



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2013

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Molly Davies, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Sal Madge, Robin Martinez, Jason Parson, Jack Schrimsher, Tom Wyrsh

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

Guests: None

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 – It was noted there were several items that had been corrected in the draft minutes. Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Robin Martinez, to approve the amended minutes of the meeting of April, 2013. The motion was approved.
- C. Mayor's Lunch at Ewing M. Kauffman Foundation – Molly Davies
Of the approximately 100 boards and commissions, about 30 attended the meet and greet event. The Mayor would like to see more inter-board communication and interaction. This was a good initial networking session but not substantive. Dennis Murphey noted the Mayor and City Council are planning to have a strategic planning session to update priorities.
- D. Sustainable and Beneficial Uses of Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez
Robin Martinez, Tom Brink, Sal Madge, Matt Gigliotti, Jerry Shechter and Joe Lambe, a member of the public, met with Dave Park who is the Director of the KCMO Land Bank. Lots of people are looking at this issue from various perspectives and it is best to try to connect dots where feasible. A framework exists in the report completed and updated under contract to the City's Housing staff called the Final Scattered Sites Guidebook. The Land Bank has "bought into" this document as a good starting place for guiding principles. Carol Adams said she appreciated the hard work, time and effort. The ultimate issue for Council buy-in is first to make sure they know what is happening and to keep them updated and informed. It was noted that Councilman John Sharp has expressed an interest in the issue.
- E. OEQ Update – Dennis Murphey
 1. Andy Bracker, Brownfields Coordinator, has announced a new \$600,000 brownfields grant in partnership with Kansas City, KS and MARC.
 2. OEQ sponsored an excellent EnergyWorks KC Recognition/Celebration event on 5.7.13 at the downtown branch of the Library. The event was to honor program grantees and to let everyone know what everyone else is doing. – i.e, the scope of the program. Councilmembers Jan Marcason and John Sharp attended the event. CM Sharp asked that OEQ make a presentation to update the City Council at a Business Session meeting.
 3. The US Department of Energy will be in KC for a third monitoring visit on Wednesday, 5.15 through Friday, 5.17.13.
 4. Jerry Shechter updated the Commission on progress of the Deconstruction program with details of all three components – Ivanhoe, East Patrol and Green Impact Zone.
 5. Andy Savastino updated the Commission about the KC Green Neighborhoods program noting that the program has been launched with information and application packages sent to neighborhoods. The application package is also available online. Applications are due June 3, 2013. The program has been picked up and highlighted by the Alliance for Innovation. Selections will be announced at the KC Green Fair in September.

6. Due to our range and depth of activities, the City has been selected several times for the National League of Cities (NLC) Showcase. This year, Dennis Murphey has been selected to serve on the NLC Steering Committee of the Sustainable Cities Institute.
 7. There is a new grant potential from the Local Sustainability Matching Fund which is supported by several national funders. The purpose is to establish a greater level of communications between local sustainability directors and local place-based foundations. Projects are to be completed in 12 months and are to develop a plan of action. KC is focusing on urban agriculture with Cultivate KC and are looking for local foundation partners. City's role is to identify neighborhoods where area plans have a focus on urban agriculture and related areas. The intent is for local and national funders to collaborate on sustainability activities.
 8. The City is planning a media release on the solar project
 9. The next meeting of the Climate Protection Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled for June 14, 2013 at 3:00 pm on the 10th floor of City Hall.
 10. Dennis is to make a presentation at the Hallmark Sustainability conference
 11. Dennis is on the search committee to find a replacement for Bob Housh who is retiring from the Metropolitan Energy Center.
 12. Dennis had a conversation with Topeka and Lawrence, Kansas at a joint meeting of their sustainability committees.
 13. The City's LEED Standards Committee will be convening to talk about rules for granting variances from the requirement to attain LEED-Gold certification for new and renovated city facilities. The EMC has historically had a member on that committee but do not at this time. A volunteer was requested and Jim Hansen indicated he is interested. There was some discussion about potential increased up-front costs of the development to attain these higher standards. The discussion extended to the potential new airport where consultants have claimed there will be tremendous cost increase increment.
- F. Advance KC – Matt Gigliotti noted that the website was down and he was unable to get much information and, as a result, he cannot give any opinion. He distributed copies of Committee Substitute for Ordinance No. 130274 which is the City's indicated support for the Advance KC strategic plan and asking that the city's economic development agencies abide by the plan. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is supposed to be preparing a response regarding the implementation strategy. Robin Martinez has been involved and noted that it is best to develop an incentives policy that would include environmental requirements across the board in policy setting forth requirements for developers to get incentives. City was engaged in developing those requirements with a score card approach (or checklist). City should be clear about expectations to be met for incentives and should provide developers a sustainability guidance document. Question – Would these expectations be requirements or would they be aspirational? It was decided that Advance KC should, if staff is available, be the central discussion topic for the June meeting. Staff is asked to send to Commissioners, a copy of the checklist or score card.
- G. Liaison Updates –
1. Carol Adams – Bannister federal complex – A decision was made that environmental impact statement (EIS) is not needed for ownership transfer. And, only the NNSA and not the GSA is part of the property in question even though they share utility connections.
 2. Dennis Murphey – HB 42 and SB 265 (anti-Agenda 21) are still alive in the Missouri legislature.
- H. Old Business – None
- I. New Business
1. Marty Kraft – A protest is being held Nichols Fountain on the Plaza at 4:30 pm on May 10, 2013 against the position that money is free speech and corporations are people sponsored by Move to Amend.
 2. Carol Adams – Carol has read Al Gore's new book, titled "The Future", and found it very academic and inclusive of a lot of data.
 3. Bob Berkebile – Noted there is a new film that should be seen called "Harmony" about Prince Charles' thinking about food around the world.
 4. Marty Kraft – Should see the NOVA documentary called "Earth from Space" which provides detailed satellite images revealing the web of connections that sustain life on Earth.
 5. Molly Davies – UMKC has earned first place in the national recycling contest called Recyclemania.
- J. Visitor Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

June 12, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2nd Floor