

# Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, October 28, 2008

**Present:** Barbara Buffaloe, Jean Sax, Dan Goldstein, Alyce Turner, Bob Walters, Dick Parker, Kip Kendrick, Teresa Hunter, David Brodsky, Dillon Wyatt, Tom O'Connor

**Absent:**

**Guests:** J. Kraig Kahler, Water and Light Director; John Fleck, GIS Coordinator; Lou Phemister, City Arborist; Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters; Leslie Morrision, Proposition C

**City Staff Liaison:** Stephanie Brown

Ms. Buffaloe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## AGENDA

The agenda was approved with changes.

## MINUTES

The minutes for September 23, 2008 were approved without changes.

## NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

John Fleck, GIS Coordinator for the City gave a presentation on the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) project that the City is currently working on with the assistance of the University of Missouri. He said the project has been ongoing for about a year. He said the NRI report is a snapshot obtained by aerial photography that will track land covering, soil, energy usage, federal and state regulations, tree canopy, streams, habitat, and cultural resources. He said the report would cover topics such as land preservation, planning and managing growth with a large part of the focus on vegetation and tree canopy. Mr. Fleck said the reports contain complete data descriptions and GIS maps of the City and surrounding areas of 198 square miles to track development over time. The Water and Light and Public Works Departments, and several outside entities can utilize this report. He said the report will be made available to the public through a website. He said the report will be 85-90% accurate and verification will be done by methods such as ground truthing (a walking survey of the land).

Mr. Fleck said the first draft is expected to be completed by the end of this year and at that time it will be available for City staff and various groups for review. The NRI will be updated about every two years.

He said the budget total for the project was \$80,000. Funds came from the Water and Light Department, the Columbia Transportation Organization, and the City of Columbia.

Lou Phemister said the data provided by the NRI report can be a resource for the Urban Forest Plan. He said plans can help establish goals for cities to meet the national standards set by American Forests.

Mr. Phemister said at this time he has not received the confirmation from the City to proceed with the plan but can gather data and research comparative studies. He said the forestry report completed by graduate students compared the land preservation to that of other cities. Ms. Buffaloe said the EEC can request a copy of the plan from the City.

#### UPDATES ON LETTERS TO COUNCIL

Ms. Buffaloe said the October 14 letter regarding the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement was approved by Council and directed toward staff. She said the information is needed by April to be available for the Earth Day display.

Ms. Turner and Mr. Goldstein will draft a letter regarding Regional Travel and provide it for review in November.

Ms. Buffaloe said she will send the Urban Forest Plan letter in email form to the City Council. Ms. Turner made a suggestion to tie the subject into the Visioning process and the NRI project.

Mr. O'Connor and Ms. Sax will follow up on the topic of benchmarking that was previously worked on by a former commissioner and will draft a letter. Mr. Parker mentioned that currently the staff of Water and Light is working on demand side management programs and Director Kraig Kahler and Utility Services Supervisor Tina Worley should be contacted. Mr. Kahler said there will be another discussion on the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the future power supply and Demand Side Management (DSM) programs for the City toward the end of November.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONER

Ms. Sax mentioned the Arbor Day Foundation forum. She said the lodge uses all bioenergy to power the facility.

Mr. Kahler said the City's power plant has been burning wood chips. He said the overall cost is actually lower than coal.

Mr. Parker said the IRP went before the City Council and will be up for approval at the next Council meeting. The Mayor asked for suggestions on how to get more DSM programs into rental properties.

#### COMMENTS OF VISITORS

Leslie Morrison gave a short presentation on Proposition C, the Renewable Energy Issue. She explained that the proposition proposes that by 2021 all investor owned utilities would be required to receive at least 15% of their energy from renewable sources. Also, utility rates related to this would not increase more than 1% over the life of the issue. The issue will be on the November 4th ballot.

Mr. Kahler mentioned that there is a water bond issue on the ballot as well that proposes a 5% increase to the city's water rates to cover the bond.

## UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

1. November – Fred Mallicoat, Building Codes Commission

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison