

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION AGENDA
Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams



Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Marty Kraft, Scott Klamm

Commissioners absent: Caroline (Molly) Davies, Michael Kelley

Staff: Sarah Benal, Stephanie Dresen, Andrew Savastino, Regan Tokos, Kellie Herman, Jensen Adams

Guests: Kelly Gilbert, Theresa Garza, Rachel O’Neal

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm; a quorum was present at that time. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
- B. Minutes – Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Scott Klamm, to approve the meeting minutes of May 15, 2024. The motion passed.
- C. Energy Code – In May 2024, ordinance 2240434 was introduced as a revision to the Energy Code, which went into effect in 2023. The Home Builders Association was looking for an alternative pathway to complying with the 2021 Energy Code. There is agreement in adding an alternative pathway, but questions around the HERS score remain. After hearing public testimony, the Committee decided to hold the ordinance until June. Jensen Adams attended the June 11 Committee meeting where Jeff Williams, Planning Department Director, had compiled a list of answers to the questions the Committee had posed. There were some follow-up questions regarding achieving the goals listed in the Climate Plan and that the City would achieve a HERS score of 50 across time. The Committee will continue to discuss the research on affordability as well and will consider a committee vote on June 25th.
- D. Office of Environmental Quality Report
 - a. Grants:
 - i. ARPA – The City through the Parks Department applied for an ARPA grant to focus on restoring approximately 200 acres of riparian habitat in the Blue River corridor. OEQ staff member, Stephanie Dresen, has taken on the grant’s facilitation.
 - ii. MARC Solid Waste Management District – OEQ applied for the grant to focus on a pilot program for waste diversion at City permitted events. The program would help provide recycling and composting for events that the City offers a permit at. The pilot will be an opportunity to see if we can scale up and look for additional funding to provide these services on a larger scale. We currently have enough funding to run the pilot at twelve events.
 - iii. Cultivate KC – Cultivate KC submitted a grant to the USDA FSA to create a food systems staff position with the City to work on food policy and food systems generally. Cultivate KC will contract with the City so that OEQ can get started with recruiting for a new position. It is a five-year position and at the end of five years, a new budget will have to be instated to continue the role.

- b. The Center for Regenerative Solutions, Urban Nature-Based Climate Solutions Accelerator – The accelerator is a five-month long capacity building, designed to grow community capacity to implement equitable nature-based climate solutions. The application is due in June and hope to hear an answer by mid-July. This is a learning opportunity that focuses on nature-based solutions and information on green infrastructure solutions, specifically related to stormwater and will help inform the Blue River project.
- c. Composting – OEQ has been working with Public Works to expand the composting program in Kansas City. Public Works received a grant to install large drop off kiosks throughout the City, while OEQ has focused on municipal locations. OEQ is working on installing signage at the drop off locations, as well as providing information on a website.
- d. CitizenLab – CitizenLab is an online engagement platform that would allow the community to engage with the city on various climate initiatives and questions we might have that would assist us in developing grant applications.
- e. Solar – The City is still in negotiations with Evergy regarding the solar array at the airport and working out the details, as well as looking at other options in the City. There is a landfill along Raytown Road, adjacent to Round Grove Creek that could be a potential solar site. OEQ is working with a vendor to conduct a feasibility study of using the site for a smaller scale solar array.
- f. Hydropower – OEQ is working on two projects to look at the feasibility of hydropower in Kansas City. One contractor is looking at wastewater and water supply lines for placing turbines within the pipes to generate power. The other vendor will assess the Missouri River for hydropower potential within the city limits.
- g. AmeriCorps VISTA – The Mayor’s office applied to be an AmeriCorps VISTA site with a concept including food and food access. Applications will open later this month.
- h. Electric Vehicles – OEQ has been working with the General Services Department to begin a transition plan to convert the City vehicle fleet to electric over the next ten years. The City put out a request for proposals (RFP) and recently concluded negotiations with one the consulting companies.
 - i. Kelly Gilbert – There is a small amount of funding from the Clean Energy to Communities peer learning cohorts.
- i. Nuisance Code – The proposed code will be shared with the stakeholders on June 24th so they can offer any final feedback. Once the stakeholders have approved the code, it will be taken to Council. Following approval, there will be community training and educational opportunities.

E. Liaison Reports

- a. Carol Adams - Air Quality Forum – There was discussion at the Forum about a new standard for fine particulates and the process before knowing whether or not there will be efforts around designating Kansas City as a non-attainment for particulates. The Commission plans to watch the progress over the next few years.
- b. Scott Klamm – North Kansas City, Riverside, and Kansas City through MARC are collaborating to expand the bike trail called the “Missouri River North Trail.” They are asking for feedback on the proposed routes and interconnects. Feedback is open until the end of June.
- c. Kelly Gilbert – Kelly provided a fact sheet answering the frequently asked questions from stakeholders and council members regarding the Energy Code. The fact sheet is meant to be used by advocates and can help craft talking points if needed, or if they want to engage with the Council or educate themselves.

F. Old Business

- a. The commissioners did not discuss old business.

G. New Business

- a. The commissioners did not discuss new business.

H. Remarks from Visitors

- a. There were no remarks from visitors.

Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 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.