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| Graphic of window with KC skyline in background |

**Environmental Management Commission**

**Meeting Minutes March 10, 2021**

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Caroline (Molly) Davies, D. Jensen Adams, Marty Kraft, Nathan Madden, Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, Ben Proffer, Scott Klamm, Michael Kelley, Duvel (DJ) Pierre.

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Kimberly Hill, Joseph (Joe) Nickels, Julie Koppen.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Gerald Shechter, Rachel O’Neal, Matt McKinley – OEQ.

Guests: Jacob Wagner - UMKC; Billy Davies - Sierra Club; Bridget Sanderson – Environment Missouri; Carl Stafford – My Region Wins; Emily Wolfe – MEC; Mary Kay McGinty; Patrick Hosty – Dynamhex; Meghan Freeman– Heartland Conservation Alliance; Philip Fracica – Renew Missouri.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm; A quorum was present. Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
2. \*Minutes –Caroline (Molly) Davies made a motion, seconded by Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, to approve, as presented, the minutes of the meeting of February 2021. The motion passed.
3. House Bill 488 and Senate Bill 230 – Billy Davies

Please see attached presentation.

* This bill impacts the city’s ability to take actions such as adapting strong building codes, offering incentives, implementing new policies regarding energy sources, etc. in order to reach energy goals
* Largely backed by gas industry lobbyist
* Both pieces of legislations have moved out of committee
* These bills ignore the potential for technological advancement currently underway by having no expiration date
* See also: [https://www.npr.org/2021/02/22/967439914/as-cities-grapple-with-climate-change-gas-utilities-fight-to-stay-in-business](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npr.org%2F2021%2F02%2F22%2F967439914%2Fas-cities-grapple-with-climate-change-gas-utilities-fight-to-stay-in-business&data=04%7C01%7CRachel.ONeal%40kcmo.org%7C12f75245648d414f911708d8e40b088b%7Cec24091159794419a8ecc808b076019b%7C0%7C0%7C637510083341846460%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ssg35THipfEYiEQi37xG8TfqxDhozWNSgYRLn0XYeXU%3D&reserved=0)
* OEQ was able to send a letter in opposition of this legislation
* \*Call to Action: Contact your Senators and Representatives as soon as possible
* Bridgette Sanderson’s Op-ed: https://themissouritimes.com/opinion-missouri-needs-climate-action-preemption-stands-in-the-way/

1. Grant Opportunities – OEQ

OEQ has a fairly small staff. Is there any room within the EMC to assist OEQ in vetting grant opportunities?

OEQ is currently looking at the following opportunities:

1. Bloomberg philanthropies BioChar project – Marty Kraft expressed interest in helping with this grant
2. USDN Energy Innovation fund – Scott Klamm volunteered to look into this opportunity
3. EPA Environmental Justice Grant
4. Climate Justice For All https://www.climaterealityproject.org/apply/grant-application
5. City Nature Challenge - Lara Isch

* KC is partnering with the KC Zoo in the international City Nature Challenge
* The contest runs from April 30 – May 3, 2021
* To participate download the iNaturalist App (https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2021-greater-kansas-city-metro-area) and take pictures of wild plants and animals
* Contact Lara Isch for more details lara.isch@kcmo.org

1. EMC Next steps

* Transformative Building Reform Letter – Ben Proffer
  + This letter may have to go to the Law department before being approved by the EMC, the steps be considered a “taking”
  + The question of retrofits vs. new builds will have to be addressed
  + How would the steps affect BIPOC? Data regarding implications may need to be researched
  + These ideas can be made part of the Climate Action Plan, OEQ will share ideas with the consultant so they include data analysis
  + The Climate Planning process is a great way to put ideas and strategies into practice
  + Perhaps research successful point systems to model this idea after
  + Objective: Look for big way to change people’s thinking/processes
  + If City Council is considering changes now (before the Climate Plan comes out) how can we get our ideas through to them?
  + Andy Savastino wants to focus on data-driven issues and solutions
  + The regional plan from MARC was intentionally not presented to Council - just in case they would come back and say that there already is a regional plan, no need to spend money on a city plan

1. Office of Environmental Quality Report - Andy Savastino

* Budget Adaption – Budget will be adapted by City Council on March 25th
  + The new budget will include the new positions of: Transportation Director, Chief Equity Officer and Tenant Advocate
  + No proposed cuts to staff or furloughs, but a retirement incentive is being offered (spots vacated by retirement must be held open for 6 months until being filled)
  + OEQ budget seems to have remained intact
* KC is partnering with UMKC and other KC organizations for a Heat Watch study to identify vulnerable communities affected by the Urban Heat Effect
* The new Climate Planning process was officially kickstarted with The Brendle Group and Sophic Solutions
  + The initial step is to develop an engagement plan
  + New GHG inventory
  + Risk and vulnerability assessment
  + Brendle is going to be looking at interns for OEQ to take on

1. Johnson-Su BioReactors – Marty Kraft

* The Johnson-Su is a different and slower process of making compost
* While the process is slower, it results in greater biological diversity
* The process is modeled after the digestive system of a buffalo
* It improves soil water infiltration and water retention by helping to increase soil carbon content
* Material is composted aerobically which encourages a complete biological breakdown of compost materials that results in a microbially diverse, fungal-dominant product
* Marty is hoping members of the Commission will educate themselves and get involved in the process

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 – None
4. Remarks from Visitors - None

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| The next EMC meeting is: | DATE: April 14, 2021  TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  PLACE: Location Pending |
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The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.

\*Action Items.