



## **Environmental Management Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2016**

Meeting Location: Water Services Department, Missouri River Auditorium

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

Commissioners Absent: Caroline Davies, Marty Kraft

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Matt McKinley, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department

Guests: Penny Harrell – Heartland Conservation Alliance

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 – Jensen Adams made a motion, seconded by Kimberly Hill, to approve minutes of the meeting of December 2015. The motion passed
- C. Retreat Follow-up/EMC Priorities – Carol Adams facilitated the discussion and asked Commissioners for suggestions how best to tackle the list developed at the retreat and at the December meeting.
  1. Robin Martinez indicated his interest in water – long-term access to and sustainability of water as a result of climate change. There are some new federal grants with some interest expressed by Heartland Conservation Alliance and others, providing potential for resources and support; Robin will take the lead and assemble a working group. Bob Berkebile noted the connections to a lot of the other list items and what the EMC does and will do. As an example, he noted the connection to Water Services and the Overflow Control Plan (OCP). It was noted there is also a connection to the Monarch corridor and to native landscaping projects already underway.
  2. Jensen Adams would like to focus on education and related issues. He indicated a tie-in with water and energy. He noted that young children beginning school this year are the graduating class of 2030. He would like to approach the Mayor to champion education issues and, hopefully, future recommendations from the EMC. He noted there is already a Kansas City Environmental Education Network of schools and others. He is interested in developing a Green Ribbon School-like program even though the State of Missouri rejected the federal program. He noted the connection to the Health Commission especially via Seft Hunter. He would also like to work with the USGBC Green Schools Initiative. Ben Proffer volunteered to work with Jensen Adams.
  3. Seft Hunter indicated his interest in working on neighborhood and health equity issues. He would like to work with neighborhoods to help improve environmental standards, environmental quality and quality of life. He would use utilize, as a base, what Westside Housing is doing with and in the Manheim neighborhood to improve the design and quality of housing. He proposes working with community development corporations (CDCs), the City, neighborhoods, etc. Gloria Fisher is working with Children’s Mercy Hospital to address vulnerable populations – elderly and the young – with regard to sustainability and health. Carol Adams suggested advocacy with the city for healthy housing. Seft noted to possibility of developing some kind of checklist for others to use. Gloria Fisher and Rachel Guthrie volunteered to work with Seft Hunter.
  4. Carol Adams is interested in governance issues – beefing up TIFF standards, special use permits for innovation, etc. Seft noted there is a coalition of neighborhoods along Troost, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 47<sup>th</sup>, looking at standards for business consistency with neighborhood desires. Ordinance No. XXXXXX has been adopted [Seft to provide the ordinance number] that affects design standards, etc.
  5. Rachel Guthrie is interested in trees and native plantings especially in the context of vacant lots, and building standards and other connections.
  6. Carol Adams noted it is nearly time for applications to be submitted for Environmental Achievement Awards and for Sustainable Neighborhood recognition. Of concern is how to re-invigorate both programs and get more interest and applications submitted. Work will be done with Andy Savastino, OEQ, and the Education and Outreach Green Team. There was discussion regarding the type of award given to neighborhoods and what would be sufficient and appropriate incentive(s) to encourage risk taking behavior. Also, there needs to be a discussion about potentials for resources. Carol Adams, Seft Hunter and Gloria Fisher are interested.

7. Ben Proffer indicated he will be talking to John Fish Kurmann and Jim Horlacher about (1) ways to approach the various pension funds/boards, and (2) possible work with various environmental people/organizations in neighborhoods.
8. Finally, there was some discussion about finding ways we can inter-connect each of the projects.

D. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. The City Manager has completed development of his budget recommendations and is sending the document to the Mayor this month. The budget recommendations will be made public soon thereafter. Public hearings will be in February and March with the budget to be adopted by the end of March. We are expecting 2 positions be funded. One would be in City Planning and Development to, in part, work on vacant property data aggregation. The second would be in OEQ to work on implementation of the Energy Empowerment Ordinance.
2. In February, there will be a new EMC member. The resume of Emily Truebner was circulated.
3. There will be a Business Session presentation on January 21<sup>st</sup> about the MARC facilitated Solar Ready project.
4. Missouri Clean Energy District (one of two statewide PACE programs) will launch a residential PACE program by mid-2016. They will take a subordinate position to any first mortgage which means any such loan would probably need to be retired on resale of the property unlike commercial PACE which functionally is a special assessment the runs with the property. They will use Renovate America, from California, to manage the program.
5. The City is continuing to work on developing an application to the STAR Community Index for a rating.
6. The Mayor has re-filled the vacant Innovations Officer position.
7. The Manager's Office is considering applying for a federal SMART Cities grant. There will be five finalists chosen to submit a final application from which a single grantee will be chosen. If the City is chosen as a finalist, there will be a grant of \$100,000 to help in putting together the final application. The award, in its various forms, could be as high as \$50 million to that single grantee.
8. CEP staff is drafting rules for implementation of the Energy Empowerment Ordinance which should be submitted to the Advisory Committee for discussion at its meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
9. KCP&L submitted a filing to the Missouri Public Service Commission which addresses implementation of a data aggregation program. The program should be ready for implementation January, 2017 in time for commercial building owners/managers to be able to comply with the Energy Empowerment Ordinance reporting requirements.

E. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams - No report
2. LEED – Jim Hansen - No report
3. City Energy Project – Dennis Murphey - Jennifer Gunby is working on a longevity plan; the CEP Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on February 19<sup>th</sup> at IBEW headquarters
4. Solid Waste – Rachel Guthrie - No report
5. Climate Protection Steering Committee – Bob Berkebile - The CPSC is evolving with changes in need and membership. Recently capacity has been added to the committee. With CPSC oversight, OEQ staff manages the process, keeping the members informed of relevant activities. He indicated he felt the City could be more productive in addressing related issues/programs.
6. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez – No additional report
7. Health Commission – Seft Hunter – The Commission is advancing the Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP). They are working with the City to help focus the Business Plan. There are still opportunities to cross-pollinate ideas. Bob Berkebile asked how the Health Commission activities get implemented; Seft Hunter responded there are several sub-committees which meet monthly and the Commission receives regular reports from them and from the Health Department. There was general discussion about the Health Commission, aggregation of health data and related impacts.

F. Old Business - None

- G. New Business – Carol Adams noted the Water Services Department will be convening a work group to look at water rates. She has been asked to participate on the work group.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm

The next meeting is:

February 10, 2016  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Mid-America Regional Council  
600 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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