

Environmental Management Commission Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2016

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

Commissioners present: Jensen Adams, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Seft Hunter, Julie Koppen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer

Commissioners Absent: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Jim Hansen, Kimberly Hill, Jack Schrimsher, Emily Truebner

Staff: Dennis Murphey & Andy Savastino, OEQ

Guests: Gretchen Waddell Barwick, Sierra Club

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

A. Welcome and Introductions – Commissioner Guthrie (substituting for co-chair Carol Adams & Bob Berkebile who were not able to attend) welcomed commissioners, staff, and quests who introduced themselves.

B. There was no Solid Waste Report.

C. Retreat Priorities

- Water Commissioner Martinez attended the One Water Leadership Conference in Atlanta, in addition to approx. 35
 people from the KC metro area (KCMO Water Services; Johnson County, KS; local engineering firms; & non-profits).
 There were several interesting sessions, including a focus on equity, social issues, & environmental justice. It was noted
 that \$1.3 trillion is needed nationwide for water & wastewater infrastructure projects. There were additional sessions on
 the water crisis in Flint, MI and green infrastructure work in Philadelphia.
- 2. Education Commissioner Adams stated that the next meeting of the EMC's education group will be on July 22, 4:00 pm at Winstead's at the Plaza.

D. Liaison Reports

- 1. Air Quality Dennis Murphey a presentation was made at the July 12 Air Quality Forum meeting re KCMO's participation in KCP&L's Strategic Energy Management program to improve energy efficiency of municipal buildings and other energy activities underway in KCMO.
- 2. LEED no report
- 3. City Energy Project Commissioner Adams reported that the next meeting of the City Energy Project Advisory Committee will be on Friday August 12. Dennis Murphey indicated that a) IMT is planning to announce CEP Round 2 cities in the near future, b) several trainings sessions re how to comply with the City's Energy Empowerment Ordinance are upcoming, and c) a longevity plan has been developed for a new energy resource center to continue after KC's CEP project ends in Spring 2017.
- 4. Solid Waste Planning Dennis Murphey reported that presentations were made at the MARC Solid Waste Management District's meeting re current SWMD grant-funded projects.
- 5. Climate Protection Steering Committee Dennis Murphey reported that the next CPSC meeting will be on Sept 9 at 3:00 pm in the 10th floor committee room of City Hall.
- 6. Vacant lots Commissioner Martinez stated that the EMC's recommendations in its report on vacant lots meshes well with some of the work on the Greater KC Chamber of Commerce's Urban Neighborhood Initiative (one their "Big 5" initiatives).
- 7. Health Commission Commissioner Hunter reported that the KCMO Health Department is looking at the issue of increasing life expectancy, with a particular emphasis upon areas of the City where life expectancy is significantly lower than other areas of the City.
- 8. Water Cost of Service Task Force Commissioner Martinez reported that the work to date has mostly been informational sessions. The June 14 meeting focused on the storm water utility. KCMO rates are very low compared to other cities & increases in fees will likely be necessary.

- 9. Other Commissioner Proffer commented on an article in the KC Star re incentives for economic development projects are under review and City Councilmember Quinton Lucas is looking at proposed changes in the City's use of TIF and PIEA funding. Several Commissioners expressed an interest in seeing that consideration of sustainability is made a part of the incentives review & approval process. There was interest in inviting Kerrie Tyndall (KCMO's Economic Development Manager) to a future EMC meeting & perhaps someone from the Finance Department. Commissioner Adams volunteered to contact ACEEE (American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy) to see if any other cities are doing something in this area.
- E. Office of Environmental Quality Dennis Murphey gave a brief overview of several items:
 - 1. The City's participation in KCP&L's Strategic Energy Management program
 - 2. KC's STAR (Sustainable Tools for Assessing & Rating) Community Index application is near completion and is expected to be submitted for initial review in the next few weeks.
 - 3. Dennis Murphey & Jerry Shechter will be presenting info re KC's sustainability work at a webinar on July 26, hosted by the Sustainable City Network. SCN recently published an article about KC's sustainability work entitled "In Kansas City, It's All About People."
 - 4. Two upcoming climate resiliency workshops are being held with the Climate Action Champions group (MARC, KCMO, JoCo, and Bridging The Gap). Aug 24 (open invitation at the Kauffman Foundation's conference center) and Sept 28 29 at KCP&L (invitation only), hosted by C2ES (Center for Climate & Energy Solutions) to connect local governments & the business community to work together on climate resilience.
 - 5. A new residential PACE program will be launched in KC within the next couple of months, led by Renovate America in collaboration with the Missouri Clean Energy District.
 - 6. Dennis Murphey made a presentation re sustainability work in KCMO at a meeting of the National League of Cities Energy, Environment, & Natural Resources Committee on 6/30.
 - 7. The City Manager & department directors will be holding a strategic planning retreat on 7/15 to update the objectives in the City's 5-year business plan for subsequent approval by Mayor James & the City Council.
- F. Legal Brief no report.
- G. Old Business -
 - 1. The Biery Auditorium at the Health Department will be the site for the Environmental Achievement Awards. Andy Savastino is still gathering materials from the award recipients to provide to Commissioner Davies for her ppt presentation.
- H. New Business -
 - 1. Marty Kraft indicated he was interested in seeing if anything could be done to address Styrofoam, plastic bottles, and use of Round-up in KCMO.
 - 2. Gretchen Waddell Barwick mentioned a couple of items:
 - Veolia has switched its operations in the River Market area from coal to natural gas & this will make 4 acres of land (previously occupied by its coal pile) available for reuse. This fuel switch will allow the small area downwind of the Veolia plan (that had been designated as non-attainment for the SO2 National Ambient Air Quality Standard by EPA) to achieve attainment with the standard and be redesignated as such.
 - IECC (International Energy Conservation Code) changes for 2018 are being proposed for consideration at the IECC conference in KCm in October 2016. The current proposal would be a step backward on energy efficiency standards. The Sierra Club would like the EMC to request a resolution by the City Council encouraging/directing KC code officials to support energy efficiency improvements in the 2018 standards or to ask Mayor James to articulate "City values" to the KC voting members. A letter to the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager was suggested by Ms. Barwick. She also suggested that this be discussed at the next Climate Protection Steering Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm

The next EMC meeting is:

August 10, 2016 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Environmental Achievement Awards Biery Auditorium at the Health Department 2400 Troost