



**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes July, 12, 2017**

Meeting Location: Health Department, 2400 Troost Ave, KCMO

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Jim Hansen, Kimberly Hill, Seft Hunter, Julie Koppen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer, Jack Schrimsher, Nacente Seabury, Emily Truebner

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Rachel Guthrie,

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino and Jerry Shechter – OEQ; Katie Chandler – Law, Mike Mallon, City Planning & Development

Guests: Mark Walter (US Sun Solar), David Mitchell – Sierra Club, Madeline Weissend, Joy Heaviland, Jacquie Whalen, David Peal, Avery Wade, Shannon Jackson, Mary Ellen Vincent

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; A quorum was present. Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves..
- B. Carol Adams asked for changes or additions to the minutes of the months of April, May and June, 2017. None were noted. DJ Pierre made a motion, seconded by Robin Martinez, to approve, as presented, the minutes of the meetings of April, May and June, 2017. The motion passed.
- C. Environmental Achievement Awards – Molly Davies, et al – There were four nominations received and the review committee briefly discussed each nomination. Of the four nominations, two were recommended to be recognized. The four nominations were:

Recommended for recognition and award:

1. Charles Harris, of the General Services Department, for managing the City's Green Commute Challenge team.
2. General Services Department for having increased the ENERGY STAR® certification rating of City Hall from 92 to 96.

Not recommended:

3. Public Works Department – Elimination of compliance issues
4. Water Services Department – Green Marlborough – Project not completed; Insufficient data

Ben Proffer made a motion, seconded by Kimberly Hill, to recognize and award the nominations of Charles Harris and the General Services Department. The motion passed.

Carol Adams reminded the Commissioners the award celebration will be at the EMC's regular meeting date/time and will be held in the MARC Board Room.

- D. Water Cost of Services Task Force Recommendations and EMC Comments – Carol Adams  
Carol Adams briefly described the Task Force recommendations and then went on to discuss the draft EMC letter in response. First, the intent of the letter is to endorse the gist of the recommendations. The balance of the letter is to focus on the 3-legged stool of sustainability with an approach that requires measurement as you go with overall emphasis on green rather than grey installations. This focus is to control overall costs and ancillary issues. This would be a shift to an outcomes driven approach. There is a question whether to modify the draft to include the concept of human right to water and sanitation. Robin was asked to modify the language of the draft. In anticipation of revised language, Robin Martinez made a motion, seconded by Nacente Seabury, to adopt the language and intent of the letter subject to additional modifications. The motion passed.

- E. Kansas City Solar Permitting Process – Mark Walter, Missouri Sun Solar  
Mr. Walter is the Director of Business Development of US Sun Solar and President of Missouri Solar and Energy Industries Association. Mr. Walter used a PowerPoint to discuss the solar project permitting process experience in Kansas City. He indicated the processing times in other cities is drastically lower than in KC. As an example, in one city, the processing time was 3 days while, in KC, it was an average of 53 days. He posed the question as to whether there is a way to help smooth out the process. He indicated the use of a permit company – a third party professional – has had some positive impact. After discussion, Mark agreed to contact Jomy John, City Planning & Development, who has made a presentation to the EMC about this process. The Commission asked to be updated in September 2017.
- F. Response to the Climate Emergency – Ben Proffer  
Ben noted that the Finance and Governance Committee of the KC City Council recommended, to the full Council, adoption of Resolution No. 170484 expressing our intent to move ahead to address the intent of the Paris Climate Accord. He also noted that he and DJ Pierre are working on a white paper to present to the EMC for consideration. DJ noted he has had difficulty finding greenhouse inventory data on the City's website. Ben also related that he has had discussions with Ashok Gupta.
- G. Retreat Priorities – Jensen Adams – No report
- H. Liaison Updates – No reports
- I. OEQ Report – Dennis Murphey
  1. The Climate Mayors' Letter now has 363 signers representing 44 states and 220 Congressional districts.
  2. The KC area has been determined, by EPA, to be #16 in the list of top cities in utilization of ENERGY STAR®.
  3. June 27, 2017 – MARC Board adopted the Regional Climate Resiliency Strategy.
  4. In the first year of implementation of the recently approved general obligation bonds, KC City Council has identified projects costing about \$44 million. Of this total amount, \$900,000 was identified for traffic signal synchronization pilot along Broadway. Other synchronization projects are in planning.
  5. Missouri Department of Natural Resources has issued a request for response for suggestions to repeal fully one-third of existing regulations.
- J. Legal Brief – No report
- K. Old Business – No report
- L. New Business – No report
- M. Visitor Remarks – Gloria Fisher noted Westside Housing had developed a partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Communities and will host a planning meeting for July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

The next EMC meeting is:                   August 9, 2017  
   4:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
   Mid-America Regional Council  
   600 Broadway – Second Floor - Board Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm