



Environmental Management Commission Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2008

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 1st Floor, Broadway Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Amy Bhesania, Faith Brennan, Jimmy Adegoke, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Rachel Treanor, Jim van Eman, and John Ware

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Michael Shaw – Public Works Department; Carissa DeCramer – City Manager's Office

Guests: Kathleen Scanlon – student; Ron McLinden – Regional Transit Alliance; Kevin Chafin – Bridging The Gap; Lisa Danbury – MARC; Jacob Wagner – UMKC, Department of Architecture and Urban Planning - Center for Creative Studies

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:10 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Carol Adams welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests; everyone introduced themselves
- B. Approval of the minutes – Rachel Treanor made a motion, seconded by John Ware, to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2008. The motion passed.
- C. Solid Waste Management Plan – Jim van Eman, Michael Shaw, Director, KCMO Solid Waste Management, Lisa Danbury, MARC, Solid Waste Management District (SWMD), and Kevin Chafin, Bridging The Gap

In response to EMC questions posed in June, 2008, this presentation was scheduled to review the status of resource recovery progress in KCMO. Jim van Eman noted that, pursuant to the vision for KC expressed in Phase 2 of the development of the Climate Protection Plan, the current paradigm of 20% waste diverted from the waste stream needs to be changed to 80% diversion rate to be accomplished by 2020. This gave rise to the slogan: "80/20 by 2020". The definition of waste stream includes construction & demolition (C&D) waste. The vision includes changing the Public Works Solid Waste Management Division to one of resource recovery and making it an enterprise department in order to become a competitive force in the market enabling the potential for such changes. An objective of this change is to collect all organic/compostable materials and greatly reduce the potential for production of methane gas which has 20-25 times more impact as a greenhouse gas (GHG) than CO₂.

Lisa Danbury, Planner for the SWMD, spoke about the regional impact and where KCMO fits in. She indicated that the MARC-SWMD tries to fill in the gaps of local plans. She indicated there is a need for a materials recovery facility (MRF) on the Missouri side. The goal of the State of Missouri is 40% diversion and, according to the SWMD, we are at 25%

diversion. The Deffenbaugh landfill will reach capacity somewhere from 2020-2025. This area produces about 3 million tons of waste annually. The long term vision is 80% diversion by 2023 for the region. She indicated the technology is available to achieve the goal but the implementing mechanisms are not. Some small trash haulers are building their own transfers stations in order to remain competitive and they are considering expanding the types of materials accepted. Glass recovery and remanufacture may soon be a reality locally. In the CPP, public financing of a municipal solid waste facility was advocated.

Michael Shaw, Manager of the KC, MO Solid Waste Management Division of Public Works spoke about the new Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Detailed background information was highlighted. His division intends to benchmark its services with the intent to:

1. Keep waste management affordable
2. Make waste management sustainable
3. Look beyond landfills
4. Achieve meaningful waste diversion
5. Address business needs/concerns
6. Operate with a 20 year view
7. Manage waste resources as a commodity
8. Develop a KC Ecocenter which sets a new standard beyond any reproach, which
 - a. is an MRF
 - b. is a facility encompassing and promoting public drop-off and education
 - c. is a transfer station
 - d. accepts recycling
 - e. processes glass to create cullet (recycled container glass prior to processing) for new production
 - f. leverages expenses and cost saving to support other programs
 - g. incorporates triple bottom line implementation
 - h. achieves synergies not otherwise possible
 - i. is a green facility including rain gardens, green roof, high energy efficiency, renewable energy, pervious pavement, lighting and water control, etc.

The expected cost of the facility is about \$46 million and it will be expected to pay for itself by “turning trash to cash”. Public Works is completing an RFP for a consultant to write the RFP for development of the facility. It is planned that this be a design-build-operate facility.

An outstanding issue is the rebate for apartment owners. The rebate program was put in place 40-50 years ago. There is the potential this program could be terminated. Jack Schrimsher noted that the program was instituted by court order and that to terminate it would be a violation of that existing court order.

Rom McLiden asked what we can do to reduce the size of the waste stream – and who does it? He also pointed up a dichotomy of interest in that reduction of the waste stream will result in less revenue to pay for the Ecocenter facility.

Commissioners expressed support; Carol Adams asked Michael Shaw to let Jim van Eman know how support could be provided.

- D. Washington Wheatley Neighborhood Action Plan– Jacob Wagner, UMKC, Department of Architecture and Urban Planning - Center for Creative Studies

Dr. Wagner and his class have been working to develop a series of implementation strategies with and for the Washington Wheatley Neighborhood. The question is how to move the strategies to actual implementation. Their concern is recycling urban neighborhoods. He provided a very detailed description of the neighborhood, its obstacles and its opportunities – physical, health, environmental, transportation, etc. Their findings include:

1. Washington Wheatley has a good group of committed leaders.
2. Local public schools are engaged in the process.
3. There is a rich history which is largely unknown by the public and its leaders.
4. The neighborhood has “good urban form.”
5. There are great parks and public spaces.
6. It is a very walkable neighborhood which, currently, happens to be short on amenities.

EMC endorsement of the process, its conclusions and its potential was requested. Dr. Wagner noted that a good portion of what is in process should be completed in the next month. A follow up was placed on the agenda for the November, 2008 meeting.

Dennis Murphey noted that this project was just selected by the Missouri chapter of the American Planning Association as:

Outstanding Special Project and Collaboration

University of Missouri, Kansas City
Department of Architecture and Urban Planning
The Center for Creative Studies
“Washington Wheatley Neighborhood Action Plan”

E. EMC Project Updates

Gap Analysis/Climate Change Assessment and Scenario Planning – John Ware and Jimmy Adegoke

John Ware made a presentation on the draft report of the EMC project to assess the potential long term impacts of climate change ... and to generate a range of plausible scenarios for KC. In the presentation potential strategic partners, a potential advisory group and deliverables were offered for consideration. The three proposed deliverables are: (1) a powerpoint presentation, (2) a written report with executive summary, and (3) a film documentary. The potential elements of the study/report include an assessment of climate change in terms of (1) what we know, (2) perceptions of risk, (3) vulnerabilities and opportunities, and (4) systemic vulnerabilities. A basic structure (matrix) for the range of scenario families was suggested to include: (1) food, (2) transportation, (3) health, (4) water, (5) energy, (6) land use, (7) commerce, and (8) governance.

The study, based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) global assessment, would apply that format and process to the regional level. This would be a background study to advocate for a future scoping study (laying out a comprehensive approach to the issue). The proposed timetable is 12 months.

F. Liaison Updates – Deferred to November meeting

G. OEQ Update – Dennis Murphey, Chief Environmental Officer, KCMO

Dennis gave an abbreviated report with the balance deferred to the November, 2008 meeting.

1. The City of KC,MO received three APA awards for:

- a. **Outstanding Plan** - by HNTB - "Hickman Mills Area Plan"
 - b. **Outstanding Tool** – by Patty Banks Associates – KC,MO Stream Setback Ordinance
 - c. **Special Community Initiative** – KC,MO Climate Protection Plan
2. SustainLane rankings of the top 50 cities for sustainability placed Kansas City at #20
 3. For the November meeting, Dennis will speak about
 - a. The STAR Communities Index Project of which KC is a member
 - b. ICLEI's new "Spotlight Conversations" project which, if chosen as a participant, will enhance our "Conversations on the Environment"
 - c. New MoDNR and US-EPA air quality attainment designations

H. Old Business

1. There is currently one vacancy and, shortly, there will be another. Faith Brennan announced that this would, in all likelihood, be her last EMC meeting. Discussion of membership was deferred to the November, 2008 meeting.
2. Sunshine Law application – Matt Gigliotti, Law Department – Matt noted that the law applies to meetings of the various sub-groups of the EMC at which EMC business would be conducted. If the law is violated, any actions taken could be invalidated and there could be fines of up to \$5,000 imposed. In planning for these meetings, please notify Jerry and Matt, so they can post the appropriate notice for the public. All notices must be received by Jerry with sufficient lead time for posting at least 24 hours in advance. There was also a brief discussion about EMC and sub-group records including e-mails. This will be discussed further at the November meeting.

I. New Business – Earth Day activities – Deferred to the November, 2008 meeting

J. Calendar of Upcoming Events and Announcements – Anything to be noted should be sent to Jerry to distribute.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Place: MARC – 2nd Floor, Board Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.