

Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes: May 15, 2024
Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams



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

Commissioners absent: Scott Klamm

Staff: Andy Savastino, Sarah Benal, Vicki Peters, Kellie Herman, Claire Chaffin, Regan Tokos, Stephanie Dresen

Guests: Shaylyn Dean

- 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 – Caroline (Molly) Davies made a motion, seconded by Marty Kraft, to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2024. The motion passed.
- C. Energy Code – The Neighborhood, Planning, and Development Committee discussed an ordinance regarding an alternate compliance pathway to 2021 IECC. The Home Builders Association presented and council received testimony from stakeholders. The committee ended with a list of questions and comments from council that City staff will provide answers for. The committee will reconvene on June 11th to consider responses. The Commissioners agreed to draft a letter of opposition regarding the policy updates.
- D. Annual Report – Carol Adams presented a draft of the Annual Report letter to the Commissioners. The Commissioners consulted about the changes and agreed to continue working on the draft.
- E. Office of Environmental Quality Report
 - a. Staffing – OEQ hired an Environmental Review Coordinator, Claire Chaffin. The position was originally located in Housing but has moved to OEQ. The inclusion of the

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.

Environmental Review Coordinator in the OEQ office will allow the Sustainability team to stay up to date on projects in the City.

b. 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 – The City received funds towards an electrification plan for City facilities and electric vehicle infrastructure, recommended in the Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan.
- iii. OEQ released an RFP for an EV transition plan and has received several proposals. Interviews have been conducted and negotiations are in progress.
- iv. Bloomberg – 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.
- v. 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.
- vi. Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District – OEQ submitted a grant to conduct a pilot study or project on food waste collection at large events.
- vii. Kansas City is a “Bloomberg American Sustainable City.” Bloomberg will provide funds toward a grant writer to assist with the Community Change Grant.

F. Liaison Reports

- a. Marty Kraft – The Kansas City Farm School is hosting Jorge Valero from Columbia, South America to discuss his involvement in the creation of an eco-village.

G. Old Business

- a. The Commissioners did not discuss old business

H. New Business

- a. The Commissioners did not discuss new business

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I. Remarks from Visitors

- a. There were no remarks from visitors.

Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.

*Action Items

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2024- 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Location: Microsoft Office Teams

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