



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2012**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Molly Davies, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Sal Madge, Jack Schrimsher

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino and Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept; Troy Schulte – City Manager

Guests: None

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners. As there were no guests, introductions were forgone.

B. Minutes – Jim Hansen made a motion, seconded by Ken Kramme, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November, 2012. The motion was approved.

C. OEQ Report

Dennis Murphey

A discussion was held at the City Council Business Session last week about the invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer. The situation will cost the city a lot of (ash) trees and a lot of money to treat ash trees to slow down the progress of the ash borer, to remove dead ash trees, and to replant new trees. The damage will affect both public and private trees. It could cost the City \$1 million per year to slow the bugs and will cost more if trees die off quickly. A quarantine has been placed on transporting woody waste materials from Clay and Platte County to areas south of the Missouri River because the presence of Emerald Ash Borer has been confirmed there. Michael Shaw, Public Works, is creating a collection site north of the river. MARC has estimated the region could lose 2 million trees with about 400,000 within KC, MO limits. About 20,000 ash trees are on public rights of way in KCMO. Marty Kraft suggested Biochar might be a good way to handle some of the trees. Dennis noted that Andy Bracker, Brownfields Coordinator, is engaged in a study of the potential for an energy from bio-mass facility at the former Municipal Farm site. Any effort to address the ash borer will need to heavily emphasize public education.

Senate Bill 13, in Missouri, has been pre-filed for consideration. This bill would eliminate local solid waste management districts across the State of Missouri and consolidate the various functions in Jefferson City at Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Andy Savastino – Chair of the Green Solutions Committee/Education and Outreach Team – Update on KC Green

There has been a lot of progress in the last year and the team is getting the word out about what the City is doing to further the goals of the Green Solutions effort.

a. There have been clinics, workshops, and tours

- (1) 100 rain barrels were distributed and clinics were held to teach people to build their own rain barrel – in the clinic
- (2) An energy efficiency webinar workshop was held that was held for staff that was broadcast to several locations where staff could participate.
- (3) A tour of the Metropolitan Energy Center's Project Living Proof was held as part of Earth Day observance and celebration

- b. Plastic Bag-free Day - A day was set aside to promote reduction in the use of plastic bags. People took a pledge to reduce their use of plastic bags and to turn in bags for recycling. This was open to the public and 280 pounds of plastic bags were collected. KC Green reusable cloth bags were distributed.
- c. Green Commute Challenge – In conjunction with MARC, this is a competition to reduce driving. City Hall held a transportation fair to support the challenge. Last year, 15 employees participate; this year, 80 employees participated. KCMO took first place in the government sector and third place overall saving in excess of 41,000 miles. First and second place overall was won by UMB and Commerce Banks.
- d. America Recycles Day – The City was challenged by Jackson County in getting people to recycle/shred papers at several centralized locations. The City recycled 6250 pounds while the County recycled 3332 pounds of paper.
- e. KC Green website – Is up and active. There are videos addressing each of 10 actions people can take to be more sustainable and there is a section to highlight employee actions.
- f. The City is placing more and more signage around the city for each green thing the public should know about – such as on arrival and departure boards at KCI to showcase recycling, improved maintenance, air field lights, and other things by the Aviation Department.
- g. KC Green Fair – The first fair was three years ago and was attended by about 600 KCMO employees. Last year, attendance was in excess of 40% by non-City employees – others who work in the surrounding area, etc.
- h. Beginning a neighborhood recognition program. The first neighborhood to be honored is the Marlborough Neighborhood with the Overflow Control Plan, Green Solutions pilot project. Other neighborhood will have the opportunity to submit an application for review and award.
- i. A traveling roadshow with sustainability displays is being planned.

Jerry Shechter – Grant Manager, EnergyWorks KC – Update

Jerry distributed a complete list of grant activities undertaken in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) programs funded by the U.S. Department of Energy using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds.

- j. The first such grant was the Formula Grant. This grant is virtually complete, but for one project, and no additional presentation was made.
- k. The second grant is the larger of the two and is called EnergyWorks KC. Jerry distributed the list of program activities as well as the total budget breakout for the grant. Each program component was described and briefly detailed. It was noted that by mid-January, 2013, we expect to be near our program target of energy efficiency improvements to 2000 buildings.

D. Liaison Updates

- a. Air Quality – The Department of Energy hosted a presentation on the status of environmental issues at the Bannister Federal Complex site. The presentation was less than satisfactory with assumptions being made about limited zoning and uses for the future. Preparation of an Environmental Assessment is currently underway and will likely be available for public review and comment in Spring 2013.

E. Troy Schulte, City Manager, re: City Budget

- a. The projected budget for 2013-2014 is tight, once again.
- b. The EMC impact has been very good in advocating for sustainability within the City and the idea of sustainability has been moved toward being ingrained in City government.
- c. For next year, the City Manager is supportive of funds to update the progress being made toward achieving the goals of the Climate Protection Plan.
- d. A significant issue is the 87th Street water storage facility. The complicating factor is the potential need for remediation of the old landfill site. Very large tunnels under Swope Park are being contemplated as an alternative. There are, however, issues to be addressed regarding the animals in the Zoo.
- e. The City has adopted a minimum standard of LEED-Gold for municipal buildings. The next chance to achieve or exceed that standard is with the new East Patrol/Crime Lab redevelopment.
- f. Vacant lots remain a growing issue. The City will soon assume control of 4,000 lots from the County and we need to find options to address the lots rather than just pay to mow them. The question is how we can creatively and sustainably use them.
- g. The City will begin construction of the downtown streetcar line in 2013
- h. With City Exchange, there could possibly be a partnership to train elementary and middle school kids about sustainability and entrepreneurship.

Carol Adams noted there are other issues to be addressed as well. She highlighted long term drought and climate adaptation as something to be addressed beyond the current scope of the Climate Protection Plan.

Mr. Schulte noted we need to be looking down the long term planning horizon from other perspectives as well, including:

1. Water infrastructure - The city experienced a record number of water main breaks last year and is exceeding that this year. The condition of the very old infrastructure has been exacerbated by the extended drought.
 2. Other infrastructure challenges exist due to poor quality infrastructure designed and constructed only 15 years ago.
 3. Climate adaptation is an issue the City must address
 4. Current kudos and awards should be the standard from which we begin adaptation planning
 5. Redefine how we do planning for development and redevelopment. A place to begin could be the First and Second Creek areas that could be sustainably designed and developed. The City should require certain minimum conditions and standards in exchange for incentives; begin to break down silos in planning, e.g. by bringing together Planning and Parks for a "new Kessler Plan".
 6. Several developments could be catalytic – East Patrol, Bancroft, Ivanhoe, etc.
- F. Old Business – Bob Berkebile re: trees – BNIM Architects played a role in helping to re-evaluate trees to be taken down in Manheim. Working with the City Forester, approximately 40% of the trees originally marked for cutting were saved. The issue is that there was no notice to the neighborhood to participate in developing an appropriate rationale for choosing trees to be cut. The City needs a better approach for the future. He noted there is a history of good relations between the EMC and the City Manager. The Manheim tree/sidewalk issue was not quite as amicable. The EMC, as well as the City need to find out better ways to deal with street design where options are limited. And the EMC pledges to stay involved.
- G. New Business
- a. Michael Shaw has announced that a request for proposals will be published soon for the Eco-Center.
- H. Visitor Remarks – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for
January 9, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2nd Floor