



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2015

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, Westview Room

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Caroline Davies, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Rachel Guthrie, Jim Hansen, Kimberly Hill, Julie Koppen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Ben Proffer, Jack Schrimsher

Commissioners Absent: Jensen Adams, Tom Brink, Maria Coppock, Julie Davis

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Marleen Leonce – Public Works;

Guests: Anne McGregor – Sierra Club

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Co-Chairs welcomed commissioners, including four newly appointed Commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves. The newly appointed Commissioners are: Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Kimberly Hill, Duvel (DJ) Pierre, and Ben Proffer.
- B. Minutes – Jim Hansen made a motion, seconded by Bob Berkebile, to approve minutes of the meeting of March 2015 as presented. The motion passed.
- C. Legal Brief – Because Matt Gigliotti was ill, there was no Report
- D. Environmental Achievement Awards – Andy Savastino
 1. The awards recognize City employees who have gone “above and beyond” their normal duties to address an issue of sustainability in their job. Andy Savastino discussed the process of application, review and selection. The 2015 application will be posted online in April with applications to be received in May. Staff will work with Commissioners to review and select awardees with the awards celebration to be held in August. The awards celebration is the regularly scheduled meeting for August. Examples of awards from the last few years were provided. Carol Adams noted a working group of Commissioners will review the applications. Julie Koppen, Kimberly Hill, and Ben Proffer volunteered to review applications.

In response to a question about other awards, Dennis Murphey noted that the Environmental Achievement Awards are for KCMO employees. However, there are other award programs including MARC Sustainability Success Stories and the KC Green Neighborhood Recognition Awards. Applications for the Green Neighborhood awards will go live online on Earth Day (April 22, 2015) and are to be received in June.

Ben Proffer asked if the City provides any kinds of toolkits to help identify neighborhood sustainability needs; the answer was that the City has not done so. Bob Berkebile indicated he felt this would be a good thing to consider for the future.
 2. For Earth Day – April 22 – the City will have clean-up crews in several neighborhoods working with residents.
- E. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey
 1. Sustainability Circles – This is a new initiative in a partnership between Bridging The Gap and REV (formerly New Market Solutions). This process includes 11-12 organizations and businesses working, in a single format, to create respective sustainability action plans (SAP). The process, at City Hall, involves the internal green teams. Each of the partners in the process is paying a certain amount with the bulk of the cost, for each, subsidized by KCP&L. Dennis noted that the City has embraced sustainability as part of corporate business.
 2. The City is just beginning to move into addressing climate resilience. This entails being prepared to deal with the impacts of climate change which we cannot mitigate. A team of 6 people, including two elected officials – Scott Wagner of KCMO and Kurt Skoog of Overland Park – Dennis Murphey, Jasmin Moore of Johnson County, Kristin Riott of BTG, Tom Jacobs of MARC and Councilman Scott Wagner, went to Boston.

3. MARC was selected by the US Department of Energy to participate in the Climate Action Champions program. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with an office in Kansas City, is interested in participating. They are looking at what to expect and how to address changing weather conditions in the future.
4. Kansas City Energy Project (KCEP) – KCMO was selected 1 of 10 cities to participate in the project with a 3-year initiative focused on larger building stock. As part of the project, we are participating in the Mayor's Energy Challenge to get building owners and managers to benchmark their buildings. There will be a celebration of the first year event on April 20, 2015. An advisory committee – CEP-AC – was created to advise on project activities. Among the several activities is the drafting of a benchmarking and reporting ordinance. The next meeting of the CEP-AC is April 17, 2015.
5. The City now has photovoltaic solar panels on over 60 buildings and City Hall achieved an ENERGY STAR® rating of 92.

F. Liaison Updates – These are groups on which EMC has had or could have representation

1. Air Quality – Carol Adams - No report.
2. LEED – Jim Hansen – Jim Hansen - No report
3. City Energy Project – Tom Brink - See above in OEQ Report
4. Climate Protection Steering Committee - Bob Berkebile – No report
5. Solid Waste Management District - open

G. Preparation of Environmental Briefing for New Councilmembers – Impact of EMC for next four years – Carol Adams
There was general discussion about planning to meet with new City Council members after the election in June.

H. Old Business - None

I. New Business

1. Marty Kraft asked about tags he has seen on Ash trees. Dennis Murphey noted the City is injecting Ash trees to slow down the advance of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. It is estimated the region could lose in 4-5 million trees.
2. Wes Jackson, The Land Institute, will be at UMKC Pierson Auditorium on April 29, 2015.
3. Carol Adams noted, for the new Commissioners, the City has posted its 5-Year Business Plan online.

J. Visitors' Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm

The next regular monthly meeting is:

May 13, 2015 at 4:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, 2nd Floor - Westview Room
Kansas City, MO