

# **Environmental Management Commission Meeting Minutes: January 12, 2022**

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

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

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Rachel O'Neal, Chris Hays – OEQ; Melissa Kozakiewicz – City Manager's Office; Forest Decker – Neighborhoods.

Guests: David Hakan - KC Drawdown Society; Don Wallace, Billy Davies, Jim Turner – Sierra Club; Alissa Greenwald, Bridget Sanderson - Renew Missouri; David Mitchell Citizens Climate Lobby; Emily Wolfe – MEC; Sarah Benal, Magali Rubi Rojas – Heartland Conservation Alliance; Vera Williams – Surface Water Solutions.

A. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm; A quorum was present at that time. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests. All the commissioners introduced themselves, including the newest member, Carol Macken.

- B. \*Minutes Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Ben Proffer, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 2021. The motion passed.
- C. Report on OEQ Organizational Change Meeting with City Manager's Office Carol Adams/Michael Kelley
  - After the letter regarding the OEQ organizational changes was sent to the City Manager's office a small meeting was held. Unfortunately, the request for OEQ to remain part of the City Manager's office was denied.
  - The City Manager's office believes that moving OEQ to Neighborhoods will provide additional support and resources.
  - The City Manager's office realizes that OEQ and the other divisions that will be moving do much more than "Neighborhoods" and they are considering changing the name.
- D. Annual Report Planning Carol Adams
  - Carol Adams would like to start a work group to work on a draft of the annual report. Initial volunteers
    are:
    - o Caroline (Molly) Davies, Nathan Madden and Ben Proffer.
    - o Focus of the report will be on next steps of Climate Plan.
- E. Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan (CPRP) Update Lara Isch
  - Finished Strategy Prioritization Sessions last month.
  - Consultants used the information from those meetings to start drafting the near-term implementation plan.
  - Still need to have internal Strategy Prioritization meetings with department directors to get feedback on feasibility and other logistics.
  - A very rough draft of the plan was provided to OEQ staff for feedback last week. Consultants are now
    compiling all the information to get a public draft ready which will be presented at the January 24<sup>th</sup>
    Climate Protection Steering Committee meeting.
  - Climate justice workers will be reactivated to share the draft plan with the people/groups that they have already reached out to.

- The plan will be put out for community review through the Bang the Table site for about a month before it will be finalized.
- Final plan is scheduled to go to City Council in March for adoption.

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

- Streetlight conversion project Staff recommendation for a contract with Black and McDonald made it through TIO today, goes to full City Council on Thursday. Project will start May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
  - Can demonstration sites be listed on an insert in the water bill? Not sure how effective that would be since most people use auto-pay/paperless billing. Andy will bring it up to communications for their thoughts.
  - o Color temperature and/or dimming has not been formally decided yet.
    - Would love to see bat-friendly street lighting
- Energy Code Councilwoman Bough asked Jeff Lee in City Planning and Andy to draft an ordinance supporting 2021 IECC.
- Solarize Campaign Bulk purchasing program for residents who wish to install solar panels. Other cities have shown a 20% reduction in cost from this program. The program is for residential and commercial properties.
- Evergy announced that it is looking to build a large solar array on Hawthorn for the community solar program.

## G. Reports and Updates from Committees

- The Air Quality Forum group did not meet this month, but the PM 2.5 workgroup did.
  - o The PM 2.5 group focuses on breathable particulate pollution in the Kansas City area.
  - In the last year or so Kansas City has had some days with significant spikes due to wildfires and the recent dust storm.
  - The group is focusing on community communication, especially for planned events like the Flint Hills prescribed burns.
  - o Going inside does not protect a person from particulates.

## H. Old Business

 AdvanceKC workgroup – A letter was sent to Kerrie Tyndall with points regarding inclusion of environmental considerations for the new EDI policy.

#### I. New Business

- Suggestions for the next meeting:
  - Review the draft of the CPRP
  - o Is there a role for this committee to become involved in the houseless problem?
    - Passive house multi-family buildings
  - Annual Benchmarking Report
  - CAPA Heat study results

#### J. Remarks from Visitors

- David Mitchell feels that the move of OEQ to Neighborhoods is counterintuitive and thinks that the City should develop an entirely new department. He also believes that the commission should use the term Global Warming instead of Climate Change.
- Billy Davies appreciates all the work that this commission and others have done. He recognizes that
  the City is working on inter-departmental communication and equity.
- There needs to be a cultural shift/mindset.

The next EMC meeting is: DATE: February 9, 2022

TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

PLACE: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

\*Action Items