

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams



Commissioners Present: Carol Adams, Scott Klamm, Marty Kraft, Caroline (Molly) Davies

Commissioners absent: Michael Kelley

Staff: Sarah Benal, Andy Savastino, Regan Tokos, Stephanie Dresen, Jensen Adams, Kellie Herman, Brooke Freeman, Ansley Hamid, Andrew Bonkowski, Claire Chaffin, Glenn Holland

Guests:

- 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. The 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report is in progress and is predicted to be completed by the end of the month. The report will be available online.
  - b. The Municipal Farm – In October, Heartland Conservation Alliance, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the City’s Planning Department executed a conservation easement on 28 acres at Municipal Farm. Habitat Architects has restored the area and OEQ is assisting in its continued maintenance.
    - i. OEQ is putting together an RFP for a group that can do that maintenance and understands the native plants and restoration choices.
  - c. Grants:
    - i. Solar For All - Growth Ops is still in negotiations with the EPA. OEQ is anticipating the first year of the grant to be program development, so have partnered with the Metropolitan Energy Center.
    - ii. CFI Round 1B – OEQ has been working with the Highway Administration on negotiations. We are waiting the Round 2 announcement.
    - iii. Swiffer – The Mayor’s and the City Manager’s Office reached out to OEQ and wanted to change the direction on the EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant application by joining with an idea from Mid-America Regional Council. The concept is a large-scale infrastructure investment that would be needed for large public events. The funding would go toward waste management vehicles and charging stations.
    - iv. Community Change – OEQ’s application was not chosen for the Community Change grant.
    - v. Environmental Justice Government to Government – The contract was approved by Council and the next step will be Brownfields assessments in the Ivanhoe neighborhood to determine the lead contamination on vacant lots. The assessments will determine how many sites we will be able to do abatements on.
      1. OEQ is working on a job posting for an Environmental Justice Advocate to help facilitate the work being done in Ivanhoe.
  - d. OEQ has hired Brooke Freeman as the Food Systems Coordinator.
  - e. Solar Feasibility Study – SES Engineers had to pause their work at Round Grove Creek Landfill so the overgrowth on the property could be removed.
  - f. Hydropower Feasibility Assessment – Assessments are being conducted on surface waters like the Missouri River, as well as local creeks, rivers and small lakes.

- i. Tetra Tech is assessing the bodies of water to see what kind of potential there is to do a hydropower project
- ii. Burns and McDonnell is assessing the infrastructure and seeing if there's potential for energy capture.
- g. Share the Sun – We have been working on providing four kilowatt systems to homes in Kansas City. We have finished 10 properties and are working on finishing up one more before the end of the project.
- h. Mid-America Regional Council's Transportation Resiliency Survey is available for input.
- i. The City is currently taking applications for interns on the website.

#### D. Liaison Reports

- a. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams provided additional information regarding the year's exceedances. The data is in the process of being quality assured and will determine the next steps and how to use the information.
- b. Marty Kraft is leading the production of a play about our relationship with the earth through the use of puppets. The play will take place at the KC Farm School in May.

#### E. Old Business

- a. There was no old business.

#### F. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

#### G. Remarks from Visitors

- a. There were no remarks from visitors.

#### H. Adjourn

Next meeting:      Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 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](mailto: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.