



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2013**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Julie Coon, Molly Davies, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Sal Madge, Robin Martinez, Jason Parson, Jack Schrimsher, Tom Wyrsh

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

Guests: Katherine Carttar – City Planning & Development; Jordan Brown and Eric Roche – new Cookingham Fellows; LeRon Fields

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

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners and guests. Dennis Murphey noted Tom Brink sent his regrets at not being able to attend due to a family illness.
- B. Minutes –Tom Wyrsh made a motion, seconded by Robin Martinez, to approve the amended minutes of the meeting of May, 2013. The motion was approved.
- C. AdvanceKC – Katherine Carttar
In the process of development of AdvanceKC, there were 15 focus groups convened, on a range of topical issues, involving 250 people. The groups developed 10 strategic recommendations which Ms. Carttar detailed in a powerpoint presentation. The overarching philosophy of AdvanceKC, which is business/development focused, is “attract, retain, grow”. The intended operational alignment is consolidation of development support agencies under the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City (EDC) which is to provide coordination in the support development process. EDC will be the single point of entry for businesses/developers and will provide a development concierge approach. The focus is to be people, prosperity and place with the emphasis on what makes KC a good place to live and work. The process is currently in phase 1.

There was general discussion following the presentation. Questions/comments included:

- Appears to be a need for more emphasis on the environment
- How should the EMC plug in early in the process? – (1) at meetings of the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee of the Council where public input is accepted; (2) supporting adoption of the document “Promoting Sustainable Development Practices in Kansas City”; (3) supporting inclusion of sustainability criteria into City development policies that would be applied in the process of obtaining development incentives
- Appears to be no specific point for early, meaningful community input
- Based on the most recent citizen satisfaction surveys, do we have a good understanding of what the public wants?
- The sustainability checklist should be shared with City staff
- The EMC may want to review both the economic development criteria and the sustainability checklist before involving City Development staff

On behalf of the EMC, the Chair thanked Ms. Carttar for her time and the presentation.

- D. Environmental Achievement Awards Working Group – Elizabeth Fischer
The working group, including herself, Tom Brink, Robin Martinez and Mollie Davies, met and reviewed the award applications submitted by City staff. The group recommended four for awards and one for discussion.

- There is a need for the EMC to revisit the award criteria because “green” is now more “business as usual” than previous experience.
- Is it possible for the various departments to identify actual cost savings? Andy Savastino indicated this might be a difficult challenge for many departments.
- Tom Brink believes the EMC should reflect on the balance of the criteria which Jack Schrimsher supported
- Elizabeth asked what the EMC wants to use the ceremony for. It was noted that there will be a bit more visibility this year as City Council has asked to recognize the awardees at a Business Session.
- Carol Adams suggested accepting the working group recommendations and to work on revisions to the criteria for next year.
- By consensus, the EMC adopted the recommendation of the working group to make awards to four applicants and decided to provide honorable mention to the fifth.

E. OEQ Update – Dennis Murphey

1. Handouts were provided highlighting the Resilient Communities for America Agreement and the Resilient Communities for America Campaign. This is to be a collaboration of city and county leaders to make a commitment to create a more resilient city, town or county to overcome our energy, economic, and climate crises and to share solutions, etc with other local governments. Mayor James is to be an inaugural signatory to the agreement. There will be an event in Washington, DC on June 17, 2013. This is another opportunity for KC to showcase what we have done, to learn from others and to move ahead. Dennis Murphey is the staff contact.
2. At the end of the summer, there will be an opportunity to apply to the Rockefeller Foundation to be designated among the “100 resilient cities”.
3. Kansas City has been invited to apply to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to participate in the national City Energy Project (CEP). This is to be an effort, initially, to benchmark large commercial buildings in terms of energy use and, at an appropriate time, begin disclosure of building energy use. A letter of intent is due July 12, 2013 with a complete application due in August. NRDC will choose ten cities to participate.
4. City Council has adopted a resolution asking Governor Nixon to veto legislation SB 265 which is the anti-Agenda 21 legislation passed by the Missouri legislature. The Missouri Municipal League has expressed its opposition to the legislation as bad public policy.

F. Legal Information Briefing – The Missouri Sunshine Law – Matt Gigliotti

- The Missouri Sunshine (open records) Law is the equivalent of the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- The law applies to all state and local governments and to special districts
- All meetings and records are open to the public except for 21 exceptions including specific closed sessions that involve legal, security, personnel hearings, bids that have not yet become part of a contract, etc.
- If a meeting is to be closed, the entity must take affirmative steps to notify the public.
- Violations can carry fines and/or criminal penalties and may be considered a violation of the First Amendment with regard to freedom of the press.
- Public business is defined as including substantive and procedural items. E-mails are still a question
- Public, advance notices of open meetings are critical
- Generally, a group, or a sub-group, should not talk about public business outside the threshold limits of a quorum
- Notices should be posted at City Hall and at the specific meeting place
- If there is the necessity for an emergency meeting with less than 24 hours for notice, the reason must be noted in the next regularly published minutes
- If there is a request for information from the public, a respond must be provided within three (3) business days.

G. Liaison Updates –

1. Air Quality - Carol Adams – A question was brought up at the Air Quality Forum as to whether any jurisdiction is pursuing a native landscaping ordinance. Most are not but have subsumed these issues under noxious weeds as exemptions. Most are not an affirmative ordinance.

H. Old Business

1. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez met with Councilman John Sharp who has encouraged us to reach out to neighborhood groups. He will talk with Legal Aid for advise.

I. New Business

1. Carol Adams has received a request for the EMC to consider the issue of fossil fuel divestment by the City. The Commissioners agreed that this would be a topic for a future meeting and the representatives of the Finance Department would be invited.

J. Visitor Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

July 10, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2nd Floor