

Kansas City, MO Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC)  
Online Meeting Via Microsoft Teams  
August 10, 2021

*CPSC Members Present:* Thomas Grever (Chair), Bill Griffith, Kristin Riott, Robin Ganahl, Ellen Fairchild, Angela Crawford, Beth Pauley, Bridget Sanderson, Michael Kelley.

*CPSC Members Absent:* Justin Reyes.

*Staff:* Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Gerald Shechter, Rachel O'Neal - OEQ; Eluard Alegre – Law.

*Other Attendees:* Becca Stock, Shelby Sommer Jellie Duckworth, Justice Horn, Idalia Cabrales – The Brendle Group; Stephenie Smith – Sophic Solutions; Billy Davies, Class Wawrzinek, Don Wallace, David Mitchell – Sierra Club; Michael Fischer, Pam Kisslinger, Alissa Greenwald, Warren Adams, Levitt, Jeremy Knoll, Ashley Sadowski, , David Albrecht, Shaylyn Dean, David Dods, Emily Wolfe, Christy Engemann, Henry Love, Karen Clawson, Mary Kay McGinty, Jabbar Wesley, Jacob Wagner, Carl Schwendinger-Schreck.

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Introductions & Overview**

Thomas Grever opened the meeting at 3:05 pm with a brief welcome.

### **CPSC Member Introductions**

Tomas Grever – KC Attorney, Environmental Law focus, specializes in the Clean Air Act (emphasis on regulated entities), Resident for ~20 years, ~6 years on CPSC.

Angela Crawford – Marketer - works for builders' association (regional trade association), role on this committee is more personal than professional, interested in getting involved in a more strategic way.

Beth Pauley – 10 years as a non-profit/grassroots organizer, ~15 year resident, Involved in environmental policy for ~4 years; Climate & Energy Project (energy generation expertise) - focus on equitable energy policy & energy justice.

Ellen Fairchild – VP Chief Compliance Officer at Evergy, Leads environmental compliance & ESG efforts.

Bill Griffith – Retired teacher, Lived in KCMO for 6 years, Involved in environmental work as a volunteer since 1993 - Renewable energy, energy efficiency, and rural utility cooperative focus. Sierra Club involvement.

Bridget Sanderson – Lifelong KC resident, Works for Environment Missouri - A citizen-based environmental advocacy group, worked as a soil scientist for state of KS.

Kristin Riott – Served as Executive Director of Bridging the Gap for 11 years, lots of work related to climate change preparation and remediation - urban forestry, energy & water efficiency.

Michael Kelley – Policy Director for BikeWalk KC, also on Environmental Management Commission and liaison to that commission.

Robin Ganahl – Born in KC, went to KU, moved back 2 years ago, background as an Environmental engineer, Clean energy & community choice energy advocate, currently part of Mothers Out Front as a local organizer - voice for kids and concerned moms.

OEQ Staff:

Andy Savastino – Chief Environmental Officer

Lara Isch – Sustainability Manager

Gerald Shechter – Sustainability Coordinator

Rachel O’Neal – Administrative Assistant

### **Approval of May 2021 Minutes**

\*Bill Griffith made a motion, seconded by Ellen Fairchild, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 2021. The motion passed.

### **KC Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan**

Status Update, Public Outreach and Schedule

- History –
  - KC has had a climate protection plan since 2008
- 2020 goals needed to be updated - Resolution No. 200005
  - Municipal operations climate neutral by 2030; community-wide climate neutral by 2040
  - Need for changes at the utility scale; also changes needed in the building, energy & transportation sectors
  - Mitigating the climate impacts is no longer a sole focus; need to also look to build a resilient city and adapt to changing climate
- Outreach to many groups is critical to this process, there was a project overview to CPSC at the June meeting - can revisit that video if desired (reach out to Rachel O’Neal for the recording)
- CPRP markers
  - Build on existing data - within city and regionally
  - Deeper neighborhood & community understanding
  - Actionable solutions and implementation partners
- Timeline - working to update the plan in 2021-2022 with the long term goals noted above
- Climate Action Framework
  - Double down on emissions reduction work
  - Growing adaptation & resilience to climate change impacts
  - Working with, not for community through this process
- What Impacts are Expected?
  - Does the data align with lived experiences?
  - Severe heat events
  - Flooding
  - Climate migration
  - Air quality
  - Disease
- Committed to hearing the voices of all Kanas City residents
- Human-driven, equity-centered approach
- Climate Justice Workers role is to make sure the process and outcomes are equitable

- The main foundation is to understand the definition of climate equity – adapted a definition that includes prioritization of historically marginalized communities and acknowledges the need to help communities heal through this process
- Leveraging MARC's research & mapping of local risks & vulnerabilities to identify target areas for outreach
- Climate Justice Workers –
  - facilitators and trust builders in this process
  - Plan to engage:
    - Historically marginalized groups and neighborhoods
    - CPSC
    - Technical advisors (including city staff)
    - Elected and appointed officials
    - Organizational partners
    - Public
  - Keeping track of various metrics to make sure we are accountable to this process
  - Facilitators for the community - uplift, amplify and bring others into the process
  - Want the community to feel like this is their plan and they have a part to play
- Important to have different engagement points and methods for qualitative and quantitative data
- Wanting to connect the dots to what others are doing
- Online engagement doesn't supplant other types of engagement
- Couple climate-related information with other community challenges
- Phase 1 - Listen & Learn May through August 2021
- It's important for CPSC members to actively share these links & information to reach every part of the community! Also, please share your climate stories! [KC Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan | KC Spirit Playbook \(kcmo.gov\)](#)
- What have we heard so far?
  - Black community: common interests around near-term action related to urban heat - planting trees, community gardens, access to cooling centers
  - Civic and civil rights organizations are well-equipped to address interconnected and climate justice issues
  - Meeting the community where they are
  - Core infrastructure improvements - flooding & transportation
  - Also need to consider gentrification that happens alongside climate solutions
  - Bridging the Gap - Leak Stoppers & Urban Forestry program - example of existing & immediate community solutions
  - Phase 2: Collaborate & Explore - What solution ideas do you want to see? Especially at a neighborhood/hyper-local level
  - Phase 3: Prioritize & Align - What's going to have the most impact? What are the priorities?
  - Phase 4: Mobilize - begin acting on these priorities
  - Need CPSC help to move the needle politically
  - Welcome other suggestions for other events to talk to people about climate change issues

#### CPSC Questions and Discussion

- What are the targeted areas?
  - Maps developed by MARC and zoomed in by Brendle Group (e.g., high heat areas in NE)
- What is the framework for prioritization?
  - Emissions reduction potential (leveraging regional work) plus community interests and priorities
- What is the CPSC role?
  - Need to hear from the CPSC about their desired frequency and role and then determine how do we deliver on that

- CPSC may want to have their own meetings to evaluate what is presented and consider issues
- What is the proposed schedule for check-ins with Brendle and CPSC?
  - Late September - end of Phase 1
  - End of November - between phase 2 & 3
- Are evictions or utility shut offs part of this discussion?
  - This is a great point and will be added, it also overlaps with issues regarding energy efficient homes.
- Engagement of private funding must be a key part of the strategies that come out of this plan.
  - Identification of additional funding sources was written into the contract with Brendle and the plan is to have more focused and concise strategies.

### **Future Meetings**

- Frequency
  - September – between phase 1 & 2
  - November – between phase 2 & 3
  - January – Final Review
  - Thinking of meeting monthly while the climate plan is in motion, like the poll option for selecting the date.
  - Would like at least 10 days’ notice for upcoming meetings or call for agenda items.
- Topics
  - OEQ to fill in CPSC in on Brendle progress
  - Andy will work with the chair (Tom Grever) to set up the agenda. Please send potential agenda items to the chair.

### **Public Comments**

- Reaffirming that we are in the midst of a climate crisis.
- IPCC report may seem dire, humans have the power to right the ship.
- Consider a declaration of Ecological Emergency (with EMC or standalone)
- Regional Climate Planning effort is also happening now
  - This will be presented to the council in September

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.

\*Action Items