

**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2007**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Attendance

Commissioners present: J.C. Alonzo, Co-Chair, Faith Brennan, Marty Kraft, Rachel Treanor, Jim van Eman, John Ware, Stephen Hopkins

Others present: Dennis Murphey, Sherri Lynn Lewis, Matt McKinley & Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development; Scott Cahail – Water Services; Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Ron McLinden – Sierra Club; Dustin Jensen – Metropolitan Energy Center; Kevin Chafin, Bridging the Gap; Tom Jacobs, MARC

- A. Meeting was convened at 4:05 pm by EMC Co-Chair JC Alonzo; introductions were made. A quorum was present.
- B. Minutes of the last meeting were adopted as presented.
- C. General comments -
  - a. The Co-Chair thanked Stephen Hopkins and HOK for their work in providing the meeting place for the public meet and greet portion of the annual retreat and meeting. A special thank you was offered to Rachel Treanor for the work she did in organizing the meet and greet and the retreat. John Ware was thanked for the powerpoint presentation he put together for the meet and greet. And thanks were given to the OEQ staff who provided support.
  - b. The Co-Chair reiterated the uncertainty of his commission status.
  - c. The Economic Development & Incentive Policy committee, appointed by the Mayor, is meeting this evening (8/8/07) at Guadalupe Center. This is 1 of a series of public meetings on economic development and incentives policy. Participation is encouraged.
- D. Committee Reports
  - a. Climate Protection – John Ware, the outgoing committee chair, was offered the thanks and appreciation of the EMC for his service. Jim van Eman will succeed him as committee chair. Jim has requested that Dennis Murphey provide a formal report to the Commission on Climate Protection Plan progress including implementation of Phase 1 recommendations and plans for Phase 2. It was noted that the first meeting of the Phase 2 Work Groups is scheduled for September 25, 2007. Mr. Murphey was asked to provide the update at the meeting of September 12, 2007.
  - b. Energy – Jim van Eman has spoken with Jim Scott about representations and Jim van Eman has agreed to represent the EMC on the Chamber of Commerce Climate Protection sub-group of the Energy Task Force. The sub-group is reviewing Phase 1 recommendations for implementation potentials and to determine greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction potentials for recommendations, not previously quantified, for community-wide actions. This will certainly build upon the KCPL Agreement and resources of the Energy Task Force.

- c. Landscapes – Marty Kraft – Kansas City Community Gardens is gearing up to do a “no-till gardening” workshop in October, 2007. A special allocation of \$5,000 was provided by the City for this workshop.
- d. LEED – John Ware noted that BNIM has been leading a successful LEED Standards workshop with City staff. A set of implementation guidelines for LEED Silver is being developed which highlights local preferences about how best to achieve LEED Silver in construction of new municipal buildings. There has been good participation and enthusiasm.
- e. Compliance - Rachel Treanor reported on committee activities
  - 1. Codes - Follow-up was done regarding codes in a meeting with Greg Franzen of City Planning and Development. He noted the City is planning to adopt the IECC 2006 updated code and the City will begin to address LEED standards.
  - 2. Storm water system – Ms. Treanor obtained a long list of companies and users having sewer discharge permits and noted that most were in compliance. She found an issue in permit language which did not clearly state where discharge is supposed to go. After discussions with City staff, the language is supposed to have been changed to reference the sanitary (not storm water) system.
  - 3. A report from Andy Savastino, OEQ, addressed environmental quality compliance in each City department. Compliance, mostly with regulatory issues, ranged from 100% to 0%. City-wide, compliance averaged 69%.
  - 4. Solid waste management – Per a discussion with Michael Shaw, recycling efforts at “Rhythm and Ribs” was successful with an approximate 46% diversion rate. It was noted that the diversion rate could increase with different color bins, with different placement of the bins and greater public education.

E. Suggestions for new committees and committee chairs

Transportation – Stephen Hopkins  
 Climate Protection Plan – Jim van Eman  
 Solid Waste – Jim van Eman  
 Compliance – Rachel Treanor  
 Water – Vacant  
 Communications and Outreach – Faith Brennan  
 Membership and Appointments – Carol Adams/Rachel Treanor  
 Energy – Jim Scott  
 Local Foods – Marty Kraft

Ms. Brenna distributed documents about the history of and innovations by the EMC and committed to distribution of the Ft. Hazard consent decree so that all current and future Commissioners would have access to the information.

Mr. Alonzo asked each committee chair to provide a written statement, by next week, indicating what each intends to achieve this year. The statement of goals will be provided to all commission members and will be used for recruitment of members and volunteers.

F. OEQ Update – Dennis Murphey

- 1. Mr. Murphey and James Joerke, MARC, made a presentation to City Council on July 12, 2007 about ozone violations and potential options – local as opposed to

- EPA-mandated actions if we are designated a non-attainment city. And this will be an even greater possibility in the future as EPA lowers the non-attainment threshold.
2. Mr. Murphey made a presentation on July 25, 2007 to the Economic Development and Incentives committee requesting consideration of a definition of sustainability much broader than just financial sustainability.
  3. Mr. Murphey and 11 others taped a KCPT show with Nick Haines which aired on August 2, 2007. It is hoped we can get a full copy of the entire 90 minute taping (30 minute air time) about climate change in KC. This show was immediately followed by a national "Frontline" show on global warming.
  4. There will be a forum on global warming in Johnson County on 8/9/07 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Johnson County Library on 87<sup>th</sup> St.
  5. A major speaker series is being developed on environmental issues
    - a. Ray Anderson, Interface Carpet, will speak on 2 occasions: (1) September 26<sup>th</sup> at Unity on the Plaza, from 5-7 pm, sponsored by BNIM, in conjunction with a presentation, from 7-9 pm, sponsored by Rainy Day Books on Frank Lloyd Wright; and (2) September 27, 2007 at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon.
    - b. Andrew Winston, co-author of Green to Gold, will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the KC Area Development Council on November 9, 2007.
  6. There are 2 new magazines that have been launched which have focused on green issues: Greenability and Urban Times. The premiere issue of Urban Times featured an article with input from Dennis Murphey and Phaedra Svec, BNIM, Elements. The Climate Protection Plan process will be featured in an upcoming issue of Greenability.
  7. City Council has before it a sweeping resolution supportive of green approaches. Originally, the focus was on the Green Solutions position paper of the Wet Weather Community Panel in support of green solutions to wet weather issues. City Council policy will be broader in scope and will apply to all City departments and activities. A group of department directors, with Assistant City Manager John Franklin, will be meeting weekly to develop an action strategy plan within 90 days. Cudos were given to Scott Cahail and Tom Jacobs for being champions of this focus.
  8. New recycling bins are being installed in City Hall public hallways.

#### G. EMC Retreat

1. John Ware asked the Commissioners to review the powerpoint he put together for the Friday evening meet and greet for any needed changes.
2. The Friday evening social event, hosted by HOK, was a good event. It was suggested that, in the future, the event date be set after coordinating with the schedules of the Mayor and City Council.
3. The Saturday retreat, at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, was successful. Mr. Alonzo thanked Ms. Treanor for compiling the results of the retreat for distribution. There was general discussion about the retreat.

#### H. Action Items

1. With the requested Climate Protection Plan update on the agenda, it was decided to reschedule the presentation on the KCPL agreement to October. OEQ staff was asked to handle the scheduling.

2. The Communications and Outreach Committee was asked to begin addressing EMC relationship with City Council and Mayor
3. Comprehensive Environmental Plan – It was suggested that 2 major elements of such a plan are Wet Weather Solutions and Climate Protection Plan and that EMC efforts should first be supportive of getting these elements in place. There was discussion about the need for such a plan if everyone is working under the new policy as described above. It might be more appropriate to pick key items which could be catalysts for greater spin-off impact.
4. Stephen Hopkins spoke about the potential for an e-mail account to serve the EMC needs. Matt Gigliotti was asked to provide a legal opinion as to the advisability of a limited access e-mail account for the EMC.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm. Next meeting is September 12, 2007 at 4:00 pm. at the Westview Room at MARC (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor).