

Meeting Minutes

Kansas City Climate Protection Steering Committee

Monday, January 22, 2024

Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams

CPSC Members Present: Robin Ganahl, Bill Griffith, Tom Grever, Angela Crawford, Bo Moreno, Kristin Riott, Michael Kelley

Quorum present

Absent CPSC Members: Bridget Sanderson, Shirley Mata

OEQ Staff: Vicki Peters, Regan Tokos, Ansley Hamid, Andrew Savastino, Kacey Eis, Sarah Benal, Stephanie Dresen, Kellie Herman

Other Attendees: Jarrek Lucke, Amelia McIntyre, Christian Mapes, Kelly Gilbert, Kimberly Winslow, Tammie Rhea, Theresa Garza, Geoff Pratt, Elizabeth Danforth, Tim Nelson, Zac Sweets, Shaylyn Dean, Karen Uhlenhuth

Meeting Minutes

1. Ordinance No. 231047 (section on impervious surfaces) – Amelia McIntyre
 - a. Chapter 88 governs the zoning code and is reviewed periodically by City Planning. Among the revisions being discussed are modifications to a major amendment.
 - i. A major amendment comes back through the City Planning Commission and City Council for approval.
 - b. 8851606A is modifying the impervious surface that can be changed solely by the Director of City Planning
 - i. describes a “lesser than” standard of 10% of the previously approved impervious surface, or 2000 square feet - the 2000 square feet is being struck. 10% of anything previously approved could be considered a minor amendment and only be approved by administrative staff.
 - ii. The larger the impervious surface previously approved, the greater the variance it could be.
 - iii. Presented to the City Planning Commission in early November 2023, but it was not flagged and wasn’t noticed until it got introduced as an ordinance.
 - c. Considering the potential implications and impacts to resiliency because the more impervious surfaces there are, there is increased potential for flooding. It also impacts water quality.
 - d. Thoughts and points of discussion from the Committee:

- i. What is the timeline? – The ordinance was heard once and held until February 7. It can be moved out of the Committee and entered for full Council consideration after February 7
 - ii. The Committee can take a position or ask for more time to consider the implications.
 - iii. Mayor Pro Tem Parks-Shaw and Councilmember Patterson Hazley asked for more data about what was driving the decisions. They are focused on the height and occupancy changes that could be made under the same provision and the impacts on multi-family residential areas.
 - iv. In general, the Committee is interested in reducing impervious surfaces, but currently unclear about how fast the City is considering it. The committee thought this could be a bigger discussion later.
 - v. One line of the ordinance that is taking away the 2,000 sf requirement would ease the burden for the largest projects, which would be the projects that have the most impact.
 - 1. Question to the Planning Department - did they consider the flooding potential in their decision?
 - vi. Is there interest in taking a position on this issue or have more discussions?
 - 1. Tom Grever in favor of a hold to try and understand the motivation behind the ordinance.
 - a. Bill Griffith agreed with Tom.
 - b. Bo Moreno agreed with Tom.
 - c. Angela Crawford requested statistics about what projects were getting approved.
 - vii. Andy Savastino – has there been any stakeholder engagement with the Council on the ordinance?
 - 1. Amelia McIntyre – there has been testimony submitted by the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council. They are concerned about the “lesser than” provisions being struck. Historic Kansas City submitted a request for continuance and provided testimony.
 - 2. Andy Savastino – the Environmental Management Commission could do a joint meeting on February 14.
 - e. Robin Ganahl proposed a motion to write a letter to the Planning Department and Neighborhood Planning Department to hold the vote until the Committee has more information.
 - i. Angela Crawford seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve - the motion passed.
- 2. Approve October 2023 Minutes
 - a. The Committee voted to approve the minutes.
- 3. Virtual Power Plants – Voltus – Christina Mapes
 - a. Christian Mapes - Sales Director focused on the Southwest area referred to as the “Southwest Power Pool”
 - b. Virtual Power Plant - network of distributed energy resources that can generate, store, or manage electricity.
 - i. These distributed energy resources are decentralized small scale energy resources that are connected to the electric grid in some way.

- ii. Examples include demand response, backup generation, energy storage, smart thermostats, building management systems, electric vehicles, EV charging stations, and energy efficiency.
- iii. All of these resources are customer side small assets that can generate, store or manage electricity.
- iv. Benefits of Virtual Power Plants:
 - 1. Unlike traditional power plants, virtual power plants actually reduce carbon emissions, can help balance supply variability associated with renewables, and can scale very, very quickly in comparison to traditional power plants.
 - 2. Virtual power plants avoid the years long construction and interconnection process required to bring a new central power plant online.
 - 3. No single point of failure like there can be with a lot of traditional power plants.
- c. Voltus gets the distributed energy resources like demand response, paid for energy market participation without the underlying customers having to navigate the energy markets themselves.
- d. Why do virtual power plants participate in demand response?
 - i. Cash payments for private partners
 - ii. Colleges, universities and municipalities receive revenue
 - iii. The carbon reduction and the ESG goals and the sustainability goals of an organization saying that they are leveraging their assets to be a part of the solution and deliver something of value to the grid when the grid needs it.
- e. Questions:
 - i. Bill Griffith – Do you have any means or way of calculating capacity for VPPS?
 - 1. Christian Mapes - SPPs job doesn't really dictate how much of what different assets should or be on the hook for. They just govern the marketplace that these offers and bids and transactions take place and try to form regulations and constraints making sure that different power providers and resources are awarded appropriately for the for the resource NICs that they're offering into the marketplace.
 - ii. Kelly Gilbert – Are our VPPS in Missouri or Kansas regulated by the state Energy Commission and/or limited in the number of VPPS that can operate within the state?
 - 1. Christian Mapes - I don't know specifics on how the state regulation plays into virtual power plants. I know there's a lot that goes into it at the individual energy markets like Southwest Power Pool and MISO and then also at the federal level.
 - iii. Bo Moreno - Is this vulnerable to cybersecurity or data breaches?

1. Christian Mapes - We do have hardware installed from a security and risk standpoint. It has been vetted by a lot of or all five military bases that I've signed up. Their IT teams for data security issues and all of them have approved installation at their meters. So far, we have not had any issues with data security with our customers.
 - iv. Kristin Riott – The Walmarts or the military base that's serving to supply excess electricity, at that moment, it's stored in batteries. Is that what we presume?
 1. Christian Mapes - While it can be organizations leveraging battery storage or other energy storage assets, more often it's a facility leveraging operational flexibility by curtailing some of their load during a brief period of time.
4. Public Comments
 - a. There were no public comments.
5. OEQ Update
 - a. Sarah Benal is the new OEQ Administrative Assistant
 - b. LEED v5 – Kacey Eis
 - i. The City submitted an application for LEED v5 operations and maintenance beta, a pilot project for the new LEED v5 rating system using City Hall for the location. The application was accepted. This is an opportunity to work on the new rating system and potentially pilot new credits and get the City Hall building LEED certified.
 - ii. A subcommittee has been created with key staff members including the Energy Manager, City Architect, Andy Savastino, Jensen Adams, as well as members of the green building community including members of the local USGBC chapter and their leadership members.
 - c. Nuisance Code – Andy Savastino
 - i. In collaboration with our stakeholder group, working to make the City more amenable to native plantings and landscaping in the community. A draft of the code is ready and has been shared with the Neighborhood Department, who oversees and enforces the code.
 - ii. Neighborhood Services is working through the details with their attorneys and we hope to bring the code through council in the next month for adoption.
 - iii. An RFP is in progress to assist with engagement and outreach opportunities around the code.
 - d. Compost Program – Stephanie Dresen
 - i. The Municipal composting program was rolled out in July 2023 to offer composting in City Hall and other drop off sites outside for employees that bring their composting from home. Drop off sites were also added at the Health Department on Troost and the KC Water administration building.

1. Hoping to compost inside those buildings, as well as add a fifth public composting pilot site.
 - ii. The Public Works Department received a grant to roll out more permanent public composting sites. Twelve kiosks will be located throughout the city.
 - e. Benchmarking – Regan Tokos
 - i. Wrapping up last year’s benchmarking report and refined it this year so that we’re reporting on City buildings earlier in the report year.
 - ii. The updated greenhouse gas inventory has all the 2022 data and we’re finishing up the analysis and should be done by the end of February. The results will include data from Renewables Direct. Goal is to do updates to the inventory every three years. The previous inventory was from 2019.
 - f. Engagement – Kellie Herman
 - i. City Council [passed a resolution](#) to create a public engagement plan. Looking at purchasing some engagement technology to create data points and metrics behind engaging with the City, including capturing feedback.
 - ii. Working on a dashboard to track the implementation of the Climate Plan.
 - iii. Questions:
 1. Michael Kelley – Is there going to be a budget or support for translation into other languages?
 2. Kellie Herman - right now we're just creating the group of people that will be the steering committee. There’s a lot of language access happening here in the city. And the Office of Equity is working closely with community engagement. So, I know that there's a lot of effort and concern and focus on that.
 - g. We are still in negotiations with Evergy working out details of the project at the airport.
 - h. Solarize Kansas City – We reached the goal of providing solar for thirteen homes and the projects will finish over the next couple of months.
 - i. There is a request for proposals regarding a feasibility study to do solar at the Round Grove Creek landfill.
 - j. Grants
 - i. Working on details with federal agencies for the Forestry and Brownfields grants
 - k. The Vicinity Tour is February 7, lunch will be provided.
6. New Business
 - a. Michael Kelley - The Office of Management and Budget have begun scheduling meetings for the public budget hearings. This is an opportunity for people in the public to express what they would like the City to focus on for next year’s budget

- b. Kellie Herman - As part of the engagement plan, we are looking for recommendations for community or not-for-profit leaders who would like to be involved in the process.

7. Adjourn - meeting was adjourned at 4:59pm.

Next Meeting: March 18, 2024

Location: Online Via Microsoft Teams

The Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) was established to guide the process of developing and implementing a Climate Protection Plan for Kansas City. It is comprised of not more than eleven members, balanced amongst stakeholder interests, and appointed by the Mayor.

Members:

Robin Ganahl, Chair

Michael Kelley, Vice Chair/EMC Liaison, BikeWalk KC

Kristin Riott, Bridging the Gap

Bridget Sanderson, Environment Missouri

Bill Griffith, Cromwell Solar

Bo Moreno, IBEW Local 124

Thomas Grever, Shook, Hardy & Bacon

Angela Crawford, The Builders, a chapter of the AGC