



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2013

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Molly Davies, Julie Davis, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Robin Martinez,

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino and Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept

Guests: Kristin Riott - Bridging The Gap (BTG); Sara Greenwood - The Greenwood Consulting Group

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners and guests
- B. Minutes – Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Molly Davies, to approve the minutes of September, 2013 as presented. The motion was approved.
- C. Pollinator Patch at Lakeside Nature Center – Kristin Riott, BTG
Bridging The Gap partnered with Bayer Crop Science to create a pollinator patch (garden) attractive to bees, butterflies, etc. Bayer has begun a series of bee pollinator patches and this is #2 in the series. Kristin Riott presented a set of Bee Garden Design Principles and noted several of the plant species supportive of bees, birds and butterflies. The BTG relationship with Bayer has existed for 15 years. Carol Adams spoke with Richard Rocha, Bayer employee and former EMC Commissioner, about their sale of herbicides/insecticides that are banned in Europe. For local gardens, Kristin suggested considering Autumn Joy Sedum – a plant which attracts bees and butterflies and has both nectar and pollen which bees look for. Bob Berkebile noted a potentially interesting program being developed at Washington University School of Landscape Architecture with BNIM to study the ecology of landscapes. Carol Adams noted, and Kristin Riott agreed, there are some negative implications for BTG in the partnership with Bayer and that the EMC celebrates BTG even regardless of the partnership. Further, this sentiment should be conveyed to Bayer.
- D. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez
The second Vacant Lots Task Force meeting, which was held October 7, 2013, was well attended and was a very good meeting. Presentations were made by Dave Park, Land Bank Director, Dr. Jacob Wagner, UMKC, and Dominique Davison, DRAW Architecture
 - Dave Park provided demographic information about the over 2700 parcels the Land Bank owns. He noted that other agencies, such as Urban Homesteading Authority and private owners, also hold vacant properties. He expects the Land Bank will receive another 700 properties next year.
 - Dr. Jake Wagner put the issue in a broad planning context and noted the issue of vacant properties is part of a set of problems in the urban core. His main premise is that we need good data in order to do a better job in neighborhoods.
 - DRAW Architecture provided insight into the Vacant Lots Guidebook which she co-authored. It appears there is not just one solution. Instead the task is to develop a palette of possible solutions – based on data and work with the neighborhood residents.
 - Dennis Murphey noted:
 1. Dr. Johnson, a neighborhood resident participating on the Task Force, noted that gardens, etc are not always a viable means of addressing vacant lots because such a high percentage of the population of

many of the core neighborhoods is elderly and can no longer work the land. Neighborhoods need an influx of younger people.

2. Jake Wagner noted the changing demographics and focused on a growing opportunity to attract Latino families. This presents a set of cultural issues in addition to all the other issues. He argued for renovation as much as possible.
3. Dennis - There is , however, the issue of hazards presented by vacant and/or boarded buildings that must be considered.
4. Matt Gigliotti noted that the City can use police power to demolish a building but cannot use police powers for economic development.

There was general discussion about the sets of problems, data needed and how to obtain it, and working with neighborhoods.

Molly Davies noted that, in April, 2014, UMKC is bringing Vandana Shiva. Vandana Shiva is an internationally acclaimed author and activist addressing the conflicts between people and corporations genetically engineering and patenting seeds.

E. Environmental Achievement Awards (EA) – Molly Davies and Julie Davis

There will be a meeting set to discuss EA guidelines and procedures. Matt Gigliotti reminded the Commissioners that information about the meeting needs to be forwarded to Jerry Shechter for public posting. Dennis noted that there will be a presentation of the EA award winners at the Council Business Session tomorrow at 1:00 pm.

F. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. Andy Savastino and the Education and Outreach Green Team orchestrated a great KC Green Fair on September 19, 2013 focused on local food and healthy lifestyles. There was a ceremony to present awards to the first four selected green neighborhoods. The next step is placing recognition signs throughout each neighborhood.
2. Staff submitted an ordinance request to Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee to authorize membership in the Missouri Clean Energy District (MCED) to implement the PACE program in Kansas City. The MCED has existing staff and \$5 million available to lend which is to be replenished by future bond sales.
3. The City has submitted a proposal to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) for inclusion in the City Energy Project. Notice is expected by mid-October with formal, public award in January, 2014. The focus of the 3-year project is on improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings beginning with large buildings.
4. The City and KCP&L have been accepted as partners in the US Department of Energy program called Energy Data Accelerator Project to help focus energy efficiency impacts.
5. Jerry Shechter and Jasmin Moore, Sustainability Manager for Johnson County, KS, have been working on a joint RFP for updated greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. Molly Davies noted that UMKC may have interns that can help.
6. Kansas City Industrial Council (KCIC) will hold its annual Sustainable Awards Breakfast on October 15, 2013 from 7:30-9:30 am at The Roasterie event hangar. Dennis will moderate a panel discussion on sustainability and the bottom line.
7. Clinton Climate Initiative / HEAL Program – Jerry Shechter
The City has been in discussion with the Clinton Foundation - Clinton Climate Initiative for a year regarding Anew program called Home Energy Affordability Loan (HEAL). The CCI-HEAL program is a first attempt in Kansas City to implement a program pioneered by the CCI. The program is designed to engage employers to provide an employee benefit to their employees in the form of financing for making their respective homes more energy efficient. Each employer will provide financing for loans, based on a comprehensive energy analysis and Personal Energy Plan, that is recoverable as a payroll deduction. The City is the Implementation Partner and is paying for the pilot program using EnergyWorks KC (EWKC) funds. The Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) is the Replication Partner providing outreach, energy analyses, personal energy plans and assistance with contracting for the improvements. The MEC costs are included in a contract extension through March 31, 2013 for this pilot program. This is the last new program that will be developed under the EWKC grant..

G. Liaison Updates –

1. Air Quality – Carol Adams – MARC made a presentation about their grant engaging a number of smaller area communities in replacing older street lights with LED lights. Photo images clearly show an amazing difference in light pollution – because LED lights are very directional. Costs are dropping making LED streetlights

competitive in initial cost. MARC originally thought the cost would be \$800 per light when actual costs have been as low as \$225 per light.

2. LEED – No report

H. Legal Briefing – Matt Gigliotti

Matt Gigliotti gave a brief overview of the State's veto over-ride session.

I. Old Business

1. Concert for the Climate – Jerry Shechter - The first Concert for the Climate was developed and hosted by the Heartland Renewable Energy Society at Kaw Point Riverfront Park. While inclement weather condition was a damper to attendance, the event was a success. The two featured speakers – Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Bill McKibben – were enthusiastically received and the back drop to the venue – at the confluence of the Kaw and Missouri Rivers – was spectacular. Mr. Kennedy also attended a pre-event celebration and gave awards to four local groups/firms were honored for their activities – such as Mind Drive, for educating core city students to design and build electric vehicles, and the KCKs school system for changing its school bus fleet to CNG.

J. New Business

1. Marty Kraft – A Biochar advocate will make a presentation on October 28, 2013 at Bad Seed at 7:00 pm.
2. Marty Kraft – If you have not seen the Bill Moyers interview of Wendell Barry, which aired Sunday, October 6, 2013, it would be worth your while to go online to view them.

The Chair asked Jerry to contact Jason Parson for an East Patrol update at the next EMC meeting.

Bob Berkebile – Thoughts

- MINDDRIVE will design and build solar street lights
- Omega Center for Sustainable Living - Through innovative educational experiences that awaken the best in the human spirit, Omega provides hope and healing for individuals and society – hosted a workshop titled “Where Do We Go From Here” that featured such speakers as Bill Clinton, Janine Benyus, Jeremy Rifkin, Paul Hawkins, Majora Carter and Bob Berkebile, among others. The proceedings will be live-streamed for 60 days and can be accessed via the following link: [OCSL](#)

K. Visitor Remarks – None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

November 13, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2nd Floor