



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2015 - Retreat

Meeting Location: Water Services Department, Missouri River Auditorium

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Caroline Davies, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Jim Hansen, Seft Hunter, Julie Koppen, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer, Jack Schrimsher

Commissioners Absent: Julie Davis, Kimberly Hill, Marty Kraft

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Marleen Leonce – Public Works Department/Solid Waste Division

Guests: Hon. Katheryn Shields, KCMO City Council, 4th District at Large; Penny Harrell

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

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. Minutes – Robin Martinez made a motion, seconded by Bob Berkebile, to approve minutes of the meetings of October and November 2015. The motion passed
- C. Retreat Follow-up – Carol Adams
 1. Bob Berkebile – passion will drive what commissioners are willing to do. More links among issues will create greater impact. He asked for statements of interest from the Commissioners.
 2. Dennis Murphey – STAR Communities process – Staff is assembling a response assessment to be submitted, by early summer, for review and feedback. The final package is to be submitted in the Fall of 2016. A response to a request for proposals for the “Partners For Places” (P4P) grant with a local foundation to address climate resiliency. P4P could have an impact on many of the EMC retreat priorities. There was general discussion about potentials and options for interactions between STAR and EMC priorities. We need to be talking about meeting needs in a different way. Need to develop a broader agency to engage people in the process by broadening who is at the table, who is engaged, and who feels responsibility for taking action. EMC brings value by employing a systems approach and sharing with the Mayor and City Council and the greater community the connections of many elements and targeting the most impacted neighborhoods. There is an overwhelming need to educate and train leaders. Of utmost importance is a willingness to listen to neighborhood people about neighborhood needs.
 3. There was a broad discussion about Commissioners’ individual priorities which included:
 - a. Making schools green and resilient by 2030 and developing education components based on those schools
 - b. Link schools with Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP);
 - c. Link affordable housing with CHIP, energy and water and native landscaping;
 - d. Communitywide communications and engagement;
 - e. Create a water resource task force;
 - f. Address the gap between people and the environment (nature into the city); Pool what resources we already have
 - g. Integrate EMC issues/concerns into City Council policies and City staff activities;
 - h. Create umbrella categories; create living environment approach; Create excitement about this throughout the region; Julie Koppen noted there will be a conference on January 30th at Union Station called “Teaching Environmental Literacy” - <http://greenabilitymagazine.com/green-events/teaching-environmental-literacy/>;
 - i. Vacant Lots Task Force report ties to education, public health, urban food deserts, urban agriculture; How should actions be incentivized?
 - j. Water access and quality will both be challenges in this region; Robin expressed an interest in this issue.
 - k. City is creating innovative programs to address energy efficiency and buildings; Suggestion: create guided tours of exceptional buildings; Create conditional use permits for innovation in resiliency;
 - l. Development standards – tie incentives to achieving specific standards;
 - m. Create an environmental label for real property (see Austin, TX).
- D. Liaison Updates
 1. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez

John Woods, Director, Neighborhoods and Housing Department, made a presentation to the Mayor and City Council at the Business Session on December 3, 2015. He indicated, as a follow-up from the EMC Task Force, key issues/gaps to focus on include (1) continuation of silos of information even though there is increased activity, such as in the Greater KC Chamber's Urban Neighborhood Initiative (UNI), (2) data is not being aggregated/integrated, and (3) the presentation was from the perspective of the housing program and did not adequately address green space and green infrastructure. Robin Martinez made a motion, seconded by Molly Davies, authorizing Commissioner Martinez to draft a letter, for the Chair, to the Mayor and City Council emphasizing the need for resources to gather and assess data and green uses of vacant properties. The motion passed.

2. Health Commission – Seft Hunter

A Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will be drafted by February 2016 and will be ready for public distribution.

E. Old Business - None

F. New Business - None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

The next meeting is:

January 13, 2016
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, 2nd Floor – Westview Meeting Room

ROUNDTABLE TOPICAL IDEAS

“Urgency of the Moment”

“Create excitement about positive things”

“See it when you believe it”

“Provide more options and strategies”

- Current systems becoming obsolete – social/economic/food/energy/water – How can we address this trend?
- How do we/can we communicate? - “Listening as opposed to suggesting”
- Pre-emption by the State of Missouri
- Champion the pilot programs - “Awareness of pioneering”
- Carbon war room; online
- Regional conversations
- Governance for resiliency

EMC and Commissioners –

- Role clarification
- Focus of the EMC; What's the point of the EMC
- How should we best implement the role of the EMC in the community
- Becoming more proactive
- Concrete goals and action items
- Liaison with the Health Commission and Health roadmap
- How do Commissioners best contribute to the EMC
- Map of neighborhoods – Overlay Commissioners' residences
- Analyze and distribute case studies
- Take range of issues/concepts/strategies to 1-2 neighborhoods to vet the ideas
- Conversations in social justice/culture

Education and Communication

- Embedding in culture; Connections; Social dialog
- Scaling up – K-12; college & university level; communitywide
- Kansas City Public Schools
- Getting students integrated into community
- Solid waste
- Affordable Housing
- Community engagement and participation
- Public health
- Raise the sense of what is possible
- How get the community to want the education
- Making information relevant to people

Storm water & Waste water

- Engagement and incentives
- Health
- Landscaping
- Water capture and re-use
- Connections with sports activities
- Upstream constraints
- Water security and resiliency
- Research (Climate Protection Plan?)

Health

- Link personal with community health
- Native landscaping and health
- Pesticides
- Violence as a public health issue
- Trees – Maintenance, replacement and new
- Solid waste

Economic development

- Tax incentives and permits
- Tax benefits and standards

Solid waste

- New tools to change public perceptions and raise awareness
- State legislation/legislators emphasis and tools
- Emphasis and tools
- Food recovery and hauling
- Trees – downtown; replacement; relation to crime; relation to health; quality of life
- Somebody else's job to keep the city clean
- Raising food that keeps and creates soil
- Compost
- Enterprise department/fund
- Tires/recycle to manufacturers
- Health

Art

- Compelling arguments
- Connections/education/engagement
- Sustainability/Quality of life

Sustainable Neighborhoods

- Being intentional
- Affordable Housing and Healthy homes
- Neighborhood applications – e.g., Manheim Park – LEED-Platinum homes
- KC Green Neighborhoods
- Community Development Corporations (CDC)
- UMKC – Jake Wagner, Center for Neighborhoods