from the Department of Energy to plan locations for charging stations. OEQ also has been working on an application for implementation of those charging stations.
 - g. Food Systems – OEQ will hire a Food Systems Coordinator through a grant from USDA to Cultivate KC. The grant is going through Council and the position will be posted following Council approval.
 - h. Nuisance Code – the Missouri Department of Conservation is providing some funding for matching dollars to support a training effort that will train both Codes Inspectors and neighborhood community members. It will be heard in Council this month.
 - i. Center for Regenerative Solutions – OEQ is participating in this green infrastructure initiative about interdepartmental learning on green solutions.
 - j. Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange – Stephanie Dresen is participating in an intensive course on green infrastructure as part of Natural Systems.
 - k. Speak Easy – OEQ facilitated the engagement software “Go Vocal.” We are currently reviewing the platform.
 - i. The Commissioners were asked to review the platform and provide their feedback.
 - ii. Carol Adams – How will people be driven to this website in the future?
 - iii. Jensen Adams – We're going to use some of the channels that Communications has, and Council members Kellie Herman has worked with to contact members of their communities.

- l. Solar for All – Growth Ops is progressing a little further in their negotiations with the EPA. We’re working on scaling the project down for each of the cities we were in collaboration with.
- m. Bloomberg – Nine out of 25 of the selected cities have their staff on board. Kansas City does not currently have the director hired, but hope to have all directors in place before January
- n. Airport Solar – The City has continued negotiations with 816 Consortium
- o. Urban Bird Treaty – The City is working with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri River Bird Observatory to research the Urban Bird Treaty designation from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the City of Kansas City. There is an upcoming meeting to discuss partnerships and the broader city effort of bird conservation.

D. Liaison Reports

- a. Michael Kelley – KCMO recently received funds through the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant to create safety improvements along Prospect Avenue. The funding will be focused on pedestrian improvements such as improving sidewalks, crosswalks, and potential transit elements.
 - i. This is important because transportation is the City’s largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, so this will create more ways for people to sustainably move up and down Prospect Avenue.
 - ii. It’s also important from an equity standpoint because there are census tracks along this corridor where as much as 33% of households don’t have access to a car.
- b. Michael Kelley – MARC did not receive the CPRG funding for BikeWalk KC that would have paved the way for a regional e-bike rebate program. The feedback MARC received is that they put in a good application but were going up against a lot of other places that also put in good applications.
- c. Scott Klamm – MRI is doing an official greenhouse gas inventory, and I will be on the committee.

A. Old Business

- a. The Commissioners discussed future appointments from the Mayor’s office.
 - i. Michael Kelley – Have we had an opportunity to have any conversations with the other members of the City Council to discuss what the situation is and why this still needs to be addressed?
 - ii. Andy Savastino – We had a conversation with the current Chief of Staff, and they might be moving the direction of consolidating the EMC and Climate Protection Steering Committee.

B. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

C. Remarks from Visitors

- d. There were no remarks from visitors

D. Adjourn

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2024- 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Office Teams

“Any person with disability desiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting may contact the 311 Action Center at 311 or (816) 513-1313 for TTY 513-1889 or by email at actioncenter@kcmo.org.” The meeting room is accessible.

The Kansas City Environmental Management Commission was created to make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, staff and all other boards and commissions of the City concerning the issues of environmental planning, management and compliance with Federal, State and local regulations and programs.