



Environmental Management Commission Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2011

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council – 600 Broadway

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Molly Davies, Stephen Hopkins, Marty Kraft, Camealia Murray, Rachel Norton, Jack Schrimsher, Evaline Taylor, Jim van Eman

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept.

Guests: Sadie Gardner – Bridging The Gap; Ron McLinden – Transit Action Network; Elizabeth Fischer

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

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff and guests to the EMC meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Minutes of December, 2010, January, 2011 and February, 2011 – Jim van Eman made a motion, seconded by Stephen Hopkins, to adopt the minutes as written. The motion passed.

C. Proposed letter to Mayor and City Council re Earnings Tax – Carol Adams

The draft of the proposed letter generally represents EMC sentiments as expressed over the last several meetings. Several Commissioners suggested changes in the letter. Bob Berkebile made a motion, seconded by Marty Kraft, to adopt the modified letter, and to authorize the Co-Chairs to sign and send the letter to the Mayor and City Council. The motion passed.

D. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. The US Department of Energy was in Kansas City, on February 16, 2011, for its first monitoring visit for the EnergyWorks KC (EWKC) Initiative which has funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) – Competitive Grant. Although staff has not yet received written results of their findings, it is generally felt that results will be positive.
2. Deconstruction – There have been several meetings re: beginning a move toward deconstruction as opposed to the standard demolition of dangerous buildings. An amount of \$640,000 is included in the EnergyWorks KC program budget to pay for the incremental cost of deconstruction over demolition for a limited number of buildings. Staff has been meeting with Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council (INC), MARC, Habitat ReStore, Metropolitan Energy Center, Green Vet, City Dangerous Buildings staff, The Reuse People, and others to define and detail a pilot program in Ivanhoe. Wells Fargo has donated 26 houses to INC of which about 10 appear to be candidates for deconstruction. For a second pilot program, the City Manager has recently proposed a special set aside of City General Funds to identify a number of houses in the Green Impact Zone that would be candidates for deconstruction. One of the most important elements of these pilot programs is creating a mechanism for neighborhood people to be trained for deconstruction and employed by contractors also trained for deconstruction. Marty Kraft suggested that we require use of restorative plants rather than the standard green grass on completion of the deconstruction. Bob Berkebile supported the suggestion. Marty Kraft offered to do some research into what may be the best restorative plantings to use.
3. On March 1, 2011, the City hosted a ground breaking for a new, large community garden in the Eastwood Hills community. The new garden is on the former site of the Municipal Correctional Facility on Ozark Rd. Reuse of the site, to serve the community, was proposed by Councilwoman Cindy Circo. It was announced at the groundbreaking that the garden is fully subscribed before officially opening.
4. The Education and Outreach Committee of the City's Green Solutions Team is hosting a booth at the Home Show March 25-27, 2011.
5. A notice has been received that the Missouri Air Commission will host an outreach meeting regarding the portion of the metro area to be recommended to EPA for designation as an air quality non-attainment area for

sulfur dioxide – due to power plant emissions. The meeting will be held at the Discovery Center on April 7, 2011 from Noon to 2:00 pm.

6. The City Manager has sent a notice to all City departments to update their Ozone Action Plans noting the new, lower threshold standard. The revised plans will be sent to OEQ.
 7. Bob Berkebile and Dennis Murphey spoke about the outstanding forum that was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, February 18, 2011 on Climate Change and National Security. The Chamber's Climate Protection Partnership is currently the largest such effort in the country with 180 members. The Chamber hosted Prof. David Orr, Oberlin, and Col. Mark "Puck" Mykleby, advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the forum moderated by Bob Berkebile. Col. Mykleby spoke about the new national policy imperative for a post-carbon, sustainable economy. Dr. Orr spoke about the effort of Oberlin, Ohio and Oberlin College to become a carbon neutral community. Bob asked the Commissioners if there was agreement with what was presented and, if so, what the City's role and the EMC's role should be. He said he would do some homework on the subject and asked that the issue be put on the April agenda.
 8. The national organization called Green Biz has highlighted the Keep Kansas City Beautiful program of Bridging The Gap as one of five cities in the country to be part of an online effort to opt out of receiving junk mail. There have been follow up calls from cities such as Mayor Bloomberg's office in New York City to ask about our efforts in Kansas City.
- E. Liaison Updates
1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – The forum received a report on the results of the annual citizen awareness survey regarding ozone.
 2. Solid Waste – No report
- F. EMC membership appointments – A suggestion was made to draft a letter to introduce the new Mayor to the EMC by providing a letter about the EMC, with actions taken (listed in reverse chronological order) and resumes of current Commissioners. A draft letter was discussed. Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Molly Davies, authorizing Carol Adams to draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council to be forwarded after the election. The motion passed. In support of the packet of information, each Commissioner was asked to send a copy of their resume to Jerry Shechter. Jack Schrimsher will draft a sample "courtesy resignation" and share it with the commissioners via email, so each can use or modify it as they wish and forward it to Jerry Shechter for inclusion in the packet for the new mayor. A question was asked about whether the impact of actions the EMC has been involved in, such as the Climate Protection Plan, can be quantified in terms of energy use reduction, CO2 reduction, and dollar savings. Carol Adams asked for help from the Commissioners in putting together a list of topics to be discussed with the new elected officials.
- G. Old Business
1. Status of the City's proposed Eco-Center – In general, the status is unknown but it appears that financing is a problem. In a related matter, Johnson County has extended the landfill permit to approximately 2040.
 2. Carol Adams has been attending the Bannister advisory meetings re environmental issues at the government complex. She noted there has been a short survey issued that asks people to respond without having the benefit of the information needed for the response.
- H. New Business
1. Stephen Hopkins has been involved with a group called AIA Pillars. This is a leadership development group to get AIA members more fully involved in policy and other issues. He noted there is a set of activities scheduled for March 17, 2011 (tomorrow) that will include a panel discussion with participation by Dennis Murphey and Jerry Shechter.
 2. Jim van Eman noted that the newly published City Budget proposal from the City Manager has an impressive cover that is focused on sustainability.
- I. Remarks and Announcements – None

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2011 at MARC at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm