

**Environmental Management Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes: January 10, 2024**  
**Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams**



Commissioners present: Carol Adams (Chair), Caroline (Molly) Davies, Marty Kraft

Commissioners absent: Michael Kelley, Scott Klamm

Staff: Andy Savastino, Stephanie Dresen, Regan Tokos, Sarah Benal, Kacey Eis, Jensen Adams, Ansley Hamid

Guests: Nadja Karpilow, Karen Uhlenhuth, Don Wallace, Kelly Gilbert, Jeffrey Williams, John Santer, Jeffrey Lee

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm; a quorum was present at that time. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
- B. Minutes – Caroline (Molly) Davies made a motion, seconded by Marty Kraft, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2024. The motion passed.
- C. Paint Program update from Nadja Karpilow –
  - a. Nadja Karpilow provided information about the PaintCare program. The Missouri Product Stewardship Council targets pharmaceuticals, mattresses, and paint. To address the leftover paint in Missouri, the Council wants to bring in PaintCare, which has been implemented in 11 states. Nadja provided a slideshow presentation highlighting the key points of the PaintCare program: increasing paint disposal opportunities for businesses at no charge, cost savings for local government, and collection infrastructure.
  - b. Caroline (Molly) Davies suggested that the Commission write a letter of support to send to the Mayor and the City Council. Carol Adams asked the Commissioners if they approve the task. The Commissioners agreed to write a letter of support.
- D. 2021 IECC implementation update from Jeffrey Williams and Jeffrey Lee from City Planning and Development –

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.

- a. In 2022, the City adopted the International Energy Council and the energy code went into effect in September 2023. They received a wave of submissions focused on residential development prior to the code's adoption, and any submissions that arrived after September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 was considered under the new code. They are currently reviewing the submissions and considering the nuances of residential versus commercial permitting.
- b. Since the ordinance's adoption, additional information has been issued to provide guidance for projects. Residential submissions have been voided due to lack of energy information despite this guidance and increased information. This is not untypical – applications are front loaded to be considered under the old code, there is a learning curve about submitting under the new code, and the weather and holidays have affected the anticipated numbers of submissions.
- c. Jeff Williams expressed an interest in funding to increase awareness and technology for a more efficient review process.

E. Office of Environmental Quality Report – Andy Savastino

- a. New Administrative Assistant - Sarah Benal
- b. OEQ hiring a new Environmental Officer
- c. LEED v5 O+M Beta Kansas City, Missouri – Kacey Eis
  - i. The City submitted an application for a pilot project of the new LEED B5 rating system, and chose City Hall as the pilot location. A steering committee has been created, members include Kansas City, Missouri residents and members of the green building community. This will help USGBC work out the new rating system and get City Hall certified with LEED. The steering committee met for the first time today.
- d. Nuisance Code – Andy Savastino
  - i. A draft of the nuisance code was presented to stakeholders for additional comment. The updated code is currently with the Neighborhood Services Department for feedback on increasing native plant use in Kansas City. We are waiting to receive that feedback before going back to the stakeholders and then the city attorneys, City Council, and get the ordinance approved.
  - ii. Also working on a Request for Proposals for someone to assist the City with education and training on native plants and how to enforce the code, as well as educating the community on what is allowed under the code.

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- e. Composting – Stephanie Dresen
  - i. The “Waste to Work” program is continuing and there is potential to add composting to additional municipal buildings, including a public pilot composting program. The Public Works Department received a grant to roll out ten public composting kiosk locations across the city.
- f. Benchmarking – Andy Savastino
  - i. As part of the Benchmarking report, the annual Energy Empowerment ordinance requires facilities 50,000 square foot or larger to report that their energy and water usage to the city. The report will be shared with the commission when it’s complete.
  - ii. We are also working on updating a greenhouse gas inventory for the City, updated from the 2019 inventory and is the first inventory where renewable direct is fully in place for our facilities.
- g. We are still in negotiations with Evergy about Solar Ray at the airport.
- h. For solarize Kansas City “Share the Sun,” we had had funding to do 13 low income homes for four kilowatt systems and that project is almost complete.

F. Liaison Reports – No liaison reports this month.

G. Old Business – No old business this month.

H. New Business

- a. Carol Adams suggested the option of attending the Vicinity Tour on February 7th as the Commission’s February meeting. The Commission agreed to revisit the idea in February.
- b. The Legislative Priorities were sent to Council and were approved.

I. Remarks from Visitors

- a. Kelly Gilbert – the code implementation grant through the Metropolitan Energy Center is going to begin work in February. The first continued codes training are scheduled for March.

Adjourn - the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm

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Next meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 2024- 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

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