

**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2008**

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

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jimmy Adegoke, Bob Berkebile, Faith Brennan, Linda Clark, Marty Kraft, Stephen Hopkins, Dustin Jensen, Jim Scott, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Jim Scott

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino & Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Scott Cahail – Water Services;

Guests: Sarah Shmigelsky and Gretchen Burack – KC Healthy Food Policy Initiative
Yvonne Huff – Aquaterra Environmental Solutions
Tom Jacobs – MARC
Ron McLinden – KC Regional Transit Alliance
Carolyn Davies – UMKC Assistant Professor

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 pm; A quorum was present

- A. Carol Adams welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests and asked everyone to introduce themselves

- B. KC Healthy Food Initiative – Sarah Shmigelsky & Gretchen Burack
Part of the coalition is the KC Healthy Kids Initiative that addresses childhood obesity issues. The coalition member focus attention on the connections between the farm bills and health; the barriers and opportunities for stakeholders. They meet with local food growers and consumers including hospitals, schools, and other institutions. Next week – February 21, 2008 – national author Mark Winne, who wrote “Closing the Food Gap”, will be in KC at the Downtown Library speaking about Community Food Security Coalition and a range of related issues. He will speak about issues from farm to recycling and will be on the Steve Kraske radio show on KCUR as well.

The issues being addressed by Mr. Winne, and others in KC, include: access, economic sustainability, local food, policy issues, food insecurity. Their vision for a KC healthy food policy is development, but is focused on being able to get local foods into schools, hospitals, etc, easily and economically. They want to locally connect food and health (e.g., free snack foods in schools). They envision a regional, bi-state council. Barriers include the demand for local foods being greater than the supply and distribution issues. They want to begin with private and charter schools some of which may have a patron willing to help start a pilot effort. Carolyn Davies stated UMKC is interested in being involved in local food projects. KC Center for Urban Agriculture is also involved. They are focused on land use issues such as productive use of vacant lots. They asked to come back at a later date to provide an update and left flyers for events.

C. Minutes of the January meeting – Jim Scott made a motion, seconded by Dustin Jensen, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2007, as presented. The motion passed.

D. Committee Reports.

1. Local Foods – Marty Kraft – A discussion group has been started, focused on local food growing, to address: zoning, weed ordinances, food gardens, small livestock within city limits, noise and odors, composting, tax abatement, and a Mercado.
2. Transportation – Stephen Hopkins
 - a. Area mayors met with Mayor Funkhouser in the first Mayor’s Regional Transit Summit. They talked about regional transit, taxes and other issues. North KC has become active and engaged. There is the perceived need to better combine rail and transit concepts and issues.
 - b. KC Area Transportation Authority (ATA) will hold a scoping meeting, on 2/27, to talk about connectivity.
 - c. Editorial by Yael Abouhalkah addressed bus tax renewal proposing not approving the tax at this time but do it later in conjunction with a transit vote. Ron McLinden voiced opposition to this position stating he felt the regional concept would not come together by the November vote. He stated that what KCATA is studying is a logical first step toward a larger, regional transit system. He believes it is too risky to tie the two together now. Linda Clark expressed her opinion supporting Ron’s analysis. She is concerned that the bus system, primarily serving the 3rd Council District where people may have no other primary source of transportation, could lose its operating funds. Bob Berkebile indicated the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee met and supports the passage of the tax renewal. He believes the Mayor is properly forcing discussion of the potential for a regional plan. Clark noted that education is a problem about this issue on a number of levels. Jim Scott expressed the need to unbundle the concept of light rail and economic development. Although there may be a relationship, there is certainly no causality that economic development will occur with and along a light rail system.
3. Climate Protection – No Report.
 - a. Solid Waste Management – No Report.
4. Compliance – No Report.
 - 4-a. LEED –No report
5. Water & Air Quality – Carol Adams –
 - a. Air - Several activities are progressing that will have an impact on air quality. America’s Green Region is a far reaching regional approach to climate protection and all that is included. Sustainable Skylines Initiative has several projects that can show an impact. It is a bi-state program with one of the projects addressing vehicle idling – Idle Free Areas - especially at elementary schools. CMAQ funds are available for diesel retrofits of trash hauling vehicles. Deffenbaugh will, over the next couple of years, replace all their trucks.

Of great concern is the legislation mandating 10% ethanol (E-10) in Missouri. This will cause problems in the ozone season regarding evaporative mixes.

The Chamber Environmental Committee is drafting a letter to go to the Governor opposing such a mandate. It is almost too late as refineries are now making the summer evaporative fuels mix. There was a question as to whether an effort should be made with the Missouri Attorney General's office. Bob Berkebile noted that the Governor's Summit is being held Friday – 2/15 – in KC. He is a presenter and might be able to make a comment there.

- b. Water – The Wet Weather Community Panel has been meeting regularly and is addressing OCP issues. The report is to be submitted to EPA in July. A new Funding Task Force, chaired by Councilwoman Marcason, has been appointed by the Mayor to address costs and rate structures for water, sewer, and storm water service. There will be a big impact on all income groups, businesses,, etc. Scott Cahail reported the Mayor and Councilwoman Jan Marcason also attended the Wet Weather Panel meeting. The Mayor sees the opportunity to integrate things and to make a clear relationship between OCP and light rail/transit.

With regard to green solutions, Ginny Moore, MARC, spoke about the Green Summit coming in April as an opportunity to bring many stakeholders together. Dennis Murphey noted he and a number of City Council people and other staff went to Portland, OR this week and had a great opportunity to talk with them about a range of related issues. They impressed our delegation by making it clear that they had spent a lot of time breaking down their “silo” approach and integrating everything ... understanding that a decision in one area has an impact on several other areas. As an example, a developer has to landscape a project so why not have the landscaping address water run-off and storm water impact as well. And, this has an impact on sizing (and cost of) grey solutions for water run-off – i.e., reducing the size and cost of underground pipes, etc. by implementing green solutions first. Portland taxes/fees have increased about 6% per year since 1990 and will do so for the next 10 years to properly keep ahead of the problem. In KC, we have not only not kept up, but have fallen behind by having had a moratorium on increases for 5 years.

Finally, Carol Adams noted the City Plan Commission (CPC) passed the Stream Buffer plan virtually intact and sent it to City Council.

6. Membership and Appointments – Carol Adams – All Commissioners need to return their Conflict of Interest forms to the City Clerk and to return the EMC questionnaire to Jerry Shechter.
7. Communications & Outreach – Faith Brennan – The last EMC retreat was almost a year ago and we need to begin planning for a retreat for 2008. Carol Adams e-mailed a form for each Commissioner to fill out and return with information including best times to meet for a retreat. Based on the last retreat, it was proposed that the Commissioners “pair off” with a Council person to develop a better relationship with the Council. If anyone has an interest in a particular Council person, please contact Faith.
8. Energy – Jim Scott – Jim asked for volunteers to be on the Energy Committee with him. He indicated that public education about CFLs is critical and that there is confusion at hardware stores about proper disposal of the bulbs. He also stated that we should be aware that CFLs may not last as long as anticipated as the

quality of the electrical service results in a current less than optimal for CFLs causing them to burn out earlier. There will be a major problem in a year with analog TVs with the mandated switch to HD TV. Faith noted that there is an article in the January, 08 issue of National Geographic Magazine addressing electronic waste and recycling globally.

E. General Conversation among Commissioners

1. A CD was distributed that contains a broad range of historical information about the EMC. Carol Adams pointed out several of the items on the CD to read first
2. Volunteers are needed to help set the agenda for the next retreat, which should be in April, May or June, and to help find a location.
3. Everyone should complete the questionnaire and return it so we can provide the information to everyone.
4. The Commissioners will need to be sworn in by the City Clerk. Staff will find out if that can be done at the next meeting rather than asking individuals to go the City Hall.
5. All Commissioners need to return the Conflict of Interest forms to the City Clerk's office. This is a requirement of the State of Missouri.
6. The new public recycling bins he has seen on curbs are awesome. He asked if there was any movement to have curbside pick-up in the downtown area? Dennis Murphey noted that pick-up in the downtown area is only by private contract.

F. Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) – Dennis Murphey

1. Portland, OR trip – 8 persons from City Council and staff went to Portland to talk about transit, green solutions, storm water, bike/ped and other issues of concern to KC. The central message from Portland is “INTEGRATE” and establish teams that are designed to break down “silos” in city functions – transit, streets, storm water, etc. As an example, if a developer must include landscaping, include landscaping that also is designed to address water run-off. Dennis felt this was a good experience for City Council.
2. Council Housing Committee, chaired by Councilwoman Circo, has asked City Planning & Development to prepare an ordinance requiring future affordable housing to be Energy Star compliant. Jerry noted that the latest date from the US Green Building Council (USGBC) indicated that there is a 3.25% price premium to attain LEED certification and, so, there should be a somewhat lesser cost for achieving the Energy Star threshold.
3. A number of metro area mayors have met to discuss how to support each other in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Mayor Funkhouser will attend Shadowcliff in the summer for all the metro area mayors who have signed the climate protection agreement.
4. The Climate Protection Plan (CPP) Steering Committee will attend Shadowcliff and CPP Work Group chairs will be invited as well. The focus will be on the next steps beyond having a CP Plan.
5. The Chamber of Commerce met, 2/28/08, about next steps for the CP Partnership
6. Conversations on the Environment – The next speaker will be Hunter Lovins of Natural Capitalism Solutions and formerly of the Rocky Mountain Institute. She will speak, at a public forum, at the Downtown Library at 6 pm on March 4, 2008. She will meet with the Civic Council. And, area mayors, who have signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, will have a breakfast meeting with her.

G. Announcements

1. Rachel Treanor is, again this year, working on the Environmental Achievement Awards and needs 2 EMC volunteers to help judge the submissions. This is a program to recognize City employees who have gone “above and beyond” in addressing environmental issues in KC, MO City government. The awards will be made in late April, 2008 with the EMC Chair and the Mayor presenting the awards.
2. Jimmy Adegoke, UMKC, sponsored a successful “Focus the Nation: event to talk with students about climate protection and related issues. Many UMKC students are involved in sustainability projects. And, UMKC has dedicated a vacant lot it owns, at 54th & Charlotte, for urban farming.
3. Bob Berkebile noted that the Clinton Foundation and the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) have kicked off their American Schools Program in which any school can get funding for energy efficiency and alternative energy applications. Any school wishing to participate should contact the CCI.
4. Bob Berkebile also noted that the KC Business Journal will feature Dennis Murphey in its next issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Next meeting is March 12, 2008 at 4:00 pm. in the Westview Room at MARC.