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| Graphic of window with KC skyline in background |
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**Environmental Management Commission**

**Meeting Minutes February 10, 2021**

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Caroline (Molly) Davies, D. Jensen Adams, Marty Kraft, Nathan Madden, Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, Ben Proffer, Joseph (Joe) Nickels, Julie Koppen, Scott Klamm.

Commissioners Absent: Duvel (DJ) Pierre, Michael Kelley, Kimberly Hill.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Gerald Shechter, Rachel O’Neal, Chris Hays – OEQ; Tammy Queen - Finance.

Guests: Billy Davies, Jim Turner, Don Wallace – Sierra Club; Tom Jacobs – MARC; Sara Lamprise – Elevate Energy; Emily Wolfe – MEC; Bridget Sanderson – Environment Missouri; Carl Stafford – My Region Wins; David Johnson – KCATA; Kristen Manthei – UMKC Student; Brad Lucht – Red Bridge; Andrew Teegarden, Gabrielle Smith, Carol Macken, Jane VanSant.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm; A quorum was present. Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
2. \*Minutes –Nate Madden made a motion, seconded by Ben Proffer, to approve, as corrected, the minutes of the meeting of January 2021. The motion passed.
3. Earnings Tax - Tammy Queen, Finance Director

See attached presentation.

* The earnings tax question is on the ballot for April 6, 2021
* The city is planning to do a tax burden study in fiscal year ’21 – ‘22
* The city budget is split into thirds – one third for business type activities, one third for special revenues and one third for the general fund. Earnings tax is about half of the general fund.
* City staff is not allowed to campaign regarding the earnings tax, they are only allowed to provide facts.

1. Regional Climate Action Plan - Tom Jacobs, MARC

Presentation: <https://www.marc.org/Environment/Climate-Action/pdf/Climate-Action-Plan.aspx>

Actual plan can be viewed here: <http://climateactionplan.cleanwaterkcmetro.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Climate-Action-Plan-final_2_1_21.pdf>

* Evergy has been sharing data in order to track progress.
* Creating a pilot community has not been explored yet but may be a good way for the EMC and MARC to work together.
* The report lists many strategies for change. Trees & Green Infrastructure and the Building Exchange are great staring points to work on for this year.
* Expanding Gloria Ortiz-Fishers project on the Westside has the potential to produce a lot of change in a short amount of time.
* Every section of the plan includes a piece on social equity.
* Community discussion and engagement is the formative next step.
* People tend to shut down when you talk about climate change or inequity, starting with a positive frame may be more productive when fighting for these changes.

1. Ordinance 210088, Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan – Andy Savastino and Lara Isch

See attached presentation.

* Transportation, Infrastructure and Operations Voted yes on this ordinance, now it goes to the full City Council for a vote.
* The Brindle Group was selected to be the consultant for the new Climate Action Plan.
* One goal is to integrate this Climate plan into the City’s Comprehensive plan.
* Needs that are to be addressed will be determined according to community engagement sessions.
* Past experience with the Brindle Group has shown them to be very helpful, more information on specific questions will be available once they are on board.
1. Soil Inoculation – Marty Kraft

See video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmj611RfBgs&ab_channel=EcoFarmVideo>

Marty Kraft is looking for people to help him take on this project. He will create a list of tasks for the committee.

1. Office of Environmental Quality Report -Andy Savastino
* Public budget hearings start tomorrow, see the city website for more information.
* The new city manager is adamant on getting the streetlight conversion project RFP out. It will be released in the next two to three weeks. Dimmer controls and adaptative lighting functions will be written into the RFP.
* The Renewable Direct plan went live on Dec. 28, 2020. Andy Savastino is working with Evergy on a press release. This means that about 20% of the city’s energy is from renewables. The second wind farm is scheduled be online October of 2021.
* Andy is working with others within the city to plan stakeholder engagement sessions regarding the Energy Code.
* The annual “Show Me Green” sales tax will likely pass City Council and will offer the public a tax break on Energy Star approved appliances for the week of April 19th – 25th.
* Resolution #181000 – Brian Platt has instructed OEQ to begin the planning process in coordination with Fleet Operations for electrifying the fleet. This plan is much more in depth than just obtaining vehicles, a plan must be in place for infrastructure, charging stations, etc.
* The mayor’s office should be making decisions on committee appointments very soon.
1. Reports and Updates from Committees – None
2. New Business – \*All committee members are to complete the annual Conflict of Interest Form if you have not already for 2021.
3. Old Business – \*Billy Davies with the Sierra Club has drafted a letter regarding the Mayors Clean Energy Pledge. All committee members voted “Aye” to go ahead and submit the letter to Mayor Quinton Lucas.
4. Remarks from Visitors

 The THB Group of Missouri Sierra wants to express our thanks to the leadership of OEQ and EMC with their support to our efforts to garner broader consideration of equipment for the street lighting project. Hopefully, a more environmentally amenable color of lighting along with dimming controls will be made part of the RFP.

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| The next EMC meeting is:  | DATE: March 10, 2021TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pmPLACE: Location Pending |
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The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

\*Action Items.