

Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes: March 13, 2024
Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams



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

Commissioners absent: Michael Kelley

Staff: Andy Savastino, Stephanie Dresen, Regan Tokos, Sarah Benal, Kacey Eis, Jensen Adams, Kellie Herman

Guests: Kelly Gilbert, Jim Turner

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present at that time. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
- B. Minutes – Carol Adams made a motion, seconded by Caroline (Molly) Davies, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 10, 2024. Carol recommended making a note to include the Commission’s tour of Vicinity Energy on February 7, 2024. The motion passed.
- C. Annual Report – The Annual Report will be developed next month. The Commissioners agreed to emphasize the importance of appointing additional members to the commission.
- D. Office of Environmental Quality Report
 - a. Budget – the new budget was sent to Council. OEQ was fully funded, including for eleven positions in the office. Compost was not included in the budget, but we will be able to cover the additional expense.
 - b. Staffing – the Environmental Review Coordinator position will no longer be in Housing and is moving to OEQ. The new staff person will begin soon and be responsible for managing the NEPA grant
 - c. Benchmarking – Regan Tokos has completed the 2023 report with 2022 data. Regan is now moving on to the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. We hope to have the report completed in late April at the latest. [Those interested can read the 2023 report here.](#)

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.” 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.

- d. Put out a Request for Proposals for a feasibility study on Round Grove Creek landfill for solar and we're in the process of evaluating those bids.
- e. Still in negotiations with the City and Evergy for solar at the airport
- f. Currently working on a dashboard to be available on our website for the community to see how well the City and the community are doing in implementing the Climate Plan
- g. Engagement platform to engage with the community on climate actions, hope to have it available at the beginning of the fiscal year
- h. Nuisance code – worked on updating to be more accommodating to native plants. It is currently with Neighborhoods and their legal staff. We will receive feedback and take to council within the next month or two.
- i. Grants
 - i. Bloomberg – Kansas City is one of 25 cities to receive three new staff members as part of an “Innovation Team” for the Bloomberg Sustainable Cities program, focusing on projects related to the intersection of climate action and Black wealth building. Two positions are currently being advertised. Jensen Adams was instrumental in developing the application.
 - ii. The Department of Energy encouraged OEQ to submit an application for their grant opportunity. The proposal was developed by Kacey Eis. It is focused on building performance standards.
 - iii. CFI Grant – Last year we proposed an application to publicly charging EV infrastructure but were not selected. We think we know how to make a stronger application and we will be reaching out for additional feedback.
 - iv. Community Change Grant – we are still having internal conversations about what this will look like. Details are to come.
 - v. The MARC Solid Waste Management Grant is open for projects related to waste minimization activities. OEQ will be submitting an application for that.

E. Liaison Reports

- a. Molly Davies – The Lewis White Real Estate Board with the Bloch School at UMKC’s symposium included a “Sustainability Session” to speak about the Energy Code.
- b. Marty Kraft – Kansas City Community Gardens conducted a Johnson-Su workshop

F. Old Business

- a. The Commissioners did not discuss old business

G. New Business

- a. Carol Adams requested the committee think about the upcoming Environmental Achievement Award to be discussed in April or May

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.” 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.

H. Remarks from Visitors

- a. Kelly Gilbert – clarified that the Metropolitan Energy Center was invited by a city councilmember to speak at the City Council meeting

Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

*Action Items

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2024- 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.” 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.