



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes October 13, 2021**

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Nathan Madden, Scott Klamm, Marty Kraft, D. Jensen Adams, Michael Kelley, Caroline (Molly) Davies.

Commissioners Absent: Duvel (DJ) Pierre, Joseph (Joe) Nickels, Julie Koppen, Ben Proffer, Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, Kimberly Hill.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Gerald Shechter, Rachel O'Neal, Chris Hays– OEQ.

Guests: Claus Wawrzinek, Billy Davies, Jim Turner, David Mitchell, Don Wallace – Sierra Club; Meghan Freeman – Heartland Conservation Alliance; Mark Samborski – Antioch Urban Growers; Bridget Sanderson – Environment Missouri; Maggie St. John, Jane VanSant, Pat Spring, Diane Waddell.

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:09 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 August 11, 2021. The motion passed.
Caroline (Molly) Davies made a motion, seconded by Bob Berkebile, to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 31, 2021. The motion passed.
- C. Soil Building Update – Mary Kraft
 - Molly will bring her students to the KC Farm School next Wednesday at 9am, Marty will be inviting the press for this event
 - Marty has meetings every Friday to discuss Johnson/Su and other related composting issues
 - When the city picks up “leaf and brush” most of it goes to MO Organics to be composted
Unfortunately, the final mix usually has plastic mixed in
 - Marty recommends mowing the leaves into your yard or having a leaf pile on the side
 - There is a debate within the composting community and funds are generally only available for anaerobic composting studies
 - The city composting pilot program is still being finalized and will hopefully be comprised of 8 sites
- D. Climate Protection & Resilience Plan (CPRP) Update & 2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory
 - The Brendle group is working on finalizing the Climate Risk and Vulnerability assessment, the GHG inventory is complete
 - This inventory has better data from Evergy and Spire
 - On track to hit the 2025 reduction goals for GHG emissions
 - Largest emissions sources shifted from commercial energy to transportation
 - Significant sources of emissions reductions include:
 - Evergy adding more green energy to its portfolio
 - Reduction in industrial emissions
 - Transportation emissions decreased by 5%
 - Emissions from city fleet vehicles has increased over time.
 - Aviation has reported higher electricity usage than in the past due to construction activities associated with the new terminal

- Marty suggested asking Brendle how water, as a GHG gas, is being considered during the GHG inventory
- For more information, including data sources go to our climate action page: <https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/city-manager-s-office/office-of-environmental-quality/climate-action>
- Currently in the Collaborate and Explore phase
- Please submit your climate strategies to the site: <https://playbook.kcmo.gov/cprp-explore>
- We have set up 3 virtual workshops and will hold 3 in person to collect strategies and have dialogue with the community. Please reach out to your network to invite people!
- Still finalizing stakeholder groups which are:
 - Energy Supply
 - Homes & Buildings
 - Natural Systems
 - Food
 - Mobility
 - Waste and Materials
- November – moving into the Prioritize and Align phase

E. Nuisance Code & Native Plants

- Andy was approached by one of the assistant city managers to look into the code in light of the recent city events regarding natural landscaping. He will be preparing a presentation on recommendations for this issue
- The community wants to know how the city is currently handling natural landscaping and if the inspectors are properly trained on natural landscaping
- Marty met with the mayor's office and recommended a couple of ecologists to consult
- Marty recommended the phrase "Natural Yard" rather than "Native Yard"
- Code officers must be educated and able to tell the difference between neglect and a cultivated natural landscape
- Review solutions provided by Julie that were included in the annual report regarding pesticides and water quality

OEQ Report

- LED Streetlight Conversion
 - Original bids were thrown out, but new bids have come in. Andy is on the selection committee for this project
 - The pilot projects are on hold due to supply chain obstacles
- Climate Emergency Resolution Update
 - EMC voted to hold off and revisit the issue when the Climate Planning Process was complete, however, Andy was contacted by Councilwoman Robinson and the law department to draft the resolution
 - A draft was provided but to date there has been no further action on this issue
- LEED For Cities
 - OEQ is actively collecting data for this project
 - Some credits are contingent upon the completion of the climate plan

F. Reports and Updates from Committees

- Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams
 - Looking into small particulate pollution relative to the wildfires in the West

G. Old Business

- The City manager signed off on the AR transitioning the city fleet to EV

H. New Business

- Climate Protection Steering Committee will now be meeting on the third Monday of the month

- Is the city in a position to incentivize the transition to electric tools such as lawnmowers, etc? Andy recommends adding this idea to the playbook since we are in the strategy collecting phase
- Link to EPA CAFE standards: https://explore.dot.gov/t/NHTSA-CAFE/views/CAFE_central_analysis_dashboards/Manufacturers?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y

I. Remarks from Visitors

- Mark Samborski – Welcomes constructive criticism on how Antioch Urban Growers can he can assist the commission with his grass roots organization and connections
- Billy Davies – The Department of Natural Resources is in the midst of updating the Missouri State Energy plan and recently held a listening session for the KC Region. Billy is very appreciative of the work that the EMC and many members of the audience play in this process
- Bob Berkebile and his partner have bought a house in Kansas and he has made the decision to submit his resignation for this committee. This is expected to be in effect by the next meeting

The next EMC meeting is: DATE: November 10, 2021
 TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
 PLACE: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01pm.
*Action Items