



Environmental Management Commission Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2008

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

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Faith Brennan, Jimmy Adegoke, Taylor Haynes, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Rachel Treanor Norton, Jim van Eman, Evaline Taylor, Linda Clark, Jim Scott, and John Ware

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Bruce Wiggins – Aviation Department

Guests: Ron McLinden – Regional Transit Alliance (RTA); Kevin Chafin – Bridging The Gap (BTG); Claus Wawrzinek – Sierra Club; John C. Knight

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

- A. Carol Adams welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests; Carol introduced Evaline Taylor, the newly appointed Commissioner; everyone introduced themselves. Rachel Treanor announced she recently got married. Her new name is Rachel Treanor Norton.
- B. Approval of the minutes – Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Jim van Eman, to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2008. The motion passed.
- C. OEQ Report – Dennis Murphey
 1. Mr. Murphey reported that he had received a telephone call from Bridging The Gap telling him he had been nominated, by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), for an Environmental Excellence Award. He thanked the EMC for the nomination and noted BTG had informed him he had not been selected.
 2. Budget – There has been an across the board reduction in projections for revenue with the potential for a \$60 million deficit next fiscal year. This will probably result in more staff reductions and a range of other expenditure reductions. Troy Schulte, the City's Budget Officer, is trying to include \$1.2 million in the budget for new trees and \$1 million for energy efficiency improvements. He has been very supportive of carefully spending now so that savings can be achieved over time.

Dennis sent a memo to Mr. Schulte with recommendations for inclusion of Climate Protection Plan (CPP) greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures in the budget to be adopted by City Council:

- a. Re-allocate 1% of all transportation infrastructure expenditures for bicycling;
- b. Re-allocate 2% of all transportation infrastructure expenditures for walking;
- c. City allocate 50% of all new utility tax revenues beyond a base year to a fund for renewable energy projects; and
- d. Allocate energy efficiency cost savings realized by activities of the various City departments, such as performance contracts as well as behavior-related

improvements, in the following percentages: 10% of the savings to the respective department for other designated projects, 40% into a fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy (EE and RE) projects, and 50% to the General Fund.

3. Climate Protection Plan Update – Jerry Shechter provided an update on implementation of the GHG reduction measures adopted by City Council focused on Phase 2 recommendations. He provided update information on selected measures from Phase 1 and Phase 2, including, among others:
 - a. Initial feasibility study for onsite renewable energy (RE) opportunities has been done by an intern to the General Services Department. Further study is needed
 - b. Adopted improvements of energy efficiency (EE) ordinances, codes and regulations, including: International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2006, Energy Star for Homes ordinance, ordinance requiring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-Silver for City buildings – new and renovation over 5,000 sf; Also, trained staff on implementation of LEED program and developed applicable LEED standards; Contract language is being adapted.
 - c. Extended and enhanced collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce in support of its Climate Protection Partnership expanding the number of businesses and institutions committing to assessing their carbon footprint and taking some action.
 - d. Developed a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (EMC presentation last month by Michael Shaw)
 - e. Expansion of urban forest recommended for next budget (see C-2, above)
 - f. Working with a range of other agencies and organizations in development of a regional food policy coalition
 - g. Continued and expanded the Conversations on the Environment public education program
 - h. Continuing to expand the number of alternative fuel vehicles in fleet
 - i. Working with, and supporting by contract, programs of Bridging The Gap (BTG) and Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) to deliver community-wide, public and professional education on EE and RE.
 - j. With businesses assessing their carbon footprint, first steps may have been taken in potential development of a “Carbon Release Inventory”
 - k. Drafted the Trails KC Plan, adopted new Development Code and Stream Setback Buffer
 - l. Promoting city-wide EE and RE including purchase of electricity from renewable sources
 - m. Supporting alternative modes of transportation (see C-2, above)
4. ICLEI Spotlight Conversations – Kansas City was not selected as a participant in this national project. This will give us more time to support the BTG Earth Day activities. Dennis suggested inviting Phelps Murdock - President, BTG, to update the EMC.
5. STAR Communities Index – Local governments are developing a rating tool to help assess movement toward sustainability. This is intended to be an 18 month process with 45 steering committee members of which 28 are local governments. The next step is the creation of various technical advisory committees. Dennis distributed information including how to join one of the technical committees.

Carol Adams asked how the EMC can plug into the budget process. It was noted there may be a more extensive public input process than normal. She asked that the EMC get notice of all hearings. Faith will contact Troy Schulte and have a conversation with him on behalf of the EMC. Jack Schrimsher suggested the EMC put together a statement to go to the Council, Mayor and City Manager early in the process encouraging them to think green in their budget decisions. There were a number of other questions and comments.

- D. Matt Gigliotti, Law Department – Sunshine Law applies to almost everything the EMC does, including its various committees. The EMC “g-mail” account contents have not gone to a City custodian of record. It appears best that that person be a City employee. It was agreed that all transactions are to be sent to Jerry Shechter, OEQ, for now. Matt will speak to IT regarding setting up a specific custodial account.
- E. Housing Issues - Dustin Jensen
- a. UMKC, in conjunction with Washington Wheatley Neighborhood Association, held a ground breaking for its neighborhood sustainability project which was covered by the KC Star. Although Prof. Wagner requested EMC support at the last meeting, he has not yet provided the specifics necessary for such support.
 - b. The City has put out requests for proposals (RFPs) pursuant to the Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan. Although the Plan has been, and is, the major conduit of federal funds for housing development and other activities, the RFP request makes to reference to the Energy Star for Housing Ordinance and its requirements. The Housing Advisory Committee has a vacancy and it was suggested the EMC submit a request to fill that vacancy. Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Linda Clark, that Dustin Jensen be nominated as the EMC representative to the Housing - Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee and that a letter be written to the Mayor’s Office requesting that nomination. The motion passed.
- F. Liaison Updates
1. Development Code – Carol Adams – It was suggested a letter from the EMC be sent to City Council to move the issue forward in its present form and to move ahead in a systematic way to increase the greening of the code. A draft letter was circulated. Jim van Eman made a motion, seconded by John Ware, to approve the draft letter, to sign it and to forward it to the Planning and Zoning Committee. The motion passed.
 2. Air Quality Forum – Richard Rocha – It was generally agreed that the KC region would be in non-attainment of the new ground level ozone standard and that the Missouri portion of the non-attainment area would include Cass, Clay, Clinton, Jackson and Platte Counties. The State of Missouri will make its determination and forward it to US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2009 triggering a process of response development and negotiation that will probably span the next 2-3 years.
 3. Wet Weather Community Panel – Rachel Treanor Norton – After five years, the Community Panel will terminate by January, 2009 with the submittal of the Overflow Control Plan (OCP) to EPA. There will be stakeholder forums (public hearings) November 17-18 and December 4. A pilot program has been started in the Marlborough Neighborhood that will showcase green and other stormwater improvements as opposed to the originally proposed “standard” approach reducing the overall cost from \$50 million to \$35 million and transforming the community visually. A Wet Weather Panel Stormwater Management Resolution is under consideration. There was consensus among the EMC members that the definition of the 100 year flood plain should be based on built-out conditions. Carol Adams will be attending a Wet Weather committee meeting to consider compromise language.
 4. Missouri River – Linda Clark reported that the Army Corps of Engineers will be holding hearings regarding the degradation of the river and options for addressing this serious issue.

5. Federal “bail-out” funds – Jim van Eman – Noted that the distribution (or non-distribution) of federal funds to the auto industry will have a major impact on this area. He proposed that, in some fashion, the EMC develop comments. This issue was placed on the December agenda.

G. Other Business

1. Carolyn Davies, UMKC, reported that President Foresee has signed the College Climate Commitment and has stopped a major parking facility for UMKC to look for other, environmentally friendly options.
2. Kevin Chafin, BTG
 - a. Earth Day celebration will, once again, return to Theis Park – just south of the Nelson Atkins Art Gallery – where the function began in the 1970’s.
 - b. BTG will be working with UMKC on a project to improve walkability.

H. Calendar of Upcoming Events and Announcements

Wet Weather Stakeholder forum: Nov. 18, 2008, 4-6 p.m.
Union Station, Arthur Stilwell Ballroom,
30 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008
Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Place: MARC – 2nd Floor, Board Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.