|  |
| --- |
| Graphic of window with KC skyline in background |

**Environmental Management Commission**

**Meeting Minutes August 12, 2020**

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Caroline (Molly) Davies, DJ Pierre, Bob Berkebile, Jensen Adams, Marty Kraft, Nathan Madden, Julie Koppen.

Commissioners Absent: Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Michael Kelley, Ben Proffer, Joseph Nickels, Kimberly Hill, Scott Klamm.

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

Guests: Don Wallace, Billy Davies Jim Turner– Sierra Club; Adison Banks, Beth Pauley, Bridget Sanderson, Dan Schmidt, Patrick Hosty, Sara Lamprise, Jane VanSant, Emily Wolfe, Trevor Harris, Jill Erickson, Robin Ganahl.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; A quorum was not present. Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.

1. \*Minutes – A quorum was not present therefore the minutes from July 2020 will be held for approval until the next regular meeting in October.
2. Blue River Report card – Addison Banks - Heartland Conservation Alliance

Presentation: <https://www.heartlandconservationalliance.org/blue-river-report-card>

\*Put link on KC Green website

* What can the EMC do with this report card?
* Water quality data is not included in this report because data from different sources is not compatible. It would be helpful if there was a set method that could be implemented across the board that could be applied to water quality data.

1. Recommendations and Approval for Environmental Achievement Awards - Caroline (Molly) Davies

6 out of 7 nominations will be given awards:

* Make a Difference Award– The parks and communications departments worked together to create and promote a bucket full of supplies to go to a park cleanup during Covid-19. As a result, 74 people volunteered, 257 volunteer hours were recorded, 19 parks were cleaned (some multiple times), and it was picked up 5 times by the media.
* Raptor Task Force at Lakeside Nature Center - 17 successful re-nests.
* Kate Delahunt, Curriculum Coordinator for KC Water – Created teaching material for water education for kids during Covid-19 that can be accessed virtually by teachers.
* Human Resources and Emergency Telecommute Team – created emergency work from home plan which supported over 900 city workers.
* Trees Work Group from Policy and Regulations Green Team– Worked to (1) get the Urban Tree Master Plan policy in place and adopted, (2) completed a new administrative regulation that was sent to the Acting City Manager for approval, and (3) began work on a new ordinance. This is the result of 18 months of research and collaboration of 8 city departments.
* Dept of Revenue – Patrick Hugh, made a paper-based reference of legal opinions into a database accessible to employees online.

Commissioners in attendance unanimously agreed to support the recommendations of the EAA review committee.

1. NRC Interpretive Rule

Discussion based on informational letter provided by former Commissioner Robin Martinez. Scott Klamm mentioned that Midwest Research Institute has someone who oversees nuclear waste disposal and can investigate this situation and let the commission know what type of comments are desired. Carol wants authorization to share this and express EMC concern that people who are well versed on this subject look at this and recommend action, if any, that the EMC can recommend City Council to take.

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

* Mayors office is taking an active role in looking at committees and commissions. Sydney Bannister will be sending out a survey to commissioners about contact info and demographics.
* Finance committee has passed the budget amendment ordinance onto full council.
* Climate Action Planning Process – We received 7 responses to the Request for Information (RFI). OEQ staff is now working on the draft Request for Proposal (RFP).
* Environmental Compliance work order tracking system is about to be replaced with a new system called Cartegraph.
* Environmental Training program has converted some courses to an online format.
* Greg Franzen wants to give stakeholders, staff and council time to read 2021 IECC once it’s published and may be interested in doing another round of stakeholder meetings – most likely after the new year.
* The KC Spirit Playbook has a virtual town hall coming up on August 27th, 2020 at 5pm. This will provide an opportunity to add your input into the climate planning process.

1. Evergy Merger – Bridget Sanderson - Director of Environment Missouri, Beth Pauley - Climate Energy Project, Billy Davies – Sierra Club

* Early next year Evergy will issue an Integrated Research Plan (IRP) which will outline how the utility will provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity over the next 20 years.
* Press release: <https://www.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2020/07/leaving-past-behind>
* A Vision of a New Evergy Coalition wants to work with Evergy to:
  + Empower organizations led by the most impacted members of our communities, particularly our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) and low income communities, to dismantle systems of oppression within the energy industry. Retire Coal plants by 2025 and commit to no new…
  + Retire Evergy’s coal plants by 2025 and commit to no new expensive fossil fuel infrastructure, which will both improve public health and reduce electric bills Climate Action KC facilitated meeting between Evergy
  + Decarbonize Evergy’s electric generation fleet by 2030 by investing in efficiency, renewable energy, and storage, which will both create jobs and reduce electric bills.
* The Coalition would like the EMC to write a letter of recommendation to the City Council supporting their work. Carol would like to follow up in October to see what exactly the EMC can do.

1. Council Committee Monitoring Reports
2. Transportation, Infrastructure & Operations – Carol Adams, Michael Kelley, Bob Berkebile (as an advisor) – No reports
3. Finance, Governance & Public Safety – Ben Proffer – No reports
4. Neighborhood Planning & Development –Molly Davies – 30th and Summit Apartments – Proposing building affordable container housing. Housing committee pushed back saying that they will not be all that affordable and they could become Airbnb type of rentals, no parking.
5. Special Committee on Housing – DJ Pierre, Bob Berkebile (advisor) – No reports
6. Business Session – Ben Proffer – No reports
7. Liaison Updates
   1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – No reports
   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
9. New Business - None
10. Remarks from Visitors

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The next EMC meeting is: | DATE: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 \*\*  TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  PLACE: Location Pending |
|  |  |

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

\*Action Items.

\*\*The Environmental Achievement Awards Ceremony will be held in place of the September meeting.