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| Graphic of window with KC skyline in background |

**Environmental Management Commission**

**Meeting Minutes April 14, 2021**

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom

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

Commissioners Absent: Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, Ben Proffer, Michael Kelley, Duvel (DJ) Pierre, Kimberly Hill.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Gerald Shechter, Rachel O’Neal, Chris Hays – OEQ; Mike Shaw, Shannon Dooley – Public Works.

Guests: Kristan Chamberlain, Adison Banks, Heather Nevarez – KC Can Compost; Don Wallace – Sierra Club, Emily Wolfe – MEC; Jacob Wagner - UMKC; Bridget Sanderson – Environment Missouri; DeeAnn Gregory.

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 –Caroline (Molly) Davies made a motion, seconded by Bob Berkebile, to approve, as presented, the minutes of the meeting of March 2021. The motion passed.
3. Update on Recycling Industry and Locally – Mike Shaw, Public Works
   * China created a law that materials must be 99.5% pure in order to be recycled or it will be rejected
   * The shift in the global recycling market has caused a loss in revenue for the City, however the market is finally starting to stabilize
   * It costs more to manage recycling vs trash
   * Pandemic led to a 15 - 20% increase of materials collected in Kansas City
   * The City was able to use some of the Cares Act money to manage this increased debt
   * Taking over trash collection saved the city $2 million, it is a possibility that the City may take over recycling in the future
   * What is the long-term situation with China?
     + As they are able to improve their distribution process it doesn’t look like savings will be passed on to us (the consumer).
   * Have other cities used their own materials? What would the investment look like?
     + Commodity prices are increasing and there is the potential to make money
     + The cost of building a new facility is $10 - $15M
     + The City of Columbia processes their own recycling
   * Recycling plastics can be something that would benefit our area
   * Having Ripple in our area has made glass recycling more affordable

1. KC Can Compost – Kristan Chamberlin, Heather Nevarez and Adison Banks

* The KC Can Triple bottom line: People, Planet, and Profit
* Committed to diverting commercial and residential food waste and other organic wastes
* Barriers to composting – Smell, bugs, lack of infrastructure, lack of education, equipment, support for businesses
* KC Can has made it very easy to implement composting across all sectors
* KC Can Green Core training program – Free training for people facing significant barriers to employment, such as homelessness
* Green Jobs – This is where the EMC can help the most, either as an individual by recommending specific green jobs for graduates or as a commission by promoting the overall growth of green jobs locally and within the city.

1. EAA – 2021
   * Volunteer Committee Members: Carol Adams, Nathan Adams, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Scott Klamm (maybe)
   * Dates have been changed: Nominations due by June 18, 2021, final awardees can be selected prior to the July EMC meeting
   * Does the commission want to add any special considerations for covid? No, does not need to be a primary criterion – it can be recognized during the ceremony itself
2. Climate Protection and Resilience Plan Update
   * An initial meeting was held with City and consultant staff members, next steps are beginning the equity focused education and engagement plan
   * Worked with the Planning department to add a separate webpage on the Bang the Table Comprehensive Plan platform, this will allow data sharing and additional outreach options
   * Brendle will be hiring a college age intern to help with the plan
3. Office of Environmental Quality Report - Andy Savastino
   * Earth Week Activities:
     1. Show me green sales tax holiday 4/19 – 4/25/21: exempts sales tax up to $1500 on energy star appliances
     2. 2021 Urban Heat Campaign - Participating with UMKC and will be looking for volunteers from the community to assist in data collection
     3. City Nature Challenge – 4/30/21 – 5/03/21 https://www.kcmo.gov/programs-initiatives/city-nature-challenge
     4. The Mayor will issue a proclamation declaring next week earth week
     5. The Parks department will be hosting a Paseo Blvd cleanup, see their website for more info and projects

* 2021 Leeds for Cities
* KC has applied for the 2021 Leeds for cities local leadership program
  + The City went through the Star training about 4 years ago
  + KCMO was selected as 1 of 15 communities across the country to participate
* 2021 IECC has been published
* The Climate Protection Plan will be used to address public engagement and the energy code will be held back from council until the public engagement process has been completed
* If there are any issues that aren’t addressed through the Climate Protection Plan, the Comprehensive planning process can be used as a back up
* Streetlight LED project
  + The city received 5 proposals and they are currently being reviewed.
* The Cities priority is to get the stimulus money into the hands of the community

1. Reports and Updates from Committees – None

* Air Quality Forum – Forecast for upcoming ozone season: Periods of drought, hotter than normal, the fall will have less moisture

1. New Business – None
2. Old Business – Johnson-Su – Is anyone onboard for this project? Please let Marty Kraft know.
3. Remarks from Visitors –

* DeeAnn Gregory – Concerned about the environmental impact of the new LED streetlights, a discussion followed with an end result of Carol Adams and Bob Berkebile agreeing to write a letter to the mayor citing recommendations from the EMC.

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| The next EMC meeting is: | DATE: May 12, 2021  TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  PLACE: Location Pending |
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The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

\*Action Items.

Links from meeting:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-00568-7>