



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2012**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Tom Brink, Molly Davies, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Chuck Moore, Jason Parson, Jack Schrimsher

Staff: Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept; Scott Cahail – Water Services

Guests: David Dods – URS; Julie Coon, Johnson County, Health & Environmental Department; Jill DeWitt

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 on behalf of the EMC

B. Minutes – Chuck Moore made a motion, seconded by Elizabeth Fischer, to approve the minutes of the September, 2012 meeting. The motion was approved.

C. Trees and Sidewalks – Discussion facilitated by Jill DeWitt

Trees and sidewalks have become an issue in the Green Impact Zone. Public Works, in putting in new sidewalks, is cutting down mature sycamore trees in the Historic Manheim neighborhood some of which are 100 years old. This has caused some disagreement within the neighborhoods (Manheim and 49/63 where the same thing happened) and results from a lack of policy. Other cities have options available and it is imperative that KCMO look at and consider options as well. It is believed the source of funds for new sidewalks, etc a TIGER grant and that the grant has a time limit (possibly September, 2013). Trees and sidewalks should not be an either/or proposition but one of thoughtful compromise. The Green Impact Zone is becoming the “Concrete Impact Zone”. Need a complete tree survey and transparent decision making by the City. The question is whether the City should develop a policy to govern what occurs in the future. Other cities have such policies which, in some cases, also extends to streets – in order to keep trees.

Molly Davies said UMKC may have air quality data regarding reductions in particulate matter due to trees.

It was noted that the City has the Climate Protection Plan which calls for adding 120,000 new public trees plus 120,000 new private trees. How does what Public Works is doing fit with the policy established in the Plan? In addition to the trees/sidewalks issue there is also the issue of Ash Borer blight and trees that will be killed.

It was suggested that an EMC letter to the Mayor and City Council, with copy to the City Manager, be drafted. The over-arching issue is of policy. Ken Kramme and Jason Parson indicated they would like to hear the City’s side in this issue. A letter should request that the City (1) establish a policy taking into account the Climate Protection Plan and the Green Solutions projects to protect viable trees, (2) recognize that the Green Solutions project in Marlborough is an experiment in water solutions and apply the same concept to trees and sidewalks by establishing a living laboratory where the City could try out alternatives, and (3) request that the City pause its current process for a short period while study/investigation is done that would inform policy.

Elizabeth Fischer made a motion, seconded by Chuck Moore, to authorize the Chair to draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council that addresses the above discussion, requests a pause in current activity in the Manheim Neighborhood and requests investigation into alternatives/options. The motion passed.

D. Overflow Control Plan – Marlborough Pilot Project Status – David Dods, URS

David Dods, one of the engineering team that designed and implemented the pilot project installations and community involvement, provided the EMC his background and qualifications and then an update of the status of the project. It was noted that the project is an experiment to determine the best practices to help inform what will be done in larger areas. He went through a powerpoint including before and after images of the area with many striking changes. He noted, however, that the interaction with the neighbors was at least as enlightening as the physical changes. Jason Parson also noted that early involvement of the neighborhood in the team was a critical mistake and that the lesson learned is to involve the neighborhood in planning from the beginning. The Chair thanked Mr. Dods for his presentation and his efforts to address a critical issue in the City.

E. OEQ Report – Jerry Shechter

1. An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a 20-year master solar lease with Brightergy to install up to 40 solar panel arrays on rooftops of municipally owned buildings was unanimously adopted on 9.13.12. City staff are in final negotiations with Brightergy and hope to have an executed agreement, subject to final approval, later this week.
2. Commercial PACE - MARC staff and MARC's contractor have met with the City Manager and senior City staff (OEQ, Finance, Economic Development) re: the possibility of moving forward to further explore the possibility of creating one or more Clean Energy Development Boards to implement a commercial PACE program. The most difficult issue continues to be a funding source for administrative start-up expenses.
3. The US Department of Energy conducted its annual site visit to assess the EnergyWorks KC program. The initial results are that the program is in compliance with regulatory requirements but still needs improvement in productivity and expenditure level.
4. City staff and key stakeholders – Mayor Pro Tem Circo, Terry Leeds, Dennis Murphey, Ron Coker (Burns & McDonnell), and Kristin Riott (BTG) - are participating on a panel at the Urban Water Sustainability Leadership Conference in Cincinnati on October 23 re the City's Overflow Control Plan and EWKC/WaterWorks! KC.
5. At the 9.27.12 Business Session of the Mayor and City Council, Dennis Murphey and Mary Hendrickson, MU Extension, presented the report from the urban agriculture best practices, challenges, and opportunities project, funded by a grant awarded to KC, Columbia and St. Louis by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.
6. The City is beginning its budget development process for the next fiscal year beginning May 1, 2013.
7. Approximately 100 senior staff from KCMO, KCKs/Wyandotte County Unified Government, Johnson County, and Jackson County met together October 5, 2012 to discuss opportunities to work together on a collaborative basis to act in the overall interest of the metropolitan area. This was initiated by the City/County managers of the four largest governments in the metropolitan area.
8. OEQ has just agreed to provide a letter of conditional commitment for a grant of \$200,000, from EnergyWorks KC, to the Make It Right Foundation which will allow their redevelopment partnership to go to closing on financing for redevelopment of the Bancroft School and surrounding area. The infusion of \$200,000 from EWKC will leverage approximately \$14 million in other resources for the redevelopment. Closing is tentatively expected late in October, 2012.

F. Liaison Reports – None

G. Old Business – None

H. New Business - None

I. Visitor Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

November 14, 2012

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Mid-America Regional Council – 600 Broadway