

Kansas City, MO Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC)
Online Meeting Via Microsoft Teams
November 15, 2021

CPSC Members Present: Robin Ganahl (Chair), Michael Kelley (Vice-Chair), Angela Crawford, Bill Griffith, Kristin Riott, Bridget Sanderson.

CPSC Members Absent: Beth Pauley, Thomas Grever, Ellen Fairchild.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Gerald Shechter, Rachel O’Neal, Chris Hays, Matt McKinley, Matthew Nunez – OEQ; Brain Platt – City Manager.

Other Attendees: Ashley Sadowski – MARC; Beto Lugo Martinez – Clean Air Now; Billy Davies, Scott White – Sierra Club; David Mitchell – Citizens Climate Lobby; Shaylyn Dean, Lemart Holman, Jabbar Wesley, Christy Engemann, Cliff Garrett - Spire; Emily Wolfe, Kelly Gilbert, David Albrecht – MEC; Jeremy Knoll – BNIM; Joan Leavens – Shawnee Mission School District; Lindsey Constance – City of Shawnee, KS; Mary Kay McGinty – Mothers Out Front; Ron Achelpohl – MARC; Laela Zaidi, Raymond Forstater, Ryan Dickey – Sunrise Movement; Amy Ramirez.

Introductions & Overview

Robin Ganahl opened the meeting at 3:31 pm with a brief welcome.

The City is organizing several topical workgroups in December. To get involved, please visit the website: <https://playbook.kcmo.gov/cprp-align>

This is Jerry Shechter’s last meeting as a City employee. Everyone wishes him well.

Approval of October 2021 Minutes

*Robin Ganahl made a motion, seconded by Michael Kelley, to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 2021. The motion passed.

Public Comments

Beto Lugo Martinez – invited everyone to Health, Equity & Environmental Justice in Kansas City - Wednesday, November 17th, 2-3:30pm CT. Register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMnewnCXvCAWmHZAz_GF6y9UfmbPdCEzxLrUcAvaYFmy1YZA/viewform

Sustainability Priorities – Brian Platt, City Manager

The City Managers Strategy was to leak the Solar Array story to the news before plans were made, so that they could have something to talk about to the people in DC and force people to not be able to say no to the idea.

His main environmental projects are:

LED Streetlights

EV for City Fleet

Solar Project at the Airport

- So far, it is unclear on how much land can be used and how much energy can be produced.
- Contracting with NREL for guidance.
- A feasibility study is in process.

- Ideally, rates will not go up for customers, but a lot of infrastructure will need to be put in place to get this project up and running. Brian does not have any type of range of what this will cost at this point.
- Evergy has been supportive of this project and they are offering advice for an easy transition.
- Battery Storage – will be a component of the feasibility study.
- The airlines are interested in options to replace equipment and vehicles to renewable sources.
- Objectives: De-Carbonize our Energy Supply and Resilience.
- Energy independence will come from having local sources to use in the case that there is a regional challenge.
- Did Evergy promise that the airport will be powered by renewables? Yes, but a windfarm that was part of this deal was not able to be used. New plans must be put in place to achieve this goal.
- The goal isn't to lower rates, but to balance rates with a more efficient process with climate benefits.

Vote on Building Code Recommendations Letter

*Robin Ganahl made a motion, seconded by Michael Kelley, to approve the letter on Building Code Recommendations and send it to City Council. The motion passed.

Prioritization Framework for the Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan – Lara Isch

- Topical area workgroups are being scheduled for December. If you would like to be a part of one or more of these groups, please reach out to lara.isch@kcmo.org.
- Brendle sent a draft strategy evaluation form. Brendle will fill in columns A-K based on data analysis that they have done, L – Q will be filled out based on the community climate sessions that have already been held, and topical groups will work on R – X.
- All of the strategies have come from community outreach which is ongoing.
- The City's fiscal year runs from May 1st – April 30th. In order to secure funds, specific details are needed for specific projects.
- A mock up of the final plan was distributed by Brendle to the CPSC members for feedback.

Review Recommendations from CAKC Regional Climate Plan, Including Tree Canopy, and Energy Efficiency

- Wants to approach the Regional Plan, since it will overlap the CPRP.
- Funding for the Urban Forest Master Plan has not been achieved.
- Wants to know how the CPSC can turn plans into realities (funded projects.)
- The City holds public budget meetings (generally in February), all are encouraged to attend and offer ideas as an individual to City Council. Reaching out to your councilperson is also effective.
- It has been recognized by City Council that many resolutions are passing without specific funding plans in place.

Updates from Andy Savastino

- Energy Code – Met with councilwoman Bough and City Planning and will have a draft Ordinance of the 2021 Code Energy Code by mid-December.
- Andy is a liaison for on Solar Array project and will keep the committee updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

*Action Items