



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2010

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council – 600 Broadway

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Dustin Jensen Adams, Molly Davies, Stephen Hopkins, Scott Jones, Marty Kraft, Rachel Norton, Jack Schrimsher, Jim Scott, and Jim van Eman

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

Guests: Sadie Gardner – Bridging The Gap

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

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff and guests to the EMC meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Minutes of August, September, and November, 2010 – Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Scott Jones, to approve the minutes with a spelling correction in the November minutes. The minutes were approved.

C. Follow-up to discussion with Acting City Manager Troy Schulte – Carol Adams

Mr. Schulte addressed the potential implications flowing from decisions to be made, in April, 2011, re the earnings tax. Matt Gigliotti noted that the EMC Commissioners are under certain restrictions as Mayoral appointees. Any comments by Commissioners, representing the EMC, must be fact-based and not presented for or against any ballot issue. It was agreed that Commissioners can and should talk with people especially with regard to potential impacts on addressing environmental issues and sustainability. Commissioners could state that the renewal of the City's commitment to being environmentally conscious and sustainable and as efficient and innovative as possible is positive. The Chair asked for volunteers to form a sub-committee to research the issue. Volunteers include: Jim Scott, Rachel Norton, Jack Schrimsher and Stephen Hopkins.

D. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. The Edgar Snow Symposium was held in KCMO in October and, among others, was attended by Director-General Jiang Mingjun, Director-General of the International Eco-Safety Cooperative Organization (IESCO). 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 IESCO chose KC to be the first U.S. winner of the International Eco-Safety City Award. The award was presented in Cambodia the first week of December, 2010. Dennis Murphey and Joan Pu, Mayor's Office, attended the presentation. Dennis participated on a panel and gave a presentation to the 1st World Eco-Safety Assembly. All of the Asian countries represented were clear in defining climate change as a major issue to be addressed. A group from IESCO will be visiting KC in January, 2011. A news release regarding the award was distributed but not picked up by the media.
2. EnergyWorks KC is moving ahead. A major request for proposals should be distributed by the end of this week to solicit lender participation.
3. The annual environmental report, which now includes green solutions, will be issued soon.
4. The budget meeting with the City Manager went as well as could be expected. It appears the OEQ will have resources sufficient to do the 5-year update of the green house gas (GHG) inventory. This

update is critical as the Climate Protection Plan target of 30% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 includes interim targets for 2010 and 2015. Progress against goals needs to be determined.

E. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams –

a. Even though it was a hot summer, it was a mild ozone season due to the moisture in the air and soil.

2. Solid Waste – Jim van Eman

A group of potential consultants has been identified for the Eco-Center for which there has been some public resistance. There has been some concern expressed the City wants to take over trash collection and to raise the rates. The claim is that the service will be less efficient. The scale of the design is in flux and, as a result, so is the siting of the facility. The City is looking at a range of sites to accommodate the facility. The resistance to the concept has been from an organized business group that has published a white paper on the issue. The EMC might be an appropriate mechanism to provide fact-based rebuttals. Jim noted his opinion there should be mandatory recycling and the EMC could focus on recycling and pay as you throw (PAYT) to incentivize recycling. Carol agreed this could be a great issue to inform the general public and candidates for election. The EMC could develop policy statements to be provided the new City Council members.

F. Old Business

1. LEED Ordinance – Even though John Ware is no longer available, Jim van Eman noted he is still interested in LEED ordinance performance. He is also interested in expanding the ordinance to include any development project that uses city/public funds in any manner. This could be another talking point with City Council and Mayoral candidates. For example, a talking point could be that the IECC 2012 was adopted by the ICC in October and how it will have an impact on buildings in the region.

G. New Business –

1. Carol Adams encouraged Commissioners to review the proposed revisions to the City's Major Streets Plan as it is possible there will be presentation at the meeting of January 12, 2011. The Plan has a lot of interesting elements and much of it is supportable. Also, please look at street profiles. It appears that the profiles do not incorporate green solutions. A profile design is needed that allows these options and not adopt elements that design out green options. Of concern is the issue of elevation differences between sidewalk and street. A link is provided at the bottom of the meeting notice for this meeting.
2. Molly Davies will head a sub-committee to develop questions to ask of UMKC Provost when she meets with the EMC. Dustin Adams will be also involved. It was noted that Bob Simmons, at UMKC, has been appointed a new Vice Chancellor and will head a new, campus-wide sustainability group.
3. Marty Kraft – Biochar – This might be a good time to re-open the discussion on biochar and the potential for returning CO₂ to the soil. The spin-off benefit is the CO₂ ability to fix nitrogen in the soil. Marty also spoke about char furnaces.
4. John Sharp wants to explore converting more vacant lots to community gardens. It was noted this might tie into the biochar issue for healthier soil.
5. The UMKC class introduced last year called Urban Agriculture has been made a permanent opportunity.
6. Scott Cahail – The Water Department is in the process of selecting consultants to provide 2 years of support services to begin flesh out the OCP plans including green solutions. It was noted that there should be a connection drawn between green solutions for the OCP and the Major Streets Plan in terms of green design solutions.
7. Troost BRT launch party is tonight.

H. Remarks and Announcements – None

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2010 at MARC at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm