

**Environmental Management Commission****Meeting Notes – March 14, 2012**

Meeting Location: MARC Offices

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, Jack Schrimsher

Staff: Jerry Shechter, Andy Savastino – OEQ; Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept.; Scott Cahail – Water Services Dept., Greg Franzen – City Planning & Development

Guests: Claus Wawrzinek and David Mitchell – Sierra Club

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

A. Welcome and Introductions

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

B. Minutes Deferred to April meeting

C. Energy Codes Upgrade – Greg Franzen, City Codes Official

The City, which has adopted the 2006 international codes, is looking at the potential of adopting the suite of 2012 international codes, including the energy codes, in some fashion. Staff has developed a draft ordinance document, based on the 2006 codes ordinance, which presents the 2012 codes without any amendments. Amendments will be proposed as a result of a series of public and stakeholder meetings. The State of Missouri requires a 90-day period for discussion and staff is planning to have an ordinance request to City Council by the end of June or mid-July, 2012. The City has been working with many regional jurisdictions to adopt the codes, if possible, with similar amendments and on the same general timetable. Overland Park is the first in the region to move ahead and is planning to send a proposal to their city council around April 4, 2012. This week, Greg received a request for broad-based public hearings/discussions. Robin Martinez asked about inclusion of water conservation measures and Marty Kraft asked about composting toilets.

Jerry Shechter gave a brief update on the meeting with representatives of HBA, MARC, KCMO, and Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA). The meeting was for the purpose of going over two sets of estimated costs of implementing the 2012 International Energy Efficiency Code (IECC). The lower of the cost estimates is from the Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP) and the higher of the estimates is from the HBA. The discussion is focused on new construction.

Carol Adams said the EMC would like to be supportive and asked Greg about appropriate timing. Greg indicated he did not want codes to get in the way of better buildings and that he wants more metropolitan wide consistency.

D. 2012-2013 City Budget

At the public budget hearing she attended, there were many comments from the public that were very disrespectful of the elected officials and City staff. She distributed a draft document suggesting some comments the EMC might want to forward to the Mayor and City Council. She also distributed a document prepared by the Citizen's Association summarizing details of the City Manager's and the Mayor's suggested budget. In the City budget process, there is no mention of sustainability nor is there any money for Climate Protection Plan implementation. She suggested the EMC would not want these to be considered budgetary add-ons. Rather, sustainability is not about what we do but about how we do it. It was suggested the EMC support these kind of approaches and catalytic investments. It is common sense to invest in things that improve performance and result in greater efficiency and reduced costs. The Commissioners attending the meeting supported a letter from the

co-chairs transmitting these sentiments and complimenting the City on having achieved energy and fuel efficiencies and savings. The co-chairs asked staff to provide general savings numbers, in the next day or two.

E. OEQ Report – No Report

F. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams

- a. The KC region may be designated an air quality attainment area
- b. MARC has done research on the benefits of trees in our region. The report suggests following the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA approach to improving regional tree cover.
- c. KDHE has developed a website that has information on the impacts of seasonal burning. Farmers can simulate the impacts on any given day of their burn plumes. This is available on the webpage: Kansas Flint Hills Smoke Management at www.ksfire.org

G. Old Business – Carol Adams – City Council has passed Resolution 120186 regarding the disposition of the Bannister federal complex site. The resolution calls for the majority of older buildings (1940s) to be demolished and removed. The Commissioners felt that this was a good resolution with the City setting goals for this land.

H. New Business - None

I. Remarks

Marty Kraft shared a new microscope for viewing soil microbes. Carol Adams suggested we see "DIRT! The Movie" which deals with floods, drought, climate change and war which are all directly related to the way we are treating dirt. DIRT! The Movie takes you inside the wonders of the soil. It tells the story of Earth's most valuable and underappreciated source of fertility--from its miraculous beginning to its crippling degradation.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2012 at Mid-America Regional Council

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm