

## **Environmental Management Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2007**

Meeting Location: Council Dining Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall

#### Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, J.C. Alonzo, Marty Kraft, Rachel Treanor, Stephen Hopkins, Jim Scott, John Ware,

Commissioners absent: Bob Berkebile, Shawna Bligh, Faith Brennan, Sherry Jackson, Thomas Kimes, Jim Sheppard, Andrew Bailey, Jenny Erdman, Jim van Eman

Others present: Richard Rocha – Visitor; Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development; Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Ron McLinden – Sierra Club; Dustin Jensen – Metropolitan Energy Center; Robert Contaldi

Meeting was convened at 4:10 pm by EMC Co-Chair JC Alonzo and introductions were made. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the last meeting - **Carol Adams made a motion, seconded by Rachel Treanor, to approve the minutes of the last meeting (May, 2007) and the previous two meetings (March, 2007 and April, 2007). The motion passed.**

Membership Issues – Co-Chair Alonzo noted that he had received resignations from the Commission from Sherry Jackson, Shawna Bligh and Thomas Kimes. This leaves 12 remaining active Commissioners. Jim Sheppard will resign following the retreat in July. Applications for membership have been received from Richard Rocha and Dustin Jensen. Mr. Alonzo has a meeting scheduled with Ed Wolf the Mayor's Chief of Staff for Friday, 6/15/07. As part of that meeting, Mr. Alonzo will tender his resignation and request re-appointment. It was clarified that the terms of Bob Berkebile, Co-Chair, and Carol Adams end July, 2007.

### **Committee Reports**

1. Climate Protection – John Ware – No Report – Defer to OEQ Report
2. Energy – Jim Scott - Mr. Scott asked the Commission to keep an eye on the progress of the new KCPL power plant - Iatan 2. He asked staff for a report and overview regarding Iatan 2 next month. He is concerned about outstanding issues and that the EMC be well informed and be able to develop an appropriate policy statement. Carol Adams suggested that the Sierra Club and the Concerned Citizens of Platte County be part of that discussion. Ron McLinden, Sierra Club, suggested this also include James Joerke, MARC and a representative of the Chamber of Commerce Energy Task Force.
3. Air Quality – Carol Adams – Ms. Adams handed out a brochure about ozone issues distributed by MARC. It is likely that KC will violate the ozone standard this summer which will have ramifications for all area residents. Additionally, EPA proposed lowering the threshold standard for non-attainment. We will likely be unable to meet the new standard in the near future. Equipment to reduce NOX

emissions has been installed at the La Cygne power plant, is being tested, and will be in operation during this year's ozone season.

4. Water – Carol Adams - The Wet Weather Community Panel process is getting to a critical point. In July, the panel will have to wrestle with a range of substantive issues. Information is being presented from a very technical point of view. There is an immediate need to re-frame the discussion so that people in the community can understand the issues. We are not currently creating the opportunity to understand the trade-offs. The panel and the public need to understand the various categories, such as (a) deferred maintenance, (b) conveyance (under bridges and roadways, etc), (c) structural capacity and how big the fixes need to be, and (d) enhancements of the natural capacity (green applications). There are real trade-offs between the sizing of structural capacity improvements and improvements in natural system capacity (green solutions). Ms. Adams also suggested the need for connecting this process with neighborhood planning processes to optimize the potential for community panel members for contributing to neighborhood goals. Overall, she is concerned about how the material is being communicated and will prepare a letter to the Wet Weather Community Panel with some alternate suggestions. EMC Commissioners that have expressed an interest will receive a courtesy copy..
5. Social Justice – No Report
6. Landscapes – Marty Kraft – (1) OEQ has been asked to help secure a \$5,000 grant for a No-Till Workshop. OEQ has requested funding but there is no resolution yet. (2) Bruce Wiggins noted there will be an Urban Farm Tour. Provisions for urban agriculture has not been an element of the discussion for the development code revision.
7. LEED Committee – No Report
8. Communications – No Report
9. Compliance – Rachel Treanor – No Report

#### Office of Environmental Quality – Jerry Shechter

##### a. Program Issues

- 1) Three vendors have been selected for providing environmental & safety training for City staff.
- 2) OEQ is working with Facility Management on distribution of internal recycling bins for cans/bottles in work areas of City staff. Recycling bins for City Hall lobbies are expected by mid-July.
- 3) Climate protection meetings/presentations
  - (a) Met with Councilwoman Jan Marcason to discuss climate protection progress report and relationship of greenhouse gas reduction measures to sewer overflow and wet weather issues.
  - (b) Met with EPA Region 7 officials and high school students from Lincoln Academy and Raytown to discuss climate protection issues and actions
  - (c) Made a presentation to EPA Region 7 senior staff re our plan and projected GHG reduction measures and to discuss potential for collaboration on action measures.
  - (d) Made a presentation to the Keep America Beautiful national Board of Directors re our planning process; they later requested a copy of our Progress Report.

- (e) Made a presentation about the KCMO planning process on a national webcast sponsored by the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) and the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Program.
- b. Climate Protection Phase 1 Implementation
  - 1) Met with Budget Manager Troy Schulte regarding potential resources
  - 2) Public Works Solid Waste Division moving ahead with solid waste management plan and negotiating with consultant. Concern was expressed about the potential of burning plastic for any waste to power facility by Ron McLinden.
  - 3) Met with representative of Chicago Climate Exchange about possible membership
  - 4) Met with Parks and Recreation about tree planting, native landscaping, green roofs, community gardens and onsite generation of renewable energy. P&R is supportive and will develop sets of strategies.
  - 5) Met with General Services about ongoing energy efficiency evaluations, enhancements in City buildings, filling an Energy Manager position, green roofs on City buildings, and technical feasibility study of implementing onsite generation of renewable energy (wind and solar). Facilities staff are supportive.
- c. Million Lights Campaign – Have distributed nearly 15,000 of the 23,000 CFLs donated to the City. Beginning our analysis of distribution patterns and participation by the various neighborhoods.
- d. LEED Standards – Completed 6 meetings with City staff, the last 3 of which were focused on development of priority areas (e.g., energy efficiency, storm water management, and construction waste management) for implementation of LEED elements. Will be incorporated by BNIM into sustainability guidelines for future construction projects.
- e. Awards – Three City staff persons were recognized in the Sustainable Kansas City competition for their ideas/concepts: Katie Grotegut, former OEQ intern, Tom Neff and Shannon Jaax of City Planning and Development. Additionally, Larry Falkin was also honored. Bruce Wiggins also noted that Larry Falkin had accepted the position of Director of Environmental Management for Cincinnati, Ohio.

#### Retreat Planning – J C Alonzo

- 1. General schedule – Friday, 7/20 – Open to the public; Saturday – EMC business
- 2. General focus – (a) Friday – Introductions to new Mayor and City Council; Social and political intent; Information exchange; EMC annual report; (b) Saturday – Goals and strategies for moving forward
- 3. Volunteers for elements of the retreat
  - (a) Annual report – John Ware, Jim Scott and JC Alonzo
  - (b) Food – Rachel Treanor, Dustin Jensen; Focus on sustainable/green catering
  - (c) Location – Rachel Treanor
  - (d) Invitations and Notices – John Ware, Rachel Treanor with assistance from Jerry Shechter; Most, if not all invitations and notices to be electronic; To go to:

- (1) Climate Protection Plan Work Group members
- (2) Elected officials
- (3) Policy level City Hall staff
- (4) Environmental Coordinating Managers (ECMs)
- (5) Media - print and broadcast – Assistance by City staff

(e) Budget and Resources – JC Alonzo

Final touches will be discussed at the next EMC meeting prior to the retreat.

Other Business – Matt Gigliotti, Law Department, was asked to prepare a short presentation for the next meeting on the City’s conflict of interest requirements.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm. Next meeting is July 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.