



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2014**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Tom Brink, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Sal Madge, Robin Martinez, Jack Schrimsher

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

Guests: Jim Turner - Sierra Club, Erika Winters-Downey - American Institute of Steel Construction

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff and guests. The Chair noted that a resignation notice had been received from Jason Parson leaving a vacancy on the Commission.
- B. Minutes –
- Robin Martinez made a motion, seconded by Ken Kramme, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November, 2013 as presented. The motion passed
 - Ken Kramme made a motion, seconded by Sal Madge, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December, 2013 as presented. The motion passed.
- C. Update – East Patrol Division Redevelopment – Did not attend the meeting
- D. Work Group Updates
1. Recognition Awards – No report
 2. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez
 - a. Dr. Lala Kumar made a presentation about urban agriculture which made the argument that there is a critical difference between community gardens and urban agriculture with urban agriculture as typically being focused more on commercial activities and, therefore, needing more land and resources.
 - b. Sean Hennessey, Water Services Department (WSD), explained about restrictions regarding water hook-ups with regard to the WSD being an enterprise department with bond holder restrictions on some expenditures. The WSD, however, is looking at non-encumbered funds to be able to provide grants.
 - c. Patty Noll, City Planning and Development indicated there is an Urban Agriculture Zone Advisory Commission ordinance to be heard this week. Dennis Murphey provided a copy of the ordinance. The City's ordinance is based on legislation introduced by Rep. Jason Holzman to the Missouri House that has been approved. The legislation authorizes creation of Urban Agriculture Zones to support local food production, livestock, etc with tax exemptions, similar to community improvement districts or Tax Increment Financing, with a focus on job creation. The establishment of UA Zones does not affect existing zoning. A UA task force has been appointed to report back to the Mayor and City Council, within 3 months, regarding implementation.

Marty Kraft noted that, in Utah, homeless are being housed in a manner less expensive than treatment in emergency rooms providing a place to stay plus social services, classes, training and tools to work on vacant land. The concept is to put people next to land on which they can learn to grow food.
- E. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey
1. Troy Schulte, City Manager, must transmit his proposed budget for FY14-15 to the Mayor next week. Because of pensions and other issues, over the next three years, the budgets will be very tight. There are expected to be further staff lay-offs. The published 5-year plan includes a 3% reduction in staff in FY15-16. Due to term limits, May 1, 2014 will be the beginning of the last year of service for several of the Council members.
 2. Staff is wrapping up EnergyWorks KC by the end of the grant period of March 31, 2014.

3. The City is completing contract negotiations for a greenhouse gas emissions inventory update to 2012. The inventory is expected to be completed by September, 2014.
4. We are undertaking the "City Energy Project" (CEP) with NRDC and the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT). There is to be a launch reception in Washington, DC on January 21, 2014 prior to the winter meeting of the US Conference of Mayors. Mayor James will be attending with Dennis Murphey. There will be a national press tele-conference roll-out on January 29, 2014. Staff is negotiating Memoranda of Understanding for the program. The initial program term is 18 months with potential extensions for another 18 months. There will be an IMT staff person in KC housed in the OEQ office space. An advisory committee will be created which will be co-chaired by Mayor Pro Tem Circo and Dennis Murphey. The CEP is an opportunity to make an impact on community-wide greenhouse gas emissions because of the focus on energy use reductions in large, commercial buildings.
5. Energy Data Accelerator Project – KC has been selected as 1 of 19 cities by DOE to participate in this project. The goal is to develop best practices for aggregation of total energy use in multi-metered buildings. The project was launched at the White House 3three weeks ago. This project will complement the City Energy Project.
6. KCP&L has announced it will add 400 MW of wind power generation capability and will increase its energy efficiency programs estimating a similar impact. This will complement the CEP especially if energy efficiency improvements undertaken for large, commercial buildings have a payback period of less than 5 years and can, with incentives, be bought down to 2 years. KCP&L will focus on energy efficient heating, cooling and air conditioning (HVAC) systems and appliances. It is expected this can help with marketing of the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) concept.
7. The Heartland Sustainability Directors Network (HSDN) – consortium of sustainability directors in cities in our region – is applying for a grant from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) for programs about resiliency. We intend to work with state climatologists regarding policy development for dealing with climate-induced weather events in the future. Robin Martinez suggested it would be valuable to talk with insurance companies which have been looking at climate change-induced weather impacts.
8. Anti-Agenda 21 – Last year, the Missouri legislature adopted legislation (SB 265) opposing implementation of anything related to United Nations Agenda 21 – a voluntary set of principles related to sustainable development adopted in 1990 – which was vetoed by Gov. Nixon. The veto survived override by a single vote. SB 618 has been pre-filed this year which is virtually identical to the legislation from last year. Staff has prepared a draft resolution for City Council consideration in opposition to SB 618 and asking the Missouri Municipal League and others to oppose the legislation as well.
9. Other cities are once again coming to KC for advice on how to get their climate change responses started. Among others, Dennis has suggested creation of a body similar to the EMC.
10. Dennis will be participating on a panel discussion on sustainability in Columbia, MO at the Winter Workshop of the Missouri City Manager's Association. The focus is on climate action plans and programs.

F. Liaison Updates –

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – Bannister Federal complex – Center Point is moving ahead on plans for environmental remediation and site demolition in preparation for redevelopment of the Bannister federal complex. Most areas on the site with known ground water issues are capped (with concrete). It may be difficult to redevelop the site while keeping these areas capped. Center Point will provide the City with maps of areas where soil is not to be disturbed.
2. LEED – No report

G. Legal Briefing – Matt Gigliotti – No report

H. Old Business - None

I. New Business

- a. Matt Gigliotti noted that EPA's proposed new rules for emissions from existing power plants is available
- b. Carol Adams asked that Commissioners make recommendations for future agenda topics

J. Remarks from Visitors

- a. Erika Winters-Downey asked for more information about SB 618. She noted that this legislation could be a vehicle for anyone to file a lawsuit to stop the City from doing any sustainability activity and she is very concerned.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

February 12, 2014 at 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2nd floor