



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2009**

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

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jimmy Adegoke, Stephen Hopkins, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Rachel Norton, Jack Schrimsher, Evaline Taylor

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – OEQ; Scott Cahail – Water Services Department; Matt Gigliotti - Law

Guests: Sadie Gardner – BTG; Mike Hoey; Camealia Murray

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

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests to the November meeting of the EMC. Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2009 were tabled to the meeting of January 13, 2010.

C. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. EECBG Competitive Grant – A copy of the City's letter of intent to apply (program abstract), which was sent to the US Department of Energy, and a draft letter of support for the City's EECBG grant application were distributed. DOE intends to award 8-20 grants in the range of \$5 million to \$75 million. KC will seek somewhere around \$50 million for the whole neighborhood/building energy retrofit program. The grant will be written to address replicability, scalability, and sustainability. DOE time schedule: notice of pending award – mid-March, 2010 and actual grant award – mid-May, 2010. The program, called "EnergyWorks KC", is currently designed for the Green Impact Zone plus 6 neighborhoods. The City intends to contract with the Metropolitan Energy Center to be a "one-stop-shop" for the applicant building owners to facilitate energy audits and in identification of retrofit contractors. MEC will help applicants sort out the maze of information and possibilities. The City will hire a general contractor for financing and a general contractor for contracting and quality control. Both GC's will be coordinated by MEC on behalf of the building owner applicant and MEC will have a prime responsibility to report to the City. The application includes forgivable loans, to home owners whose utility bills are in arrears, as an incentive to pay down those bills and keep them current. The City will create a revolving loan fund to incentivize lenders to lend. There have been some amazing letters of support from the private sector, such as cfm Distributors and Community America Credit Union. MARC will help establish a regional "Metropolitan Energy Retrofit Coalition", address needed policy changes and workforce development. As part of the grant, the City will fund a construction contractor incubator in the Green Zone. A critical overall focus is transformation of the local energy efficiency market to make energy efficiency the primary choice by building owners in improving their buildings. Additional elements of the grant will include deconstruction both to address reuse and recycling of embedded energy and jobs for people who may not have the ability to get other jobs – such as in the Home Weatherization Program, rebates for Energy Star appliances, and matching dollars for a local water efficiency program.

OEQ requested a letter of support from the EMC and provided copies of letters of support from several private sector companies. Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Jack Schrimsher,

that the EMC provide a letter of support for the City's EECBG Competitive Grant application and authorized Carol Adams and Bob Berkebile to sign a letter on behalf of the EMC. The motion passed with Dustin Jensen abstaining.

2. OEQ Annual Report was distributed for FY 2009.

D. 2010 City Budget Process

1. What does it mean to "focus on green city"? It is more than the Green Impact Zone. It is expected the City Manager will support green solutions but he is currently absorbed with the budget process.
2. Has there been any GIS mapping of capital projects? Scott Cahail thinks that there is planning in process for that to be done. There is a need for a central repository for information that all can access.
3. Last year, the City emphasized collection of recyclables. Jimmy Adegoke asked about the window of opportunity for EMC input. It was noted the City Manager's budget must be sent to the Mayor by January 15th so it would be appropriate to have a conversation with the City Manager before that date. A conversation with City Council would be appropriate after the budget becomes public on February 15th. Dennis noted that every department director has been asked to put together a written plan that addresses budget conditions (1) 100% of last year, and (2) 90% of last year. Things like recycling are among the programs under consideration.

There was general discussion of the efficacy of green/sustainability in making the city more cost effective.

Dustin Jensen offered three thoughts re a model:

- a. Housing Department will be out of receivership within 18 months so the City will not do anything to jeopardize that potential. EMC should point to such things as the Climate Protection Plan, Overflow Control Plan, etc and advocate for cuts not to have a negative material effect.
- b. Release some of the cost burden – such as city-owned property – to private interests and investors specifically for environmentally friendly development
- c. Make sure things are done right based on a high standard to better ensure long term efficacy
Carol Adams will draft a letter to the Acting City Manager with recommendations.

F. Liaison Updates – No reports

- G. Old Business – Mike Hoey asked about the possibility of a meeting with Lew Austin regarding redevelopment of the Three Trails (Bannister Mall) area. The Chair asked that this be delayed until after the City budget process.

H. New Business – None

I. Remarks and Announcements

1. Marty Kraft – The Bio-Char conference was 11/23 at UMKC and it was a good event
2. Dennis Murphey – EPA has issued an endangerment finding and will regulate CO₂ under the Clean Air Act.
3. There was discussion of the letter from Gary Forsee, President, University of Missouri, regarding greenhouse gas emissions impact on the coal power plant on the U of MO campus. Faculty is taking exception to the letter and pushing back.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2009 at MARC at 4:00 pm.

It was suggested the EMC consider changing its normal meeting dates in January and February to accommodate the City budget discussion. It was suggested the January meeting be moved from January 13th to an open date and that the February 10th meeting date be moved to February 17th. All this will be dependent on the budget release in January so dates are left open.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm