



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2010

Meeting Location: Project Living Proof – 917 Cleaver II Blvd (47th & Harrison)

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Stephen Hopkins, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Camealia Murray, Jack Schrimsher, and Jim van Eman

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter, Andy Savastino, Denise Dillard, Sally McInerney, Danielle Baulckim – OEQ; Scott Cahail – Water Services; Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept.

Guests: Ron McLinden – Regional Transit Alliance; Sadie Gardner – Bridging The Gap, Claus Wawrzineck – Sierra Club; Willow Lundgren; David Mitchell

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:10 pm; a quorum was not present

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff and guests to the EMC meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. Jerry Shechter introduced Denise Dillard - Administrative Assistant, Danielle Baulckim – Marketing Coordinator and Sally McInerney, Accountant, who are the newly hired OEQ staff for the EnergyWorks KC initiative, funded by the DOE Better Buildings program.

B. Minutes of August and September, 2010 – Action deferred to the next meeting.

C. Open discussion with Interim City Manager Troy Schulte

It is expected that the new budget to be proposed will be flat and this will create pressures based on projected cost increases. There has been a two-year period in which wages have been frozen, benefits have been decreased and 500 positions have been lost. There are also commitments to unions, defined capital maintenance projects, etc. This all results in a projected \$20 million shortfall that may result in further cost cuts.

There is a fundamental issue facing this city with the pending Earnings tax (E-tax) vote on April 5, 2011. The E-tax provides revenue of over \$200 million in KC revenue which represents 40% of the general fund and 60% of the budget for police and fire. Replacement would require increases in sales and/or property taxes. Neither is popular and both are regressive. The city, therefore, must plan for reduced revenue beginning with regional amenities, etc. A second issue is a fee-based solid waste program including trash, leaf and brush, recycling and whether it is to be run like a utility. Other program cuts could be in code enforcement but probably not infrastructure. And, \$80 million of the E-tax burden would shift to KCMO tax payers directly – from non-resident payers to resident payers. The City will lose a generation in ability to move forward and make it harder to attract business and labor. Finally, we will have this conversation every five years.

Role of the EMC – Mr. Schulte recommended the EMC preach to hang on to core principles and sustainability. The City is to begin a comprehensive economic development strategy and needs to establish principles and a long-term strategic vision.

D. Office of Environmental Quality – Report/Update – Dennis Murphey

1. The Edgar Snow Symposium was held in KCMO in October and, among others, was attended by Director-General Jiang Mingjun, Chair of the China Investment Corp. The Symposium is held every two years and alternates between China and KCMO. At the symposium, there was a ½-day session on Clean Energy and Sustainability. Ultimately, the Chinese delegation was very impressed with Kansas City and chose KC to be the first winner of the International Eco-Safety City Award. The first

world award will be presented in Cambodia the first week of December, 2010. Dennis will be attending with Joan Pu of the Mayor's staff.

2. Jerry Shechter provided a general update of the status of the EECBG grant programs.
 - a. Formula Grant – DOE gave all programs a target of 20% of the grant to be expended by 9/30/10. Kansas City actually spent 35% of its grant placing us much ahead of most other grantees.
 - b. EnergyWorks KC Initiative - Jerry began by introducing three of the four persons to be hired to work on the grant. Staff is being trained and is working on the single most critical element of the program – the Loan Loss Reserve which is a mechanism that staff hopes will make energy efficiency loans attractive to the general public.
 3. Andy Savastino provided the EMC an update on status of the Environmental Management Systems and Green Solutions Annual Report for 2010. The report will be released as soon as it has been reviewed by all parties internally.
 4. There is a movement nationally to renew funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). Dennis expressed a bit of skepticism as there is little to report nationally in terms of actual successes.
- E. Liaison Updates - None
- F. Project Updates – None
- G. Old Business - None
- H. New Business – Carol Adams asked the Commissioners to consider moving the December meeting to the 15th rather than the 8th as she and Bob will not be able to attend on the 8th. Jerry Shechter was asked to poll the Commissioners.
- I. Remarks and Announcements – None

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2010 at MARC at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm