



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2015

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, Westview Room

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Robin Martinez, Jensen Adams, Caroline Davies, Kimberly Hill, Julie Koppen, Jack Schrimsher, Seft Hunter

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Rachel Guthrie, Julie Davis, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer

Staff: Dennis Murphey – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Marleen Leonce – Public Works/Solid Waste

Guests: Penny Harrell – UMKC student; Gretchen Waddell Barwick – Sierra Club; Barbara Davis; John Fish Kurmann; Jim Horlacher

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm; a quorum was not present at the beginning, but a quorum was present prior to votes being taken on any action items.

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. Minutes – Caroline Davies made a motion, seconded by Julie Koppen, to approve minutes of the meeting of September 2015 as presented. The motion passed.
- C. Presentation on fossil fuel divestment by KCMO – John Fish Kurmann and Jim Horlacher
A presentation was made by John Fish Kurmann (representing the local 350.org group) and Jim Horlacher (a local investment advisor on green portfolios) requesting support for local fossil fuel divestment by the City, as part of a nationwide campaign leading up to the international climate talks in Paris in December 2015. Less than 5% of current City investments in pension funds for KC firefighters and KC employees are in 8 of the 200 largest fossil fuel extractions companies. The dollar amount of the investments is not the most important piece – it’s sending a message that “wrecking the planet is wrong” and, therefore investment in companies who are doing so is also wrong.

Carolyn Davies made a motion, seconded by Julie Koppen, to have EMC send a letter similar to, but worded with a more urgent tone than, one sent to Mayor James & the former City Council on 9/30/13, requesting them to recommend fossil fuel divestment to the pension boards prior to the upcoming climate negotiations in Paris beginning on November 30. The vote was 8 ayes and one abstention.
- D. Office of Environmental Quality - Dennis Murphey
 1. KC will be participating in a year-long effort to benchmark its sustainability work, using the STAR (Sustainability Tool for Assessing and Rating) Communities program. The initiative will be led by Aaron Shroyer, one the City’s new Cookingham-Noll Fellows.
 2. Dennis has been invited to give a presentation on “Energy Solutions for Local Governments” at the upcoming National League of Cities’ Congress of Cities in Nashville on Nov. 7.
- E. Liaison Updates
 1. Air Quality – Carol Adams; Yesterday’s meeting of the regional Air Quality Forum focused on 3 federal actions:
 - EPA’s promulgation of the new ground level ozone standard at 70 ppb. This is lower than the current standard of 75 ppb and may result in some areas being redesignated as “non-attainment areas.” The designations are based upon 3 years of monitoring data and, based upon 2012 – 2014 data, the greater KC area would be non-attainment. However, it appears that based upon 2013 – 2015 data, the greater KC area would be in attainment with the new standard.
 - SO₂ (sulfur dioxide) designation – the portion of Jackson County that was designated as non-attainment for the SO₂ national ambient air quality standard has resulted in a commitment by Veolia to take actions that are expected to return the area to attainment status in the next year or so.
 - EPA is expected to publish its final Clean Power Plan (CPP) rules in the Federal Register by early November requiring states to submit implementation plans that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing power

plants. The CPP will be immediately litigated in federal court upon publication, with opponents (including several states, including KS & MO) opposing the rule and arguing for a stay of the rule until all litigation has been completed.

2. LEED – No report
 3. City Energy Project (CEP) – Jensen Adams –The CEP report required by Resolution #150300 that includes incentives and assistance to building owners to make energy efficiency improvement in the buildings and an outreach plan re CEP implementation has been completed and provided to Mayor James, the City Council, the City Manager, and the CEP Advisory Committee.
 4. Solid Waste – No report
 5. Climate Protection Steering Committee – Dennis reported that the Mayor's Office has requested input re re-appointment of members whose terms have expired and suggestions for filling of vacancies. The next meeting of the CPSC will likely be in the 2nd week of December.
- F. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti provided a summary of the Missouri General Assembly's recent veto session. He noted that a record number of vetoes were overridden, but the highest profile veto (of a Missouri Right to Work statute) failed. Few items were of particular interest to the EMC, but Governor's Nixon's veto of the legislation that prohibited cities from enacting plastic bag bans or minimum wage ordinances was overridden.
- G. As background info in preparation for the upcoming EMC retreat scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, at the Water Services Department Auditorium, 4800 East 63rd St., Dennis gave a powerpoint presentation that he provided at the August 13, 2015 Business Session of the City Council. The presentation, "2005 – 2015, a Decade of Progress for Climate Action & Sustainability in KC," gives an overview of activities that can provide a framework for EMC's discussion re areas for its focus in the next year or so at its retreat. An electronic copy of the ppt presentation will be sent to all EMC members and hard copies of the slides will be provided at the EMC retreat on Nov 7.
- H. Old Business
Show Me PACE ordinance – Dennis Murphey
An ordinance will be on the docket of tomorrow's legislative session of the City Council (sponsored by Councilman Scott Wagner) for the City to affiliate with a new statewide PACE (Property-Assessed Clean Energy) program. Dennis explained that the new Show Me PACE clean energy development board had requested KC to affiliate with them in order to provide another source of PACE loans to KC building owners who wish to make investments in renewable energy projects or energy efficiency improvements to their buildings. In 2013 the City Council affiliated with the Missouri Clean Energy District and one PACE loan has been made in KC to the Wornall Plaza Condominiums for \$570,000 to make energy efficiency improvements. Jensen Adams made a motion, seconded by Robin Martinez, for EMC to support enactment of the Show Me PACE ordinance. It passed on a 9 – 0 vote and Dennis will add EMC's support to the fact sheet that accompanies the proposed ordinance to the City Council. The proposed ordinance will be on the Finance & Governance Committee's agenda for Wed, November 21.
- I. New Business – None
- J. Visitors' Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

The next meeting is:

Saturday, November 7, 2015 – EMC Retreat
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Water Services Department Auditorium
4800 E. 63rd Street (enter from rear parking lot)
Kansas City, MO 64130