Kansas City, MO Climate Protection Steering Committee

10th Floor, City Hall

February 21, 2020

*CPSC Members Present*: Joanne Collins - Chair, Bob Berkebile, Kristin Riott; Tom Jacobs for David Warm, Thomas Grever, Ellen Fairchild

*CPSC Members Absent:* Cathy Bennett, Scott Burnett, Dee Evans

*Staff*: Jerry Shechter, Lara Isch, Rachel Willis, Chris Hays and Andy Savastino, OEQ; Eluard Alegre, Law

*Other Attendees:* William Davis, Jim Turner, Robin Ganahl - Sierra Club; Madeline Meloy – Sunrise; Adison Banks – Conservation Alliance; Beth Sarver, Mary Kay McGinty, Claus Wawrzinek, Celeste Clark, Jacob Steiner, Hilary Noonan, Jane VanSant. Karen, Rita, Jenny, Patty, Jamie.

**Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions & Remarks by the Chair**

Joanne Collins opened the meeting at 3:02 pm with a brief welcome and introductions by committee members, general public, and staff members. Andy Savastino was welcomed as the newly appointed Chief Environmental Officer of the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) and gave a brief summary of himself.

**OEQ Staffing/FY21 Budget**

1. OEQ is now fully staffed.
   * Lara Isch – Sustainability Manager.
   * Chris Hays – Sustainability Analyst. Responsible for benchmarking program and eventually greenhouse gas inventory.
2. FY20/21 Budget
   * Same number of positions (9) for OEQ
   * $25,000 funding for Climate Action planning.

**Metropolitan KC Climate Action Coalition (MKCCAC) Update**

1. WORKSHOP: Join us March 31 for a Climate Action Plan Community Workshop. We’ll be brainstorming ways the Kansas City region can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thrive in the face of climate change impacts. Register today: [tinyurl.com/climate-action-plan-workshop](https://tinyurl.com/climate-action-plan-workshop?fbclid=IwAR3EQt4T30KXNRWPhS6OYfok8enq3GaouwHAhY1ZMqYOHBkLsP_SAK2pFiw)

**Urban Forest Master Plan Update**

Kristin Riott showed a PowerPoint detailing the concepts and details of the plan. Ultimately, will be looking for council adoption of the plan.

**Proposed Resolution 200005**

Andy Savastino began with a summary of the resolution.

* Resolution was introduced last month and put on hold pending further input from OEQ, the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), and approval by the CPSC. The resolution sets greenhouse gas reduction goals for municipal operations and city wide and directs the City Manager to update the climate protection plan by March 2021. At the EMC meeting there was a conversation about adding language regarding equity. At this commission meeting the Green New Deal was also presented by a member of the Sierra Club.
* Andy Savastino met with members of the Sunrise Movement, Sierra Club and Councilwoman Loar to find commonalities and determined that some of the strategies in the Green New Deal are good improvements that can be integrated into Resolution 200005. The updated version of the resolution reflects these changes and includes goals that are obtainable, include resiliency, and have an aggressive timeline.
* A comparison chart of suggested goals was provided to the committee for review.
* There was a general discussion about leaning too much on Evergy and what we can do to focus on strategies beyond relying on Evergy for changes. Andy brought up the fact that more focused strategies can be included in the upcoming comprehensive plan.
* Bob Berkebile stated that even if we get to net zero, the resolution needs to consider sequestration. It was agreed upon by all that language regarding sequestration will be added to section 1. Bob also advised that we should change our go to word from “sustainability” to “regenerative.”
* Joanne Collins said she felt good about the goals in the updated version of resolution 20005. Bob Berkebile moved to accept the resolution and Tom seconded it.
* Billy Davies with the Sierra Club addressed the committee and mentioned that he felt it was important to include verbiage from the Green New Deal into resolution 20005 and that getting to 100% renewable energy ASAP needed to be the main goal.
* Hillary Noonan also wants to see 100% renewable energy but pointed out that it does not help with the resiliency of the community. She recommends a soil health initiative pointing out that when trees survive, the benefits are great and it is also inexpensive. Kristin Riott asked if this plan included collecting food waste to make compost and helping with carbon sequestration possibilities. Hillary confirmed that it does.
* Robin with the Sierra Club handed out a graph that plotted the differences between the Green New Deal and the original 20005 and updated 20005 Resolution reduction goals. She would like to see the Green New Deal go through council and stated that the difference in goals may be easier to relate to by viewing the graph.
* Tom asked if it was necessary to have budget language in resolution 20005 and Andy said he will check with Councilwoman Loar.
* Madeline with the Sunrise Movement and primary drafter of the Green New Deal stated that the city did not meet the citywide goals for greenhouse gas reductions as part of Resolution No 080754 and is calling for more aggressive goals now. Joanne called for a vote on the motion but there were no ayes.
* Joanne restated the motion. Bob Berkebile recommended revised Resolution 200005 with additional revisions to include sequestration and the Whereas statement from the Green New Deal that mentions a 100% community-wide transition to renewable electricity as soon as possible. No one opposed and the motion passed.

Next meeting date – To be determined

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 pm.