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| Graphic of window with KC skyline in background |

**Environmental Management Commission**

**Meeting Minutes July 8, 2020**

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Michael Kelley, Marty Kraft, Nathan Madden, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer

Commissioners Absent: Joseph Nickels, Kimberly Hill, Julie Koppen, Scott Klamm, Jensen Adams

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Jerry Shechter, Rachel O’Neal, Kayleen Garrels, Chris Hays – OEQ;

Guests: Don Wallace, Billy Davies – Sierra Club; Emily Wolfe; Patrick Hosty, Jane VanSant, Jim Turner, Bridget Sanderson, Sunny Sanwar, Mary Petropoulos

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; A quorum was present. Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
2. \*Minutes – DJ Pierre made a motion, seconded by Caroline (Molly) Davies, to approve, as presented, the minutes of the meetings of June 2020. The motion passed.
3. Environmental Justice Discussion – Guest Participant: Justice Horn

* Justice Horn is a community organizer in Kansas City. He was a leader in Black Lives Matter protests and actively advocates for policy change and police reform in our community. Justice Horn came to participate in a discussion about Climate justice and how to ensure communities of color have a seat at the table.
  + Many members of black and brown communities (especially younger people) appreciate the need for a more sustainable future. They want progress on sustainability to move forward in ways that are environmentally, socially, and economically just. They realize that the poor and communities of color will suffer disproportionately if we fail to change.
* Beyond Police Reform how is the local sustainability movement falling short in supporting communities of color?
  + The standard must be set higher on how we do business to address all the socio-economic variables. The city must also realize that all the issues (housing, climate, police, health, food, education, etc.) are intertwined. Problems will not be solved with one single policy. Planning ahead, working together, and thinking big picture is essential.
* How do we get people to feel like they can make an impact by working together?
  + There needs to be a unifying message in Kansas City.
* How can we create a situation where we can make progress and restore rights that people of color may not have even had in the first place?

We need to make sure that we add policies and reparations that address equity. Every community is different, so it is imperative to have proper representation at the table.

* Are there particular groups open to having conversations/joining forces?
  + Urban League of KC, NAACP of KC, Sunrise Movement were suggested among others.
* How do we get at the underlying greed/competitive nature of society?
  + We make this an issue for every group, stakeholder, and person, so it can’t be ignored.
* How do we engage people of color in environmental issues so that they can be in that dialog when they may have more immediate needs such as food/housing at the forefront of their minds?
  + When it comes to timing, there is a lack of alignment between the urgency of the Black Lives Movement and the Climate Change Movement. Observations from the Climate Action KC group: Some are concerned about needing to include all members of the community in the conversation before finalizing the policy, but others are worried about the length of time it takes to reach out.
  + We need to see they urgency, but also, be aware of what will be in place after changes are put in place. Make sure the transition is just. Make sure everyone is on equal playing field. It may be up to us to fight some of the battles that they may not have time or energy to fight.
  + EMC commissioners should read\* and work to understand the insights and perspectives of those who have already been researching and bringing attention to these topics.
  + Some of the language that the commission uses is jargon or overly technical. We need to be able to talk about the issues with a shared understanding about our concerns.
* What are next steps from the perspectives of the Black Lives Matter movement?
  + Working with city council to look at the KCPD funding to identify dollars that could be better used to fund education, housing, and other disparities.
  + People need to see the urgency and feel that injustices are a problem for everyone and not just for members of black and brown communities.
  + We need to think long term. We do not have a lot of moments like this and it is important to seize this moment and put everything on the table to accelerate change for the better.

1. Environmental Achievement Awards – Lara Isch

* The extension allowed for an additional 4 submissions for a total of 7. The submission phase runs through July12, 2020.
* Lara will send the submissions to Carol Adams, Molly Davies, and Scott Klamm for review.
* The awards ceremony will be moved to a virtual setting but can also be aired on Channel 2 and include photos with the mayor if the individual feels comfortable. Lara will work with City Communications for more options.

1. Office of Environmental Quality Report – Andy Savastino/Lara Isch

* Budget reduction exercise – Council and the Mayor are going through line by line the recommendations by the directors and are taking it very seriously. Furloughs are not part of this initial exercise but will be used to bridge the gap.
* City Wide Business Plan Retreat – 1st business plan for this council, will be aired on channel 2.
* Climate Action Planning Process- request for information is out which will help narrow down the price range/scope of what we are looking at. The RFI closes on July 13, 2020.
* KC Green Website - KCMO employees can volunteer to be on green teams. The pages are being updated and will show updated content, projects, and programs.

1. Council Committee Monitoring Reports – No reports
2. Transportation, Infrastructure & Operations – Carol Adams, Michael Kelley, Bob Berkebile (as an advisor)
3. Finance, Governance & Public Safety – Ben Proffer
4. Neighborhood Planning & Development –Molly Davies
5. Special Committee on Housing – DJ Pierre, Bob Berkebile (advisor)
6. Business Session – Ben Proffer
7. Liaison Updates
   1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams –Under the transportation plan they are requiring applicants to send a pre-application, gives them a chance to raise other priorities before they submit the final proposal.
   2. Transportation 2050 Plan – Carol Adams - No reports
   3. LEED Standards Committee –Joe Nickels - No reports
   4. Waste Management District - No reports
   5. Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) – Bob Berkebile – No reports
   6. Volker Hub – Molly Davies, Scott Klamm - No reports
8. Old Business

* \*Conflict of Interest forms are past due. If you have not already, please submit to Rachel or the City Clerk ASAP.
* \*Participate in the weekly Comprehensive Plan survey – this week is about the environment! [playbook.kcmo.gov](about:blank)

1. New Business - None
2. Remarks from Visitors

* Billy Davies – The council passed a resolution expressly committing to the 2021 Building Codes.

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| The next EMC meeting is: | DATE: Wednesday, August 12, 2020  TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  PLACE: Location Pending |
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The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

\*Action Items.

\*Resources mentioned at the meeting:

"The Case for Reparations" by Ta-Nehisi Coates <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

*The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where We Go from Here* by Hope Jahren