



## **Environmental Management Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes: April 13, 2022**

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

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

Commissioners Absent: Scott Klamm.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Rachel O’Neal, Chris Hays, Marleny Flores, Matt McKinley – OEQ; Delia Heffeman – Water; Forest Decker- Neighborhoods.

Guests: Alissa Greenwald, Billy Davies, Bridget Sanderson, Brittanie Giroux, Lemartt Holman, Jeremy Knoll, Jerry Shechter, Sara Greenwood, Davonna Williams, Adam Rossi, Eslun Tucker, Angela Crawford, Julie Peterson, Jim Turner.

A. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 DJ Pierre, to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 2022. The motion passed.

#### **C. Drafting the Annual Report – Carol Adams**

The current volunteers for the workgroup are Caroline (Molly) Davies, Ben Proffer and Nate Madden.

- Nate Madden – is there any measure of the impact of the annual report?
  - Andy Savastino thinks that this commission and the Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) have brought an awareness of environmental priorities to the City Council.
  - Nate Madden also suggested letting the Climate Protection and Resilience Plan (CPRP) guide the Annual Report.
- Needs a focus on race and frontline communities, Nate Madden volunteered to draft this section.
- Ben Proffer’s recommendations:
  - Mobilization, Education, Inspiration
  - Community Climate Captains
  - Subsidies, Proofs, and Planning
  - Education, Apprenticeship, Ownership
- Bring action items from the CPRP to the attention of council so they may begin to plan on funding.
- Marty Kraft wants to include soil diversity issues in the Annual Report.
- Carol Adams suggests that the committee Review AR 5-5.

- Molly Davies suggested we use the same format as last year for the Annual Report and the idea of Block Captains.
- Marty Kraft -There is a Program called the Climate Friendly Yard Make Over which demonstrates many of the ways homeowners and citizens can enjoy the benefits of transforming a standard American yard into one that...
  - Pulls carbon from the air and sequesters in the soil.
  - Is beneficial to birds and insects
  - Holds more water and needs less watering
  - Uses fewer or no artificial inputs like fertilizer, or biocides
  - Costs less to maintain with lower environmental footprint

#### D. Climate Protection & Resilience Plan Update – Andy Savastino

- Public comment period ended yesterday, there were about 750 comments.
- The CPSC has organized into working groups and will meet to discuss incoming comments.
- Next steps depend on the outcome of public comments and how the CPSC decides to proceed.
- The contract with the consultant team The Brendle Group has been extended.

#### E. Environmental Achievement Awards

Once the application is approved, we can post it for city employees.

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

- Staffing – Welcome Marleny, the new OEQ admin.
- Jerry’s old position has been posted on the city website; Link to the job posting: [https://psweb.kcmo.org/psc/ps/MOBILE/MOBL/c/HRS\\_HRAM\\_FL.HRS\\_CG\\_SEARCH\\_FL.GBL?Page=HRS\\_APP\\_JBPST\\_FL&Action=U&SiteId=1&FOCUS=Applicant&JobOpeningId=514894&PostingSeq=1&](https://psweb.kcmo.org/psc/ps/MOBILE/MOBL/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST_FL&Action=U&SiteId=1&FOCUS=Applicant&JobOpeningId=514894&PostingSeq=1&)
- The City signed up for the National Building Performance Coalition cohort which is expected to be completed by Earth Day in 2024.
- Fuse Fellowship – OEQ was able to pick up a fuse fellow beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Energy Code – 2021 Code will be adapted, with one amendment regarding the bottom stud in a wall.
- Solarize KC: <https://www.solarcrowdsource.com/campaign/kansas-city/>
  - OEQ is currently soliciting bids for solar installers.
  - City Wide Kick off is on May 20<sup>th</sup>,2022.
  - Sign up period will run until the end of September for up to 20% Discount.
- Earth Day – Great KC Cleanup <https://www.kcmo.gov/programs-initiatives/cleanup>
- Show Me Green Tax-Free Holiday runs from April 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Any Energy Star Appliances are exempt of City, County, State taxes.
- Nuisance Code – working on drafting the next steps for the new code.

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

#### H. Old Business

- Economic Development Process – Kerrie Tyndall was not involved in the data center comments. We can revisit with her once her schedule frees up.

- Google and Facebook data centers are moving to KC. Both proposals went through the water department because of the amount of water that they will be using.

I. New Business – None

J. Remarks from Visitors

- Billy Davies - Supports OEQ staying in the City Managers office so that environmental policies can be implemented across all City departments.
- Bridget Sanderson – Bill about “advanced recycling” – Needs support at the state level;  
<https://house.mo.gov/bill.aspx?bill=HB2485&year=2022&code=R>
  - The state doesn’t want to have this type of facility treated as a solid waste facility.
- Jeremy Knoll – Compost-derived Organic Matter added to soil helps with storm water too.
  - 5% (max) added to an acre of soil can store 100,000 gallons of water. <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/lara-bryant/organic-matter-can-improve-your-soils-water-holding-capacity>

The next EMC meeting is:   DATE: May 11, 2022  
  TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
  PLACE: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

\*Action Items