

Meeting Minutes

Kansas City Climate Protection Steering Committee

Monday, May 20, 2024

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

Quorum present

OEQ Staff: Sarah Benal, Ansley Hamid, Claire Chaffin, Andy Savastino, Kacey Eis, Jensen Adams, Kellie Herman, Regan Tokos, Vicki Peters

Other Attendees: Mike Hendricks, Don Wallace, Theresa Garza, Karen Uhlenhuth, Elizabeth Danforth

Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call
2. Approve March 2024 Minutes
 - a. The committee voted to approve the minutes.
3. Energy Code Ordinance No. 240434
 - a. The Neighborhood, Planning, and Development Committee included a presentation from the Home Builders Association, followed by discussion and public comments. The Committee discussed what the Climate Protection and Resilience Plan (CPRP) calls for in relation to the proposed ordinance. The Committee had previously submitted testimony in opposition of the proposed changes around the timeline for adopting new rules.
 - b. Comments:
 - i. Kristin Riott – The energy codes are complicated, and if you're a regular citizen it would be impossible to try and figure out whether to be pro or against this ordinance. There was also confusion around the HERS score.
 - ii. Andy Savastino – There is some interest with council to consider an alternate pathway, which you can see across the country at states looking at energy codes and compliance pathways. The HERS scores seem to be an option that's becoming available. There is now a list of questions from the Committee meeting that City Staff have the opportunity to respond to.
 - c. Michael Kelley proposed a motion to approve drafting a letter clarifying the Climate Protection Steering Committee's position regarding the new ordinance language.
 - i. Kristen Riott seconded the motion
 - ii. The motion passed

4. OEQ Update
 - a. Grants
 - i. Solar for All - Kansas City was selected to be part of a national grant to set up the “Industrial Heartland Solar Coalition” to provide solar for approximately 2300 homes.
 - ii. Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) – The City received funds towards an electrification plan for City facilities and electric vehicle infrastructure, recommended in the Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan.
 - iii. Environmental Justice Government to Government – OEQ is partnering with the City’s Brownfields program to conduct a lead abatement project in the Ivanhoe community. The grant will assist with site assessments on vacant lots and screening for lead and heavy metals. OEQ created an Environmental Justice Advocate position to assist with this project. The scope of the position is in progress.
 - i. Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities - Kansas City is one of 25 cities to receive three new staff members as part of an “Innovation Team” for the Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities program, focusing on projects related to the intersection of climate action and Black wealth building. Two positions are currently being advertised. A kickoff meeting was held earlier this month.
 - iv. Department of Energy Building Performance Standards – Kansas City partnered with Metropolitan Energy Center for training and workforce development. This grant is a stronger focus on developing policy in more detail and bringing tools, resources, and building out funds as it relates to software to help support the benchmarking program. We are currently waiting to hear back about the acceptance.
 - v. MARC Solid Waste Management District - OEQ submitted a grant to conduct a pilot study or project on food waste collection at large events.
 - vi. Community Change Grant – Bloomberg is committing additional resources to the City to be used toward a grant writer to help us with this application. We’re planning to work with local CBOs with a focus on heat islands, particularly on cool roofs, as well as energy efficiency weatherization and hospital electrification and Energy Star appliances.
 - b. Nuisance Code – OEQ has been working on the code as it pertains to native landscaping. It is currently going through internal reviews with our attorneys, and we are preparing to take it back to stakeholders.
 - b. New hire – OEQ hired an Environmental Review Coordinator, Claire Chaffin. The position was originally located in Housing but has moved to OEQ. The inclusion of the Environmental Review Coordinator in the OEQ office will allow the Sustainability team to stay up to date on projects in the City.
5. Public Comments
 - a. There were no public comments.
6. New Business

- a. The Committee did not discuss any new business.
7. Adjourn

Next Meeting: July 15, 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