



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Notes – May 9, 2012

Meeting Location: MARC Offices

Attending: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Molly Davies, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Robin Martinez, Chuck Moore, Jason Parson, Jack Schrimsher

Staff – Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Patty Noll – City Planning & Development (CPD), Joe Guarino – Law Department

Guests: David Mitchell and Claus Wawrzinek – Sierra Club

- A. Introductions were made around the room.
- B. Minutes of the last meeting – It was pointed out that Jim Hansen did not volunteer for the Environmental Achievement Awards review committee and asked for a correction. Chuck Moore made a motion, seconded by Ken Kramme, to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion passed.
- C. Greening the Development Code – Patty Noll, CPD
Patty Noll indicated that CPD had been allocated \$200,000 from the EECBG Formula grant to update the Development Code to address transportation efficiency and other energy efficiency, carbon emissions, and renewable energy issues, etc. She distributed the draft report being developed and reviewed the various chapters and elements of the changes being proposed.

Some of the proposed changes are not necessarily requirements but are allowances that will make things easier to do by addressing vague areas. This, in turn, will be enabling of development that is more sustainable. As an example, the new language will allow for side-stepping set-backs, in some cases, in favor of appropriate placement on a lot. She noted there has been some push-back from development attorneys. It was noted that, of major importance is connectivity and pedestrian access. Parking requirements could be reduced with credits for alternative uses as well as use of pervious materials, bio-retention areas and bike sharing or electric vehicle charging facilities. The code would promote infill redevelopment.

The draft, and the complete code language, is posted online for public viewing. It is expected the proposed changes will be before the City Plan Commission in July and sent to City Council for adoption in August, 2012. The application of the changes is obvious related to new development but is not as clear with regard to existing – especially in terms of home owner association restrictions. Bob Berkebile noted the need for an education campaign for home owners associations and for neighborhoods in general. Carol Adams noted, on page 52, a supplemental recommendation for some kind of publishable building performance labeling form. She noted that EnergyWorks KC has already developed such a form as will begin using it this month. The image of the local form will be inserted in the plan. Staff will distribute the dates and times of the City Plan Commission and City Council hearings. Bob Berkebile asked the Commissioners that, to the extent that each knows one or more developers, we should have a conversation in advance of the hearing dates.

- D. OEQ Report – Dennis Murphey
 1. Building and Energy Codes changes/updates are in process. Overland Park, KS this week unanimously adopted the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), with amendments. They held an extensive stakeholder review process that resulted in a consensus document being presented to their City Council. Kansas City undertook a similar process, hosted by Greg Franzen, City Code Official, that resulted in a document currently being drafted. It has been estimated that this will result in a base energy code that is about 15% more energy conservative than the 2006 IECC – which is the currently adopted code. The entire process has been the result of a regional process, hosted by MARC, referred

to as the Regional Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (REECS) that has involved 11 jurisdictions – cities and counties – in its core group plus many of the other jurisdictions in the region in mini-conferences and meetings. There 3-4 training sessions planned for June, 2012 for building officials, developers, architects, and the public. It is planned to use some of the Formula grant money to conduct a pilot test of current building practices (houses now being built under the 2006 codes) using a professional energy analyst to develop a data base of building energy code achievements. The code proposal ordinance request will be heard by the Planning, Zoning & Economic Development Committee on Wednesday, May 17, 2012 at 1:30 pm on the 26th Floor of City Hall.

Dave Mitchell, Sierra Club attended the stakeholder meetings and said he noted a change in atmosphere from earlier to later meetings in favor of moving ahead cooperatively. Jim Hansen, who also attended the meetings, was pleased with the process for the most part.

It was generally agreed that there is a need for a campaign to educate buyers, builders, designers, lenders, real estate agents/brokers, appraisers, etc.

2. Changes at City Hall

- a. Capital Projects has been merged into Public Works with Sherry McIntyre being maintained as department head
- b. Internet Technologies has been merged with General Services with Assistant City Manager Earnest Rouse as department head
- c. City Planning & Development Department Director Tom Coyle has been replaced with Assistant City Manager Bob Langenkamp
- d. Neighborhood and Community Services has merged with the Housing Department. Assistant City Manager John Wood is the new Department Director. Dave Parks is the new Neighborhoods Division Manager and Stuart Bullington is the new Housing Division Manager.

- E. Environmental Achievement Awards – Nominations are due May 25, 2012. Awards celebration will be in lieu of the August, 2012 meeting. A place is to be determined.
- F. Liaison Updates – Carol Adams reported on the Bannister Federal Complex – The draft permit has been published for public review and technical response regarding the sections being changed. There will be a hearing May 15, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the IBEW Union Hall on east 103rd Street
- G. Old Business - See OEQ Report
- H. Follow-up on Retreat Discussions – None
- I. New Business – None
- J. Remarks/Announcements
 1. Molly Davies – The Environmental Sustainability Class had 100 students and they produced 70 projects. She noted there were some spectacular presentations with great community engagement.
 2. Dennis Murphey noted that he and Jerry Shechter had attended the 2012 Spring Meeting of the Heartland Local Government Sustainability Directors Network in Columbia, MO. Of note was the presentation by the food services operation. The operation is self-supporting and has a spin-off composting operation that is planned and implemented by students. They produce more compost than can be used by the university as well as bio-diesel fuel for their trucks. It was noted that they had significantly reduced food services waste by removing food trays so that students no longer took more than they could carry and eat and just threw it away.

Jerry was asked to see if the Crime Lab planners could attend the June meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.