



**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes November 10, 2021**

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Marty Kraft, Michael Kelley, Scott Klamm, Julie Koppen, Nathan Madden, Ben Proffer, Jensen Adams.

Commissioners Absent: Caroline (Molly) Davies, Duvel (DJ) Pierre, Gloria Ortiz-Fisher.

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

Guests: Sarah Benal – HCA; Billy Davies, Jim Turner – The Sierra Club; Don Wallace - Climate Council of Greater KC; Bridget Sanderson - Environment Missouri; Brittanie Giroux, Emily Wolfe – MEC.

A. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; A quorum was not present at that time. Co-chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.

B. Climate Protection Steering Committee – Michael Kelley

- Meeting regularly
- Michael Kelley was voted vice chair
- Primary focus is to assist and inform city staff as they work to develop language and outreach related to the CPRP
- Working to formalize the process on how the committee will consider and advise on elements of the new plan
- The CPSC sent a letter with recommendations to update state and federal legislative priorities
- The mayor still has two seats to fill on that committee, if you wish to apply please visit this site: <http://city.kcmo.org/kc/BoardInfo/Default.aspx>

C. Ordinance No. 210966 – Bicycle Lanes and Complete Streets

- Councilwoman Robinson introduced a concerning piece of legislation that effectively directed the City Manager to remove bike lanes unless a neighborhood association wanted to keep them, banned new bike lanes unless city council and neighborhood associations signed off, and opted councilwoman Robinson's entire district out of the Complete Streets ordinance
- This type of ordinance is concerning because it creates framework and precedence for council people to opt out of ordinances that they do not like
- BikeWalkKC was able to meet with councilwoman Robinson to bring these concerns to her attention and it is the understanding that she is willing to work on legislation that gets closer to her main concerns which in this case is community engagement
- Councilwoman Robinson has requested a hold until December 1<sup>st</sup> and is willing to request another hold so that BikeWalkKC can work on satisfactory language and she can collect public comments

D. A quorum was present.

\*Minutes – Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Julie Koppen, to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 2021. The motion passed.

Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Scott Klamm, to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 2021. The motion passed.

E. Resolution No. 210967 – Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency

- Changes that came out of the committee substitute added four sections:

- Section 9 - Revisit the climate goals on a regular basis
- Section 10 – Encourage utility companies to align with the goals of the city
- Section 11 – Support federal commitment to climate action
- Section 12 – Support regional climate efforts

#### F. Climate Protection & Resilience Plan (CPRP) Update

- Now entering the Prioritize and Align phase (phase 3) which will run until December. Strategies will go into “buckets” and the consultant will do high level analysis to determine which strategies will be most effective
- Climate action areas were separated into six “buckets” which are:
  - Mobility
  - Energy Supply
  - Natural Systems
  - Homes and Buildings
  - Food
  - Waste and Materials
- The buckets are all centered around climate justice and equity, with community resilience, financing and innovation, and community empowerment woven into all areas
- Draft plan by January
- Topical workgroups have been scheduled for December
- Community engagement went well and focused on council districts that are most susceptible to the effects of climate change
- This plan is designed to be a community driven plan. Strategies, engagement and education aspects, and policies and programs will all come from the community

#### G. Soil Building Update – Mary Kraft

- Bob Berkebile helped Marty out on Friday, and they determined that steps must be taken to ensure that the Johnson-Su does not freeze
- Molly Davies UMKC students went to the KC Farm school and built 3 Johnson-Su bioreactors
- Trying to build one in a dog kennel as a makeshift greenhouse
- Reaching out to other nearby communities that have more experience in colder weather
- Encouraging the development of natural soils by more than just Johnson-Su
- Please contact Marty for details on joining his group or to have a Johnson-Su built!
- After public outcry regarding natural landscaping and the nuisance code, many city officials met with Marty and have agreed that now is the time to change city policies on this issue. Melissa (the Assistant City Manager) asked Andy Savastino to make a presentation on this subject. With a new director of Neighborhoods, the vision of that department is to be less punitive and they will start with revamping this code

#### H. OEQ Report

- This is Jerry’s last meeting as a city employee, we will be having a celebration of his work on his last day which is November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Rachel O’Neal for more details
- Rachel O’Neal was promoted to Environmental Officer, new admin coming soon
- LED Streetlight Conversion – Financial analysis has been run and the selection committee is still reviewing the bids
- Solar Array Project at the Airport – The City is moving forward with a feasibility study that will determine how much of the 2,000 – 3,000 acres can be used. This should equate to 200 – 300 MW in capacity
- Energy Code – Andy and Lara met with Councilwoman Bough and are tasked with putting together an ordinance to adapt the 2021 IECC with inclusion of strengthening amendments. Greg Franzen is retiring, Jeff Lee will take over
- LEED Standards Committee – Joe Nickels, who was the EMC representative on that committee is retiring which leaves a seat open. The committee meets quarterly
- Budget – planning is underway. The new City Manager has changed the internal process and OEQ has had to justify every line item for the department. Andy encourages the EMC to provide input whenever possible into this process

I. Reports and Updates from Committees - None

J. Old Business –

- Meeting in Person – the mayors order has expired, and City Hall is expecting new advice from the Mayor on Friday. Andy will send out a poll to see how all EMC members feel

K. New Business - None

L. Remarks from Visitors –

- Industrial Park in South KC – how does the public make sure that developers will consider wildlife and other environmental issues during construction?
  - Share concerns with City Council members
  - Reach out to Jeff Williams, the Director of City Planning
  - The resolution passed last week does have language that can be referenced and will be shared internally. Education of staff must be bridged, and it may take time to create new policies and standard working practices
  - Kerrie Tyndall manages a program called AdvanceKC. <https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/city-manager-s-office/office-of-economic-development/advancekc> This program is currently seeking community feedback about this topic

The next EMC meeting is:      DATE: December 8, 2021  
   TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
   PLACE: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44pm.

\*Action Items