

Environmental Management Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2007

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 2nd Floor, Westview Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: John Ware, Faith Brennan, Marty Kraft, Jim van Eman, Stephen Hopkins, Carol Adams, Richard Rocha

Others present: Dennis Murphey & Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Bruce Wiggins – City Planning & Development; Scott Cahail – Water Services; Ron McLinden – Sierra Club; Dustin Jensen – Metropolitan Energy Center;

- A. Meeting was convened at 4:05 pm at MARC by EMC Vice Chair John Ware; introductions were made. A quorum was present.
- B. Minutes of the last meeting – Stephen Hopkins made a motion, seconded by Jim van Eman, to adopt the minutes of the meeting of August 8, 2007 as corrected. The motion passed.
- C. Committee Reports
 1. Transportation – Stephen Hopkins
 - a. The main issue at this time is light rail. A petition has been circulated which will force a vote to repeal the previous light rail approval. The vote may possibly be February, 2008. There was significant discussion about the vote and whether or not there will be an alternate plan available to voters. This committee will attempt to bring an understanding of the issue to the EMC and will push for an alternate plan to be available for voters by 2/08.
 - b. The Fall series of KC One forums includes an update of the MARC Smart Moves program.
 - c. There was discussion about 2 meetings which were held in August involving the public in transit planning. One meeting was mid-town, the other was north of the river. It was agreed there is a need to have ancillary transit improvements enhancing and extending the impact of any light rail system.
 2. Climate Protection Plan – Jim van Eman
Committee intentions are to:
 - a. Maintain the EMC liaison to the Climate Protection Plan (CPP)
 - b. Be a conduit for EMC influence for CPP – Monitor Phase 1 implementation
 - c. Monitor Phase 2 planning so that implementation strategies are included
 - d. Continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce Energy Task Force, Climate Protection sub-group to provide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction recommendations to the CPP Steering Committee
 3. Solid Waste – Jim van Eman
Committee goals:
 - a. EMC liaison to the MARC Solid Waste Management District (SWMD)
 - b. Maintain relationship with Michael Shaw regarding solid waste recycling issues
 - c. Bring solid waste issues to the EMC
 - d. Promote construction waste reduction and recycling

4. Compliance – Rachel Treanor – No Report
 - 4-a – LEED – John Ware
Continue as EMC representative to the LEED Standards Committee
5. Water – Vacant – Carol Adams was asked to fill this vacancy and she accepted. The committee was expanded to include air quality issues as well as water.
 - a. Wet Weather Community Panel – Submitting the Conceptual Long Term Control Plan to EPA by the end of September to address combined sewer overflows and remedies for the problems. The document is available electronically. The focus is first on green solutions to see how much of the grey solutions can be reduced. The document will more fully integrate green solutions rather than include them as an add-on.
 - b. Air quality – EPA has agreed not to re-designate the metro area as non-attainment at this time. We have some time to make implement the Phase 1 Contingency measures in the recently approved Maintenance plan. However, the EPA has also proposed lowering the current 8-hour standard for ground-level ozone.
 - c. Stream Buffers – Included in the proposed new development code. There are some developer concerns regarding restrictions in the outer zones of riparian corridors. The code will be presented to the City Planning Commission October 2, 2007.
6. Communications and Outreach – Faith Brennan
 - a. Katrina Information Network (KIN) has referenced resolutions (see Milwaukee) that would essentially “blacklist” corporations and contractors cited for waste, fraud and mismanagement in the wake of hurricane Katrina and prohibit them from doing business in that community. The website references a similar proposal by City Councilman Terry Riley although no one seems to know anything about this including his Council Aide. Faith and Jerry are monitoring.
 - b. Establishing and maintaining relationships with the Mayor and Council will be a primary goal. Most EMC Commissioners live in Council Districts 2 and 4, so an effort should be made to expand the geographical diversity of the EMC.
 - c. Stephen Hopkins has established a “gmail” account which can be a library system for the EMC. Questions were focused on accessibility to the site both for the public and for City computers – which currently have no access.
 - d. A question came up about JC Alonzo’s e-mail address which is jcalonzo@kcemc.org and what position the EMC might take when he is no longer associated with the Commission.
7. Membership & Appointments – Carol Adams
 - a. JC Alonzo has not resigned but is no longer eligible to be a commissioner. It is presumed he will stay on until the Mayor appoints a new co-chair. In the interim, Bob Berkebile remains the other co-chair and John Ware remains the Vice Chair. Discussion of officers is deferred to a future meeting. Rachel Treanor, CAROL Adams and Dennis Murphey met to discuss potential EMC candidates to recommend to the Mayor’s office for consideration, but no names have yet been submitted.
8. Energy – Jim Scott – No Report
9. Local Foods – Marty Kraft

- a. Marty has contacted a person in Eureka Springs, AR who is involved in no-till agriculture who will come to KC to be part of a No-Till Workshop to be presented by KC Community Gardens in October.

D. OEQ Update Report – Dennis Murphey

Lots of things are happening including:

1. On August 9, 2007, City Council has passed a green solutions policy resolution. Assistant City Manager John Franklin convened a green solutions team, which meets every Monday afternoon, that is developing an implementation plan. It is expected the plan will be available by October and will include training for City staff and will address internal and external issues.
2. The proposed new economic development policy report is available electronically. The report includes some of the language recommended by Bob Berkebile for sustainability. The report includes references to LEED and to incentives for green building proposals.
3. The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce has become engaged in the climate protection process. Their annual visit and review of other cities this year is a trip for 120 persons to Seattle. Of primary interest is their public/private partnership for sustainability.
4. 2008 public policy recommendations are being developed by the Chamber's Energy Task Force and they are developing a legislative agenda. It appears they will support incentives for utilities to be proactively engaged in energy efficiency programs, alternate fuels, carbon sequestration and alternate power sources.
5. The major speaker series, referenced in previous meetings, begins this month. This is the beginning of a year-long speaker series, "Conversations on the Environment".
 - a. Ray Anderson, Interface Carpet, will speak on 2 occasions: (1) September 26th at Unity on the Plaza, from 5-7 pm, sponsored by BNIM, in conjunction with a presentation, from 7-9 pm, sponsored by Rainy Day Books on Frank Lloyd Wright; and (2) September 27, 2007 at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon.
 - b. Andrew Winston, co-author of Green to Gold, will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the KC Area Development Council on November 9, 2007.
6. Kansas Corporation Commission is interested in our climate protection planning process and is beginning to focus on renewable power sources and energy efficiency initiatives. They asked Dennis to speak to their staff and may ask him to speak to the Kansas Energy Council.
7. Dennis is going to Springfield, MO to participate on a panel discussion on climate protection.
8. Elk River wind farm has 150 MW capacity and is doubling that
9. Dennis is speaking at the Ozarks Renewable Energy Expo in Rocheport, MO on September 22nd 23rd -Tickets are available
10. Dennis made a presentation at MARC regarding the KCMO climate protection plan to environmental staff from Ontario and Newfoundland/Labrador
11. Dennis spoke with visitors from Russia hosted by Bridging the Gap
12. The City Manager and Councilman Russ Johnson have expressed an interest in exploring solar panels and thin film PV applications for city facilities.
13. The KCPL sponsored KC Energy Efficiency Forum is September 14, 2007 at Bartle Hall from 8 am to 2 pm

14. Congressman Cleaver is convening a group of metro area officials, by invitation only, to discuss the potential for a regional agenda on climate change and sustainability
15. KC Area Development Council will have its annual dinner on November 9, 2007. The featured speaker is Andrew Winston who is co-author of a book titled "Green to Gold".
16. The City is involved in a USGBC-sponsored effort to develop a tool to assist cities with green buildings, green neighborhoods and green infrastructure called the "Playbook for Green Buildings and Neighborhoods – Strategic Local Climate Solutions".

E. Climate Protection Plan (CPP) Update – Dennis Murphey – Due to time, the presentation was abbreviated
Phase 2 of the CPP begins this month. The first meeting will be held at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center at 4750 Troost. The Work Groups will meet from 4 pm to 6 pm. Although this is the 4th Tuesday, all subsequent Work Groups meetings will be on the 3rd Tuesdays. A complete listing of dates, times and places is being developed and will be made available when complete. Monthly meetings are projected through April, 2008. There will be a general discussion of the process and of projections. Staff was asked to prepare a 1-page statement of Phase 1 implementation status.

The following is a thumbnail list of Phase 1 implementation achievements:

- The City has hired a Bike/Ped Coordinator
- The City has hired a Trails Coordinator
- The GKC Chamber of Commerce has become engaged in addressing climate change and the city's response
- KCPL is developing an aggressive legislative agenda highlighting renewable energy sources (primarily wind energy), residential and business energy efficiency, and other
- Solid Waste Management Plan is being developed
- Parks & Recreation is moving ahead in purchasing and planting additional trees targeting the long-term goals of an additional new 120,000 trees and an annual replacement amount of 2,500 trees
- Input was provided in development of the Economic Development policy and the Green Solutions Policy Resolution recently passed
- City is studying the use of solar and wind power on its buildings
- City is studying the purchase of wind power
- City is studying the purchase of plug-in hybrid vehicles to be re-charged using solar and wind sources
- Energy audits of city buildings are continuing under the Energy Services Contract (ESCO) mechanism. Competitive bids are to be sought for future contracts
- City is studying the addition of an Energy Manager in the Facilities Management Division of General Services. Several job descriptions have been obtained and provided to the Facilities Manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm. Next meeting is October 10, 2007 at 4:00 pm. at the Westview Room at MARC (2nd Floor).