



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes June 9, 2021**

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Commissioners Present: Carol Adams, Marty Kraft, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Scott Klamm, Michael Kelley, D. Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Julie Koppen, Ben Proffer.

Commissioners Absent: Duvel (DJ) Pierre, Nathan Madden, Joseph (Joe) Nickels, Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, Kimberly Hill.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Gerald Shechter, Rachel O'Neal, Chris Hays, Matt McKinley, Philip Boyles – OEQ; Eluard Alegre – Law.

Guests: Vera Williams – Green Spaces Committee of the Urban Neighborhood Initiative, Sarah Benal – HCA; Jim Turner, Don Wallace – Sierra Club; Brittanie Giroux; David Mitchell; Brigget Cooks; Bridget Sanderson – Environment Missouri.

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm; A quorum was present at that time. Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
- B. *Minutes – Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Caroline (Molly) Davies, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 2021. The motion passed.
- C. Climate Protection & Resilience Plan Update – Lara Isch
 - Two climate justice workers have been hired and the intern should be hired soon.
 - Working groups for six sectors of the climate plan are in the process of being formed.
 - OEQ is working with consultants to begin the GHG inventory.
- D. EMC Annual Report – Carol Adams
 - Highlight to the Mayor/City Council what EMC has in process as a letter or report format:
 - Purpose: to get Council prepared for what is next.
 - Introduce the importance of sequestration and soils.

*Please send Carol Adams your thoughts and ideas, the more ideas the better.
- E. Soil Building and Climate Change – Marty Kraft
 - Mindset/paradigm shift is needed.
 - Subgroup had a meeting with 6 in person and 6 on zoom.
 - Goal: share ideas in a clear and compelling manner.
 - How to take the information and turn it into action.
 - Molly Davies has offered to redo the Johnson-Su PowerPoint to be more accessible.
 - Ben Proffer offered his video production skills to help with this project.
 - Reaching rural Ag as well as urban Ag must be a priority.
 - Not one solution, but an aggregate of solutions.
 - Powell Gardens is finishing a master plan which includes several hundred acres devoted to regenerative Ag.
- F. Office of Environmental Quality Report - Andy Savastino & Lara Isch

- EMC and CPSC Appointments – Mayor’s office has acknowledged that recommendations have been made but the mayor has not made his appointments.
- Environmental Achievement Awards – only 1 or 2 nominations have been made so far with a deadline of June 18th. Does the commission agree to extend deadline if no more submissions have been made at that time? Carol Adams leaves that to OEQ discretion.
- DOE funds – Jerry gave a presentation and City Council approved the project to go forward.
- LEED For Cities/CDP – Staff is working on reporting for both.
- Benchmarking – Surpassed compliance date, but OEQ is still reaching out for more submissions.
- This past FY we had the lowest rate of “Opportunities for Improvement” compliance issues in the last 20 years.
- Public Works is working on the parameters for the LED Streetlight Conversion pilot program.

G. Reports and Updates from Committees

- Air Quality Forum – Andy Savastino
 - Link to project: <https://www.kcdigitaldrive.org/project/air-quality-sensors/>
 - 50 air quality sensors are deployed along a corridor that runs from Front St to 85th St, between 71 HWY & Main St.
 - They are looking for volunteer homes for to participate, monitors must be covered and powered.
 - Presentation from MARC about Complete Streets analysis.

H. New Business

- Ben Proffer and Joe Nickels have a meeting with Councilwoman Robinson regarding sustainability initiatives, specifically incentivizing development and environmental justice.
- Electrifying the fleet - City Manager has instructed OEQ to begin planning and working with stakeholders. This will be presented at the July ECM meeting and Brian Platt has agreed to be present to answer questions.
- When will the meetings transition back to in person? Andy will check the most recent internal city policy regarding commissions and meeting spaces.
- Recycling of old PV panels – Scott Klamm is researching, if you have any contacts in that field please reach out to him.
- Bob Berkebile met with Pat Kline in aviation about refreshing the heart forest and making it a part of the city’s cultural presence in partnership with BTG.
- November 30, 2021 will be Jerry Shechter’s last day with the city! He will be retiring and hopes to spend more time traveling with his wife.

I. Old Business – None

J. Remarks from Visitors – None

The next EMC meeting is: DATE: July 14, 2021
 TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
 PLACE: Location Pending

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.

*Action Items.