



## **Environmental Management Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes: December 8, 2021**

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Commissioners present: Carol Adams (Chair), Marty Kraft, Scott Klamm, Ben Proffer, Jensen Adams, Michael Kelley, Nathan Madden, Duvel (DJ) Pierre, Gloria Ortiz-Fisher.

Commissioners Absent: Julie Koppen, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Kimberly Hill.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Rachel O'Neal, Matt McKinley, Chris Hays – OEQ; Kerrie Tyndall – Economic Development; Scott Cahail – KC Water; John Santner – Health.

Guests: David Mitchell – Citizens Climate Lobby; Emily Wolfe, Brittanie Giroux – MEC; Don Wallace, Billy Davies, Jim Turner – Sierra Club; Robin Ganahl – Mother's Out Front; Maggie St. John – Antioch Urban Growers; Jerry Shechter.

A. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm; A quorum was present at that time. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.

B. \*Minutes – Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Nathan Madden, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 2021. The motion passed.

#### C. City Organization Regarding OEQ – Carol Adams

- Carol Adams feels strongly that OEQ would be more effective as part of the City Manager's Office rather than Neighborhoods and has drafted a letter to the Mayor and City Council recommending that OEQ is not moved from under the City Manager's office.
- Carol also hopes that other environmental organizations will advocate on behalf of OEQ.
- OEQ has a lot of work that falls outside of the general description of the Neighborhoods department such as:
  - City Compliance
  - Procurement
  - City Planning
  - Regional Environmental Issues
- At this time, the City Manager is planning to move some divisions, currently within the City Manager's office, to the Neighborhoods Department (311 Action Center, OEQ and Bizcare.) There was talk of moving the Compliance side of OEQ to Public Works, but OEQ has built in efficiencies and overlap so Andy was able to persuade Brian Platt and Forest Decker that OEQ should stay together.
- In 1994, a consent decree was written, and the Environmental Management department was created. A consultant recommended that the Office of Environmental Management be part of the City Manager's office. At that time, sustainability wasn't a large part of the conversation.
- The vision of Neighborhoods is in the process of being re-imagined, which could be why the City Manager wants to move OEQ. This could end up putting more pressure on neighborhood associations or other key stakeholders.
- The Heartland Conservation Network has conducted 3 surveys in the last few years asking Sustainability Managers in various cities where they would prefer to be in City structure and why. Overwhelmingly, the majority selected the City Manager's Office.

\*Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Michael Kelley, to proceed and send the letter to the Mayor and City Council.

D. AdvanceKC EDI Policy – Kerrie Tyndall  
See Attached Presentation.

- AdvanceKC is the Cities strategic plan for economic development.
- <https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/city-manager-s-office/office-of-economic-development/advancekc>
- Resolution 210919 – recommendations from the AdvanceKC Policy Review Committee to City Council to adopts a set of purposes and values as well as directs the Committee to make recommendations relating to 3 core ideas:
  - Incentive Tiering
  - Equity Scorecard
  - Housing Continuum
- Resolution 210920 – Adapts the Economic Development and Incentives Policy which has 6 focus areas:
  - Economic Growth
  - Creation of Quality Jobs
  - Development Generally
  - Residential
  - Commercial and Industrial
  - Fiscal Responsibility
- Scheduled to go to City Council on January 12, 2022 in the Neighborhoods and Planning Committee.
- Kerrie is looking for 1 to 3 high level policy statements/concepts to include in this plan. A small work group will be formed to create this content. Current volunteers for the small group are:
  - Jensen Adams
  - Nathan Madden
  - Ben Proffer

#### E. Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan (CPRP) Update – Lara Isch

- Brendle has narrowed down the strategies to 23 and 200 action items.
- Strategy prioritization meetings are coming up for the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Brendle has ranked the strategies based on several data driven categories to provide an initial score.
- After the Strategy meetings, Brendle will prepare a draft plan.

#### F. Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) Report – Andy Savastino

- LED Streetlight Conversion Project – The selection committee reviewed bids and is moving forward with a demonstration project.
- Nuisance Code and Natural Landscapes – Meetings will be set up after the new year.
- Energy Code – Greg Franzen has retired, and Jeff Lee has taken his place. Jeff is working towards drafting the ordinance to endorse the 2021 IECC updates.
- Rocky Mountain Institute – Invited KCMO to participate in the Solarize 2022 Cohort which works to provide solar panels to low-income families at a discount. The City would procure solar panels to get bulk discount and work with local installers for a lower rate. Andy is looking for CBO’s/local partners to participate. It will probably be about a 3 – 4-hour time commitment each month.
- Gloria with Westside Housing will volunteer for the cohort.

#### G. Reports and Updates from Committees - None

H. Old Business – Marty has developed a heater/digester for the Johnson-Su composter. Experiments continue to find the best way to utilize the Johnson-Su during low temperatures.

#### I. New Business - None

J. Remarks from Visitors – Billy Davies is very appreciative of the EMC stepping in and writing a letter against OEQ moving to Neighborhoods as well as OEQ’s involvement with the Rocky Mountain Institutes cohort.

The next EMC meeting is:      DATE: January 12, 2022  
   TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
   PLACE: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.

\*Action Items