

**Environmental Management Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes: November 8, 2023**  
**Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams**

Commissioners present: Carol Adams (Chair), Michael Kelley, Scott Klamm

Commissioners Absent: Caroline (Molly) Davies, Nathan Madden, Marty Kraft

OEQ Staff: Andy Savastino, Jensen Adams, Kellie Herman, Regan Tokos, Kacey Eis, Rachel O'Neal, Vicki Peters, Stephanie Dresen, Ansley Hamid

Guests: Donny Wesson, Jerry Schecter, Karen Uhlenhuth

- A. The meeting was called to order at **4:01 pm**; A quorum was present at that time. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
- B. \*Review and Adoption of October 2023 Minutes – Scott Klamm made a motion, seconded by Michael Kelley, to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 11, 2023. The motion passed.
- C. Office of Environmental Quality Report- Andy Savastino
  - Staff updates – Set a goal of being fully staffed at beginning of this year. Last vacant position was accepted this week, OEQ will be fully staffed by middle of December. Senior Environmental Officer started this week for Compliance Team, Ansley Hamid. New Administrative Assistant starting soon.
  - Grants –
    - Tree grant in negotiations with federal gov – had to scale down, award was less than half of original ask.
    - City received a \$1 million grant for lead-in-soil remediation in vacant lots, includes an EJ advocate that will join OEQ
  - Work is proceeding on Nuisance code and composting
  - Questions from EMC for OEQ?
    - Carol Adams: What came of the discussion about the \$10,000 grant to do outreach for climate plan implementation to get ideas for larger application?
      - Kellie Herman: Talked with DNR, we can submit ideas without the public engagement piece. We are moving forward with a

Google form that will collect ideas for ways to use this money.  
Need to submit before the beginning of December.

- Carol Adams: Where are we on MARC committees?
  - Andy Savastino: City has not been responsive to MARC's request to fill the committees. MARC considering filling committees in a different way. Doing a call for nominations. Climate and Environment Council is one of the committees they're trying to fill; does a lot of the work with the Regional Climate Plan, working on CPRG dollars to help implement the regional plan. There is overlap with our Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan, e.g. a regional EV Charging network
- Carol Adams: Is there any regional conversation on building code?
  - Andy Savastino: Have not heard anything new. KCMO is still the only municipality in the area that has adopted the new code. We are in implementation mode. City's codes folks seem like everything is going smoothly, have not heard any negative feedback so far.
  - Carol Adams: We took a lot of push back so want to be able to see what the impact has been.
    - Andy will invite the building code official to speak about how it's going.
  - Andy Savastino: MEC reaching out to subrecipients to work out details of code implementation, capacity building and trainings. May ask them to present as well.
- Carol Adams: What amendments to the consent decree is the Water Dept. pursuing?
  - Andy will follow up.
- Scott Klamm: Any updates on the Biogas project?
  - Andy Savastino: Other departments wanting to collaborate more on future projects and asking about connections to the CPRP – this is positive. Water is working on their own climate plan and is looking for ways to align with CPRP

#### D. Legislative Priorities

- Look similar to last year, no significant changes
- Commission reviewed Resolution #230938 and #230939
  - These are used as guiding documents in the City's lobbying activities. Guides what issues we would like brought up during legislative session
  - Michael Kelley: Would like to include supporting expanded trail and

sidewalk investments – either in the transportation funding or Safe Parks and Public Spaces sections. Addressing first and last mile issue.

- Carol will draft a letter from the EMC for recommendations for next week’s Council meeting.
- For MO legislation: [Ordinance #230938](#)
  - Michael Kelley: “To support first- and last-mile elements for transit trips, the city also supports funding for sidewalk and trail development.”
- For KS legislation: [Ordinance #230939](#)
  - Michael Kelley: “The city supports investments in sidewalk and trail development which can build and expand the existing networks in Kansas and further connect with Kansas City, Missouri’s multimodal infrastructure.”
- **\*Motion** by Carol Adams to write a letter to Council for State legislative priorities for MO and KS specifically related to transit. Seconded by Michael Kelley
  - The motion was approved.
  - Carol Adams: Language for federal legislative priorities will be reviewed later.
- Scott Klamm: White House is setting up a task force to address methane management.
  - Carol Adams: City of Indianapolis is in a pilot project for methane leakage, would like to know how we can use this in Kansas City, MO.
- Carol Adams: How are energy efficiency improvements impacting tax assessments? Want to be careful that we aren’t improving people’s property to a point where savings are offset with increase in taxes
- Carol Adams: Need to resubmit last year’s feedback preemptively and wait until we see what legislation looks like. Andy can submit to Mayor’s office for Federal. Are there things we should add? Revaluating renewal for fuel standards added last year. Gas tax is not a good way to fund roads because it is a diminishing resource – we have set up a conflict. Will review federal at a later date.

E. Liaison Reports – Air quality Forum does not meet until next week. Nothing to report.

F. Old Business

- Carol Adams: Received a copy of report from Auditor – have we all submitted

financial disclosure? Seemed to indicate that we had not all done that. Andy to check where we are remiss. May be a non-issue if it relates to a former commission member

G. New Business – none

H. Remarks from Visitors – none

The next EMC meeting is: DATE: December 13, 2023  
TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
PLACE: Microsoft Teams Meeting

The meeting adjourned at **5:15pm**.