



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes December 13, 2017**

Meeting Location: Health Department, 2400 Troost Ave, KCMO

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Jim Hansen, Kimberly Hill, Marty Kraft, Julie Koppen, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Jack Schrimsher

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Seft Hunter, Ben Proffer, Nacente Seabury, Emily Truebner

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino and Jerry Shechter – OEQ

Guests: David Mitchell, Frank Zilm and Stephen Melton – Citizens Climate Lobby, Kelly Gilbert – Metropolitan Energy Center, Laurie Fisher – Sierra Club, Ayana Curran-Howes – Heartland Conservation Alliance

- 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. Minutes – Robin Martinez made a motion, seconded by Jim Hansen, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November, 2017 as presented. The motion was approved.
- C. Carbon Pricing Proposal
 1. Dennis Murphey reported the Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) met December 1, 2017 and held a discussion about the initiatives of KCMO Resolution 170586, dubbed the “Renewable Energy Now” resolution. Everyone agreed as to the necessity of increasing the number of stakeholders and engaging KC neighborhoods. A 1-day stakeholder session is being planned, for January or February, to talk about Initiative D (energy efficiency, solar energy and electric vehicles in underserved communities) and Initiative E (increasing interest in clean energy financing with an emphasis on low-income, multifamily). The session will include a wide range of stakeholders who will all have direct input into the process. Commissioners will receive a notice about the meeting. Dennis asked for recommendations from Commissioners about neighborhoods and representatives to invite.
 2. CCL Proposal - A speaker was not able to be secured for this meeting and, as a result, there was a question whether or not a speaker would be needed. Robin Martinez said the Commission should send something to the Mayor and City Council. He indicated he would like the EMC to look at the back-end of the CCL proposal with regard to the issue of dividends. He made a case for funding for various programs that would reduce energy use rather than a monetary dividend which may not. He noted there should be wider community discussion about this concept. Jensen Adams reminded the EMC about the City franchise tax on utilities, which currently goes directly to the general fund, suggesting diversion of some of that revenue to support programs which would be a tax restructure rather than a new tax. He also noted this is a local rather than a national issue. He also noted the article, for which there was a link in the agenda, indicated an impact by forcing people to make choices that may not improve their condition. Robin Martinez noted the use of revenues is an existing issue. After additional discussion, DJ Pierre suggested a motion for a broad recommendation.

DJ Pierre made a motion, seconded by Robin Martinez, that the EMC recommend the City of KCMO support a carbon fee and encourage the use of proceeds of the carbon fee to invest in clean and renewable energy and give consideration to protect vulnerable, under-served populations and authorizing the Chair to draft a letter transmitting this to the Mayor and City Council. The motion passed. Carol Adams said she would draft a letter transmitting the intent of the motion.

Marty Kraft suggested we need to ask everyone to change their habits and to develop and implement a massive education program and to combat disinformation.

- D. Commission Operations – No discussion as Katie Chandler was caught in traffic coming from another meeting. Carol Adams stated she is interested in bringing the EMC control documents (ordinance, etc) into line with current EMC focus and activities. That includes being more actively involved in the beginning of activities rather than just reviewing what has been proposed or done. Jack Schrimsher said he originally envisioned EMC operations to be more like the zoning board, etc which would be a more intense activity. Historically, the EMC turned more to a group disseminating ideas. The question is how to bring the two together. Molly Davies asked if things have been missed without the more intense approach? Carol said she would like to see more teeth in EMC authorized operations and to institutionalize the liaison function in inclusion other boards, task forces, etc including economic development, codes, regional forums, etc. She would prefer to recognize the validity of cross-pollination by the governing ordinance.

There was a brief discussion about recycling and food composting. Carol also recognized the EMC is aging and there is a need to revise the ordinance to reflect what we do now, the EMC role into the future, liaisons, etc. Dennis stated he thought a major part of the challenge is to determine what the EMC wants to do.

- E. Response to the Climate Emergency – Dennis Murphey – City staff has continued to hold meetings to discuss the 10 initiatives of Resolution 170586. There is a meeting scheduled next Thursday afternoon about Initiative C – energy efficiency for employees of the City and other large employers. There will be a meeting soon about energy efficiency, renewable energy and electric vehicles in the underserved communities; and there will continue to be discussions about energy and water efficiency. Per the resolution a report is due to the City Council by March 1, 2018. Two of the large initiatives require work with KCP&L and the PSC – (1) potential corporate renewables tariff similar to that being addressed now by Ameren; and (2) community solar farms. Included in our discussions will be city-owned vacant property and highly visible land such as KCI as well as land in neighborhoods. Robin noted that community solar is being done in other places without utilities in the mix. However, this is not currently legal in Missouri.
- F. OEQ Report – Dennis Murphey
1. The annual Green Team celebration was held last week; The City Manager attended. Each team – Policy & Regulations, Green Infrastructure, Resources Management and Education & Outreach – detailed their progress over the last year.
 2. An ordinance was passed last week for KCMO to partner with the Cities of Independence and Lee's Summit in the proposed KC [Regional](#) Clean Energy District - a new PACE initiative. After Independence and Lee's Summit pass their respective legislation, a program operator will be procured. This feeds into and supports initiatives of Resolution 170586.
 3. At the CPSC meeting, Chuck Caisley and Drew Robinson, KCP&L, spoke about new tariff requests to the PSC to procure power from renewable energy sources.
- G. Retreat Priorities – Jensen Adams – No report
- H. Liaison Updates –
1. Air Quality Forum – The AQF met and will be involved in a workshop on air quality action plans.
 2. LEED – No report – However, with regard to the proposed new airport, Robin asked if anyone had brought up the requirement for LEED-Gold at a minimum. Jerry noted that Sara Greenwood had sent an e-mail reiterating that requirement. There was discussion about the EMC sending a letter to the City/development team supporting LEED-Gold as well.
 3. Solid Waste Planning – No report
 4. Climate Protection Steering Committee – See above
 5. Vacant Lots – Robin noted a report is being developed on activities of the OCP to date. There will be more in January and February regarding the use of City-owned vacant lots.
 6. Health Commission – No report
- I. Legal Brief – See D above
- J. Old Business – None
- K. New Business – None
- L. Remarks –
1. David Mitchell thanked the EMC for its discussion over several meetings about the proposed carbon tax and dividend concept. He suggested that the EMC could look at and use the “whereas” clauses of the CCL sample ordinance document. He asked for the EMC to act quickly to draft the letter to the Mayor and City Council (see C-2 above) and asked that a copy be provided to the CCL.

