

**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2008**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 2nd Floor, Westview Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jimmy Adegoke, Amy Bhesania, Faith Brennan, Linda Clark, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Jim Scott, Rachel Treanor, John Ware

Staff: Dennis Murphey & Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development; Denise Burkett – Water Services Department

Guests: Kevin Chafin – Bridging The Gap
Claus Wawrzinek – Sierra Club
Tom Jacobs - MARC

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

- A. Carol Adams welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests and asked everyone to introduce themselves
- B. Approval of the minutes – Jim Scott made a motion, seconded by Jack Schrimsher, to approve the minutes of the meetings of February 13, 2008 and March 12, 2008. The motion passed.
- C. OEQ Report – Dennis Murphey
 1. Mayor Funkhouser will present the 2008 Environmental Achievement Awards to 5 awardees from 3 departments, chosen by the EMC, at Lakeside Nature Center (4601 E. Gregory) at 2:00 pm on April 22, 2008. There are also 2 honorable mentions. Andy Savastino is drafting presentation notes. Carol Adams will not be able to attend due to a conflict with appointments with City Council.
 2. The next in the series of Conversations on the Environment is Richard Louv who will speak to the public at the Plaza Branch Library on April 23, 2008 at 6:30 pm. Mr. Louv coined the phrase “Nature deficit disorder” focused on the separation of kids from nature.
 3. KC Green Summit – Friday, April 25, 2008 at Bartle Hall - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be a community-wide discussion about green solutions in wet weather responses. Majora Carter, along with a number of other notables from Kansas City, will participate. Six green solutions, one per Council District, will be presented. There will be a focus on local foods and there will be a range of vendor booths. The kick-off speaker will be Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II. Bob Berkebile will speak and there will be a charrette focused on green design.
 4. The Climate Protection Plan Steering Committee met on Thursday, March 20, 2008 in the MARC Board Room. Congressman Cleaver attended and spoke about the federal action agenda and his observations regarding global warming and energy independence.
 5. The next meeting of the Climate Protection Plan Work Groups will be April 15, 2008 at the Ewing M. Kauffman Foundation. It is hoped that consensus can be

- reached on recommendations to be made to the Steering Committee such that the recommendations can be adopted by City Council in July, 2008.
6. Dennis has made presentations to:
 - a. Raytown Chamber of Commerce;
 - b. by telephone, to the Sustainability Committee of Fairfield, Iowa.
 - c. Dennis and Tom Jacobs made a presentation to the Centurions about sustainability activity.
 - d. Missouri Highway and Transportation Committee on April 9, 2008 at which time Missouri Department of Transportation indicated they will join the Chamber of Commerce Climate Protection Partnership. Ron McLinden also spoke and made an excellent presentation regarding the bigger picture and the need to recognize that the future is not the past.
 7. The LEED Standards Committee is ready to submit the revised LEED Ordinance language to the City Manager for submission to City Council. Due to a staff oversight, John Ware was not part of the discussion. The new language, which has been submitted to all department heads for comment, is an attempt to eliminate confusion about compliance with the ordinance in that:
 - a. The ordinance no longer allows a “good faith effort” to comply; Compliance is required;
 - b. Each project will be submitted to the US Green Building Council for certification; and
 - c. Eliminates old language regarding date-related exemptions.
 8. City Budget – Dennis Murphey noted that there is not a lot of detail available. It appears that the OEQ budget is without substantial change compared to the originally proposed budget. Dennis had asked for another position to help with sustainability but it appears to be deleted.
 9. Mayor’s Town Hall meeting regarding staffing was held April 9, 2008. Human Resources and the City Manager are working on a plan to minimize lay-offs which is to be submitted to City Council May 15th. Carol Adams noted that long-range planning appears to have been eliminated from the budget.
 10. Recycling – OEQ and Solid Waste – There will be recycling at the air show event this year and also at the Zoo on May 1st, and Starlight on May 31st. Recycling will be expanded at Kemper, Bartle Hall, Municipal Auditorium and the American Royal. There has been no progress in getting recycling at Kauffman and Arrowhead stadiums. Tom Jacobs noted that Burns and McDonnell, general manager for renovations at the stadiums, believe recycling may be discussed.
 11. Richard Rocha – Missouri Air idling rules proposed; Dennis Murphey is working on a Council resolution to make KC an “Idle-free Zone”.
 12. Council person Cindy Circo is Chair of the Housing Committee in which an ordinance is in process that would require any affordable housing construction projects using City funds, including federal grants, to be built, at a minimum, to Energy Star standards.
- D. EMC Retreat – Scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2008
1. Carol Adams reported that discussions with City Council members have begun and distributed the schedule of meetings. She met with Councilpersons Sharp, Circo and Ford on April 9, 2008. Four of the meetings with Council have not yet been scheduled. All meetings have been held in the Council offices on the 24th Floor of City Hall. She is thinking of developing a summary report for the EMC.

2. The retreat, on 5/10, is scheduled to begin at 8:00 am and to end at 3:00 pm. The Co-Chair asked everyone to begin to think about the retreat and the issues for discussion. Brennan, Ware and Treanor agreed to help with planning.
3. The Commissioners were asked to think about what interests there are to cover including:
 - a. current pressing issues
 - b. up-coming issues
 - c. synergies with other groups.

There will be a bit of time for background of the EMC, especially for the new Commissioners, and a lot of time should be spent on current and forward thinking about future issues.
4. Jack Schrimsher suggested there be consideration of any changes that might be needed in the “Rules of Procedure”. He specifically referred to the required quorum and a statement of policy regarding actions that might be taken. Matt Gigliotti advised that 10 votes are needed to change the rules.
5. Jim Scott asked Dennis Murphey to provide a report on strategic direction of the OEQ.
6. John Ware suggested the Commissioners read “Natural Capitalism” in preparation for the meeting.

E. Committee Reports

1. Water and Air Quality – Carol Adams –
 - a. Air Quality Forum – With the new federal ozone standard, KC will be in non-compliance. Once the designation is made, the City will have 3 years to develop a plan to be approved by EPA. Total time to implementation may be as much as 6 years. It seems appropriate to advocate for a national policy regarding the impact of the new standards on local conditions, to recognize that a part of the problem is out of local control and to level the playing field. The new ozone standard will result in an increased number of ozone alert days beginning this year requiring response plans to be implemented more often.
 - b. Wet Weather Community Panel – Carol Adams asked the EMC to consider having its regular meeting on May 14, 2008, even though the retreat is on 5/10, to develop comments regarding the Wet Weather Plan. The Overflow Control Plan (OCP) is to be presented to City Council within about 2 weeks to be followed by a 30-day public comment period. The EMC has a responsibility to review and comment especially as there appears to be a disconnect between the staff and consultants and the Community Panel. Constructive comments are needed. It was suggested that a letter from the EMC be sent to the Mayor and City Council advocating for green solutions. There was a general feeling, among the EMC, that the EMC should reinforce the intentions of the Community Panel and should stand up for principles of integration in this process – which is the premise behind green solutions. The Commissioners agreed to have the regular monthly meeting on May 14, 2008.
2. Transportation
 - a. Linda Clark asked that consideration be given to the truck lane only concept for I-70 as a retreat issue.
 - b. Light rail will probably be on the November, 2008 ballot. The time for EMC to effectively influence the planning process is probably passed.
3. Climate Protection – No report

4. Solid Waste – Multifamily dumpster rebates are out of the budget.
5. Local Foods – No report
6. Compliance – Rachel Treanor spoke with Andy Savastino, OEQ regarding the Environmental Management System (EMS) and compliance. The EMS Manual is currently in revision. The Environmental Compliance Report has been distributed to all department heads. The City Manager has commented about the lack of timely response which is no longer acceptable. With the new fiscal year, after May 1st, a template will be distributed to each department to showcase their own environmental compliance. In the future, there will be a report on green solutions activities.
7. LEED – John Ware – LEED Standards Committee has completed its meetings and a final document is in process. The biggest remaining issue is staff training.
8. Energy
 - a. Missouri legislation – SB 1277 is in hearing on April 10th.
 - b. KCP&L attempt to assure their ability to deliver energy efficiency programs in Kansas is tied up with the Holcomb coal plant issue. There is currently only a 1-vote margin for veto override potential.
9. Communications – No report

F. New Business

1. Dennis Murphey announced the “2008 Energy Policy, Climate Change and Energy Security Conference” will be held May 20-21 at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. National policy issues will be addressed on 5/20 and state and local issues will be addressed on 5/21. Staff was asked to send out the flyer for the conference.
2. Kevin Chafin, Bridging The Gap announced “Dreamscape Makeover 2008” – This is an entry contest wherein a \$25 donation results in an opportunity to win a \$10,000 sustainable landscaping package. For more information, go to: www.kkcb.org .
3. MARC Green Remodeling Idea Book has been released and is good.

Next meeting is the retreat on May 10, 2008 at 8:00 am. at 360 Architecture.
The next monthly meeting is May 14, 2008

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.