

Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2007

Meeting Location: Council Dining Room, 8th Floor, City Hall

Attendance

Commissioners Present: J.C. Alonzo, Carol Adams, Marty Kraft, Rachel Treanor, Jim van Eman

Commissioners Absent: Faith Brennan, Stephen Hopkins, Shawna Bligh, Sherry Jackson, Thomas Kimes, Jim Sheppard, Bob Berkebile, John Ware, Jim Scott, Andrew Bailey, Jenny Erdman

Others present: Richard Rocha – Visitor, Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Jerry Shechter, Sherri Lewis – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Claus Wawrzinek– Sierra Club; Kevin Chafin – Bridging the Gap;

Meeting was convened at 4:10 pm by EMC Co-Chair JC Alonzo and introductions were made. A quorum was not present.

Minutes of the last meeting - As there was no quorum, Minutes of the last meeting were accepted, as amended, but not approved. There was one amendment suggested that the meeting began at 4:00 pm rather than 3:00 pm.

Committee Reports

1. Climate Protection – Deferred to OEQ Report
2. Energy – Jim van Eman reported on the 3-way Memorandum among KCP&L, Sierra Club and Concerned Citizens of Platte County. Claus Wawrzinek, Sierra Club, indicated that all parties are happy with the settlement agreement. Specific elements of the agreement were reviewed including: (a) not opposing completion of Iatan 2, (b) projected CO2 emissions and projected offsets in wind power and energy efficiency – the recognition of which as a valid means to offset emissions is of critical importance (c) public education, (e) improved air quality in terms of Iatan 1 and other older plants, (f) support for the KC, Mo Climate Protection Plan and monetary support for the process, (g) support for net metering (not dual metering).

It was noted that the Easy Connect (net metering) legislation had passed out of committee in the Missouri House but that the Senate is inundated with bills for consideration. Jim asked about ways to get pending legislation on the City's agenda and whether a support letter would be appropriate. **Jim van Eman made a motion, seconded by Marty Kraft, that the EMC write and send a letter to the Mayor indicating EMC support for the Easy Connect Act. The letter is to include language from the legislation and a list of others in support of it. Copies are to be sent to local legislators. Following discussion, the motion was accepted without vote as there was no quorum present.**

3. Social Justice – No Report
4. Water – No Report

5. Landscapes – Marty Kraft began a discussion about no-till agricultural methods and the need to pursue this avenue for the urban setting. He indicated there might be an exchange, similar to the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), for farmers.
6. LEED Committee – Deferred to OEQ Report
7. Communications – No Report
8. Compliance – Rachel Treanor – The Chair offered his congratulations to Ms. Treanor as the new Chair of this committee. As the new chair, Ms. Treanor will seek to: (a) clarify the role of the committee and the EMC in compliance, (b) adhere to the EMC mission, (c) have greater involvement with OEQ for better understanding, (d) address hot topics, such as, Climate Protection Plan items, LEED, City Codes, environmental awareness, resource efficiency in City departments. Jim van Eman noted the EMC had received a statement of values, mission, etc from the Department of Environmental Management. Dennis Murphey said he would provide the Commission members with the updated statements for the Office of Environmental Quality.

Office of Environmental Quality

- RFP is out for development of a solid waste management plan and this is consistent with one of the elements of the Climate Protection Plan (CPP) progress report.
- Thanks to Kevin Chafin, Bridging the Gap, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) are can now be recycled. Mr. Chafin noted the good working relationship with the Household Hazardous Waste staff in getting this done.
- Andy Savastino reported on status of the Environmental Achievement Awards. Five (5) of the nominees will be receiving achievement awards. Most things related to the ceremony are ready to go. We need more responses to the invitation. The ceremony will be at the Bruce R. Watkins Heritage Center. Speakers include JC Alonzo, Dennis Murphey and Mayor Barnes. The primary remaining element is media notice.
- The new CPP web page is now live. Jerry Shechter made the URL available and Dennis Murphey noted people can get access using the City's Site Directory. Marty Kraft noted the KC Star web page for climate issues is not available and that the KC Star management apparently believes there will not be sufficient interest.
- Dennis Murphey attended two forums
 - St. Louis - Climate Change and Energy Policy Forum. We received favorable comments on our CPP activities which are far beyond what most other Missouri cities are doing so far. The program was excellent and the speakers very knowledgeable. Issues discussed included the recent Supreme Court decision regarding EPA authorization to regulate GHG, a "cap and trade" system, and others.
 - Washington, DC – A meeting sponsored by the US Green Building Council and held at their (LEED Gold) headquarters. The meeting participants included: ICLEI, Enterprise Foundation, 8 other cities such as Seattle, San Francisco. The topic was development of a toolkit or guide for cities to promote energy efficiency, etc.
- Climate Protection Plan Progress Report – The Progress Report was delivered to the Mayor and City Council on April 2, 2007. Dennis reviewed the transmittal letter from the Steering Committee to the Mayor and City Council focusing on the

four bullet points of the letter. A resolution was developed for Mayor Barnes who approved it and now has all 12 City Council members co-sponsoring the resolution. Joanne Collins, Chair, CPP Steering Committee and Dennis Murphey will make a presentation at the City Council Business Session tomorrow – April 12th. The challenge ahead is to get things implemented as quickly as possible. The new City budget contains \$500,000 for trees and \$3 million for new roofs from which we are hoping to get at least one green roof. We look forward to the new resources agreed to in the KCP&L agreement. On April 24th, Mayor Barnes will address the MARC Board focusing on going regional with climate protection planning. Depending on scheduling, Mayor-elect Funkhouser may attend as well.

Jim van Eman asked about an implementation schedule. Dennis noted he had developed a preliminary schedule of elements that might be implemented in 6 months, 12 months and 24 months. He also noted that at the appropriate time, the new Mayor and Council will be briefed. There is nothing definite yet regarding beginning Phase 2.

Marty Kraft would like us to focus on providing people with enough information that they can make the needed changes.

Old Business

EMC Retreat – There was general discussion about several possible dates for a retreat including both June and July, possible relationship between the retreat, introduction to the new Mayor and City Council, the EMC annual report to City Council, whether to invite the new Mayor and Council to the retreat, and other topics. It was decided to provide the annual report at a Business Session at the end of May with the retreat possibly in June or July.

Open Discussion

1. Richard Rocha brought up the issue of odor at waste treatment plants across Missouri as well as enforcement violations across the State.
2. Rachel Treanor noted Robert Kennedy, Jr. will be speaking in Lawrence, Ks at the Lied Center
3. The City has been recognized for its conversion to alternate fuel vehicles. Based on information on the internet from SustainLane, KC is 3rd in the nation, behind Salt Lake and Honolulu in fleet conversion.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm. Next meeting is May 9, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. with the meeting location to be determined.