

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams



Commissioners Present: Carol Adams, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Michael Kelley, Scott Klamm

Commissioners absent: Marty Kraft

Staff: Sarah Benal, Regan Tokos, Glenn Holland, Vicki Peters, Andrew Savastino, Kellie Herman, Kacey Eis, Andrew Bonkowski

Guests: Kelly Gilbert

- 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. Solar for All – The project would magnify the “Share the Sun” program up to 2200 homes. OEQ’s partner, Growth Ops, has submitted negotiations to the EPA.
 - b. OEQ received an Environmental Justice grant to address lead contamination in Ivanhoe neighborhood, including hiring an Environmental Justice advocate to act as liaison between OEQ and Ivanhoe neighborhood. EPA has approved negotiations and now Council needs to approve to accept the award.
 - c. Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities – The award allows the City to bring on an “Innovation Team,” but members have not been hired yet. The roles are currently being advertised.
 - d. Community Change Grant – OEQ’s application is currently being reviewed.
 - e. Building Performance Standards – OEQ is currently waiting on next steps from the Department of Energy.
 - f. Nuisance Code – Forest Decker and Andy Savastino will be presenting to Council and are waiting for it to be placed on the docket. This will help make for more amenable circumstances for native plants in managed natural landscapes. This also includes funding for community outreach opportunities such as workshops.
 - g. Forestry Grant – Council has approved this grant, and all documentation has been signed. OEQ, Neighborhood Services, Parks & Recreation, and nonprofit partners will begin implementation. This includes work for additional trees in Environmental Justice areas, tree maintenance, updating the tree inventory, and additional staff in Parks & Rec.
 - h. CFI Grant – The grant’s goal is to increase electric vehicle charging. OEQ amended the scope regarding the number of charging stations. Because of the scope change, the scope must be reviewed again.
 - i. USDA – Cultivate KC was the primary grant awardee and the City is a sub awardee to hire a food policy coordinator.
- D. Future Agenda Topics
 - a. Regan Tokos has finished a 2022 greenhouse gas inventory with Brendle and would like to share the results of that inventory with the Commission next month.
 - b. Carol Adams suggested to the Commission that members assess their networks, specifically organizations that may face similar concerns about changes in federal policy at the EPA and the Department of Energy. The Commission is interested in future legislation and administrative actions to actively advise Council.
 - c. Molly Davies is interested in discussing Kansas City’s connection to the surrounding rural communities,

and how we might build relationships with rural communities. This can be through food, health, or any number of topics.

E. Liaison Reports

- a. Michael Kelley attended the MARC Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and heard from Jason Sims, who is leading the transportation sector for FIFA. He explained that there are plans to utilize busses to assist in transportation of attendees. There have also been discussions about how to connect parts of the Blue River Trail with the Rock Island Trail near the stadiums, as well as some Greenway linkages.
- b. BikeWalk KC will be hosting the ECO ERG to discuss the intersections between transportation and sustainability.
- c. Michael Kelley has been discussing with members of the Sierra Club and the Climate Protection Steering Committee about consolidating the EMC and the CPSC, and what that consolidation might look like.
- d. The Air Quality Forum did not meet this month.

A. Old Business

- a. There was no old business.

B. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

C. Remarks from Visitors

- a. There were no remarks from visitors.

D. Adjourn

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2024- 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Office Teams

There will be general discussion regarding current environmental issues. The Commission may vote to go into Closed Session pursuant to RSMo Section 610.021 subsection 1 or subsection 3, during or after the meeting to discuss designated items.

“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.