



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2016

Meeting Location: MARC, Westview Room, 2nd Floor, 600 Broadway, KCMO

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Caroline (Mollie) Davies, Jim Hansen, Kimberly Hill, Seft Hunter, Marty Kraft, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer, Jack Schrimsher, Emily Truebner

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Julie Koppen, Robin Martinez,

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

Guests: Anne McGregor – Sierra Club; Hon. Katheryn Shields – City Councilwoman

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

- A. Welcome and Introductions – Co-Chair Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. Minutes – A motion was made by Molly Davies, and seconded by DJ Pierre, to adopt the draft minutes for the March, 2016 EMC meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Retreat Follow-up/EMC Priorities –
 1. Ben Proffer noted that he had followed up with the Firefighters Pension Fund about divestment from fossil fuel extraction companies. He was told the Board had approved the process and is willing to divest recognizing that the process could be highly involved.
 2. Jensen Adams – Education work group has not met since the last EMC meeting. (a) The National Green Schools Conference included discussions about the Green Ribbon Schools program in which the State of Missouri has chosen not to participate. (b) On May 5, 2016, the Missouri Department of Conservation is hosting a meeting in Jefferson City with the Environmental Education Association about green schools statewide. Jensen indicated he is planning to attend.
- D. Liaison Updates
 1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams - No report
 2. LEED – Jim Hansen - No report
 3. City Energy Project – See OEQ report below
 4. Solid Waste – No report
 5. Climate Protection Steering Committee – Dennis reported the CPSC is meeting May 13, 2016 at 3:00 pm on the 10th Floor of City Hall. The agenda will include (a) The new KCP&L rebate programs, (b) Climate Action Champions program. Carol Adams asked to have the “America’s Ready for 100” campaign placed on the agenda.
 6. Vacant Lots – Councilwoman Shields reported the City has approved a \$10 million bond package to address vacant buildings. Rules are being developed that will include a triage process that uses a hierarchy of renovation, deconstruction over demolition, where feasible.
 7. Health Commission – Seft Hunter – The Health Commission has begun to develop an implementation plan for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The Commission is still interested in Dennis speaking at one of their meetings regarding the relationship of climate resilience and public health..
- E. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey
 1. Dennis reiterated the Business Sessions planned for April 14 – Nile Aquaponics by Dre Taylor - and April 21 – reforestation and vegetation by Kristin Riott.
 2. April 19-25 is ShowMe Green Sales Tax week during which anyone can purchase an ENERGY STAR® certified appliance, up to \$1500 per appliance, and not pay State, County (in some of the local counties) or City sales taxes. Dennis noted he believes this is the first year that Jackson County has opted to participate.
 3. Mayor James has signed the Mayors’ Climate Action Agenda. Several mayors, including Mayor James recently signed a letter to President Obama (1) expressing their appreciation for his focus on decreasing methane emissions from natural gas exploration sources, and (2) requesting an increased effort to decrease methane emissions from other sources.

4. Mayor James has signed a proclamation encouraging planting of milkweed throughout the city as a food source for Monarch Butterflies. Bridging The Gap (BTG) has hired staff to coordinate the effort. Dennis and staff of City Planning will meet with Code Inspectors to train them about milkweed so it is not cited as a noxious weed.
5. City Energy Project –
 - a. A longevity plan is being developed to address the future of the CEP after the initial program period terminates early in 2017.
 - b. The first benchmarking reporting under the Energy Empowerment Ordinance, for City buildings, is due May 1, 2016 for City-owned buildings greater than 10,000 sq ft.
 - c. A grant application is being considered, to the US Department of Energy, addressing how to connect energy data to other data to improve policy recommendations.
 - d. Climate Action Champions, comprised of KCMO, Johnson County, MARC and BTG, has begun resilience focus group meetings. The first was held on April 11, 2016 focused on emergency managers. The second is planned for next week to address neighborhood concerns and public health. It is intended that a regional climate resilience strategy be developed and, then, potential municipal climate resilience action plans.

F. Sierra Club – “America’s Ready for 100” Campaign – Anne McGregor

The “America’s Ready for 100” Campaign is an effort to enlist 100 cities to commit to switch to 100% renewable power sources by 2025. The campaign is built on the understanding that positive movement forward is needed now to reduce carbon emissions. The Sierra Club believes there has not been substantial progress at state and federal levels and, in fact, we are losing ground and has turned to the cities to address the issues. In Kansas City, the issues include life and jobs issues. The price of renewable energy is now generally competitive with fossil fuels derived energy and, as a result, is also an economic issue. The Sierra Club asks the EMC to recommend to the City to take the pledge to adopt the policy to attain 100% renewable, sustainable energy by 2025.

Carol Adams noted this request is focused on municipal operations and that there may be options to cooperate with local utilities. Councilwoman Shields asked if renewable energy credits work to which Ms. McGregor responded it would be preferable to include only new energy sources. Dennis Murphey noted the City is currently generating about 1.5% of its demand from renewable sources and, if some of the power purchased from KCP&L’s portfolio can be counted, that percentage might increase to up to 5%.

Dennis indicated he was concerned about asking City Council to make this pledge without knowing how we can get there. Jack Schrimsher did some quick internet research and found that San Diego has taken the pledge to achieve 100% by 2035 without knowing how they will be able to do it.

There was general discussion of possible options. It was suggested the EMC ask the Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) to get involved and respond to the request from Sierra Club. Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Emily Truebner, to request a response from the Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC). The motion passed.

G. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti There was general discussion about bills pending in the State Legislature including bills about water quality, property codes and other issues. It was noted the Missouri Municipal League website does a fairly good job tracking state legislation.

H. Old Business - None

I. New Business –

- a. Environmental Achievement Awards (EAA) – Jerry Shechter distributed the final draft of the EAA application. Emily Truebner made a motion, seconded by Marty Kraft, to approve the final draft of the application and to ask OEQ to move ahead with the application process. The motion passed. Molly Davies and Ben Proffer volunteered to help review the applications. Julie Koppen will be asked if she is willing to participate as well.
- b. Green Neighborhood Recognition Program (NRP) – Jerry Shechter noted that the application process for the NRP is ready to begin for 2016. In this program, neighborhoods will submit applications detailing activities they have accomplished in support of sustainability for review by the Education and Outreach KC Green Team. The awards are provided to chosen neighborhoods at the KC Green Fair in the Fall.
- c. At the Council Business Session tomorrow Dre Taylor will present and discuss the Nile Aquaponics project at 29th & Wabash. The meeting is at 1:00 pm on the 10th Floor of City Hall.
- d. Carol Adams noted the Water Department’s Cost of Service Task Force convenes next week and Carol is a member of the task force. Councilwoman Shields noted there may be a request to modify the EPA Consent Decree for the Overflow Control Plan. There are some material changes coming that include Johnson County developing its own water treatment plant. This will decrease the impact on our treatment plants and increase the KC water quality. On the other hand, this will decrease Water Services revenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm

The next meeting is:

May 11, 2016 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council at 600 Broadway, 2nd Floor

