



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2009**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 1st Floor, Heartland Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: Jimmy Adegoke, Amy Bhesania, Faith Brennan, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Rachel Treanor Norton, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Evaline Taylor, and John Ware

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Bruce Wiggins – Aviation Department

Guests: Ron McLinden – Regional Transit Alliance (RTA); Kevin Chafin – Bridging The Gap (BTG); Carolyn Davies – UMKC; Mike Hoey; Kaedden Landy - EarthPeaceSystems; Camealia Murray – Stepping Up Green; Donovan Mouton – One Economy

John Ware, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

- A. John Ware, Vice Chair, welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- B. Approval of the minutes – Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Amy Bhesania, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2008. The motion passed.
- C. Liaison Updates
 1. Air Quality Forum – Richard Rocha – MARC is working to try to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the metropolitan area 20% by 2030 and to foster increases in use of bicycles. Amanda Graor has been promoted to replace James Joerke. A letter was sent to Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) asking for reconsideration of re-designating counties for ozone compliance. This is a basic attainment/non-attainment issue. The request is to include various counties in the compliance area if they contribute to the potential ozone problem. Inclusion would help address the issue of compliance at the source as well as funds potentially available. Ron McLinden, RTA, noted that MARC is including more information in their long-range planning by expanding policy goals – including place, safety, public health, energy conservation, climate change, restoration of natural systems, and others which are significant additions. There was discussion about possible legislative changes in Missouri regarding the requirement for 10% ethanol.
 2. Solid Waste Planning – No report
- D. OEQ Reports – Dennis Murphey
 1. City budget – There is an \$80M to \$90M budget shortfall. The City Manager will send his budget document to the Mayor on January 15, 2009. The KC Star has already made a Freedom of Information Act request to make the budget public. The Mayor has 30 days to review the budget and to submit his proposal to City Council. This may happen earlier as a result of the KC Star action. The current document will not necessarily be a detailed document. Council has stated a position in favor of targeted cuts rather than across the board cuts. There is the potential for reduction in force of 300-350 staff of the total of

4,000. The focus will be on mid-level management. There will probably a salary freeze and such measures as revised contributions to the health system and furloughs will be discussed. A contract consultant has advised the City Council of the need for both cuts in expenses and increases in revenues. Troy Schulte complimented the EMC for its letter as being very constructive. The Commissioners agreed there is the need to advocate with the Mayor and Council soon.

Dennis noted that the OEQ memo to the Budget Officer addressed the compliance component noting the savings realized as a result of the compliance section and the sustainability component with regard to the current priorities and long-term direction toward sustainability of the Council. A number of current contracts, however, may be vulnerable including the Bridging The Gap contracts for outreach and education and for Keep Kansas City Beautiful.

2. Economic Stimulus Funding – Council is meeting regularly to review the massive project list and they want full consideration of energy efficiency, renewable energy, solar energy, trails, trees, green roofs, and other green/sustainable projects. There is likely to be a different approach between the House and the Senate. The House leadership has indicated they would not consider earmarks while the Senate has not. It was agreed that it is important the City Council has a set of guidelines to address their priorities and in choosing which projects, among all those needed/proposed, would be forwarded for funding consideration. Dustin Jensen and Jack Schrimsher will work on guidelines.
 3. City Manager Cauthen is working on a Capital Improvements Manager (“czar”).
- E. EMC Projects – The Commission asked that the listing of projects on the agenda and in the minutes conform to the project numbers from the retreat. The change is reflected below.
- Project 1 – City Budget – Faith Brennan
No additional comments
 - Project 2 – Sustainable Kansas City Resolution 080246 – Dustin Jensen
The committee has reviewed 527 ordinances and 189 resolutions submitted since the Council, in June, 2008, required response to the question: “How does this contribute to a sustainable Kansas City?”. They have developed a spreadsheet to track and analyze the requests. The results so far vary. Some are attempting to answer the question better than others. Dustin reviewed a set of ordinances citing the perceived quality of the response. The committee is seeing trends and will follow up on their analysis.
 - Project 3 – Kansas City’s Environmental Constellation – Taylor Haynes
No report
 - Project 4 – Scenario Planning – Jimmy Adegoke, Linda Clark, John Ware
Committee is looking at key sectors and asking what is the understanding of the key stakeholders regarding vulnerability to climate change shifts and impacts? What does the science tell us and do we understand the science? Do we understand the risks? How prepared are authorities to respond? They are reducing the issues to manageable tasks. Expect to develop a survey tool and to do a gap analysis. The committee is working with a UMKC graduate student and an undergraduate class.
 - Project 5 – Economic Development/Green Jobs – Carol Adams
No report
 - Project 6 – KC Resource Effectiveness – Jim van Eman
No report
 - Project 7 – Environmental Hazard Protection – Dustin Jensen, Jack Schrimsher
No report
 - Project 8 – Constellation of EMCs nationally – Taylor Haynes, Jim Scott
No report

- Project 9 – City policies, codes and regulations – Faith Brennan, staff
Faith asked to be removed from this committee. There was sentiment expressed for Carol Adams to handle this committee. Information and reports will probably be an outgrowth of the Green Solutions Team. The new Development Code may be passed soon and then an effort will be started to make it green.
- Project 10 – Urban agriculture – Amy Bhesania, Marty Kraft
The committee is doing research and is looking for models codes
- Project 11 – Compliance – Rachel Treanor Norton and Richard Rocha – The City’s annual compliance report is very good and concise. EMC will (1) review the report, (2) spot-check the HHW facility, (3) will review compliance tools, and (4) will create a 1-page strategic action plan for the committee

F. New Business

1. Andy Savastino, OEQ – OEQ is beginning the process for the 2009 Environmental Achievement Awards and is working with Rachel. Other Commissioners were asked if they would like to volunteer. A question was raised about the feasibility of posting, on the City’s intranet, awards made over the previous several years as a way to let City staff know what has been recognized and to stimulate ideas and action.

G. Calendar of Upcoming Events

1. January 16 through January 18, 2009 – Breaking the Silence conference at the Reardon Center in KC,KS. The conference is focused on building the sustainable earth community (BSEC) and recognizing the need to address all people in all neighborhoods through environmental justice – addressing race issues in sustainability.
2. Two of the speakers at the BSEC conference will be speaking at Johnson County Community College Thursday and Friday evening this week.
3. Within the next 4-6 weeks, there will be a forum on transportation needs. The date and time will be announced later.
4. January 26, 2009 – Water Services Department will hold its first public meeting about Green Solutions with residents of the Middle Blue River. The meeting will be held at the church at 7546 Troost. Water Services will send information to OEQ to distribute.
5. The new University of Missouri system President is planning for a range of energy initiatives. Their efforts will begin January 16, 2009.
6. Governor Nixon’s has appointed Dr. Templeton as the new Director of Missouri Department of Natural Resources. One of the top priorities is to promote renewable energy in Missouri.
7. University of Missouri will be hosting an energy summit April 21 through April 22, 2009 in Columbia. The featured speaker will be T. Boone Pickens.
8. The State of Missouri has approved the Show-Me Sales Tax Holiday for the week of April 19 through April 25, 2009, to encourage purchases of Energy Star rated appliances. KC,MO City Council has voted to participate.
9. January 31, 2009 – “Stepping Up Green” - Camealia Murray notified the EMC of the event, designed to educate people about green, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Urban Community Leadership Academy at 1524 Paseo.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Place: MARC – 2nd Floor, Westview Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.