

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Mezzanine Conference Room

Minutes of Thursday, February 5, 2008

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

Absent: Bob Walters, David Brodsky

Guests: Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters

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 November 25, 2008 were approved without changes.

LAND DISTURBANCE

Mr. Goldstein said he attended two City Council work sessions where land disturbance issues were covered and proposed ordinance changes involving land disturbance issues were proposed. Mr. Goldstein said the problems with the proposed ordinance changes are that there is no oversight for the Public Works director to approve anything, there are many loopholes, and the issues should require a City Council vote. Mr. Goldstein drafted two letters in response to the proposed ordinance changes; one requesting that the new ordinance changes be applied to two recent land disturbance and planning scenarios and the other recommending that the City Council invite Tom Jacobs, Director of Environmental Programs at the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), to a work session to do a short course on green infrastructure. Ms. Hoppe suggested the possibility of using City Council training funds for the purpose of inviting guest speakers to educate the City Council. Mr. Goldstein said it would be ideal for staff to take a holistic approach and felt that the EEC has a good start to do a land disturbance ordinance. But, Jean Sax felt that the commission does not have the resources. Mr. Parker did not agree with the letter stating that the EEC has been in contact with Tom Jacobs. Ms. Sax motioned to accept the letter with the revisions. Mr. Kendrick made a second motion and it was approved. Tom O'Connor will attend the Feb. 16th Council work session in Mr. Goldstein's place.

Lou Phemister had recommended that the City hire an outside consultant to review information to formulate a tree ordinance. Ms. Hoppe said the Mayor has suggested creating a tree board to evaluate the possible need for a tree ordinance. Ms. Buffaloe said the EEC could suggest Lou Phemister as a resource if there are no other resources the City can use.

REGIONAL TRAVEL LETTER

Alyce Turner drafted a letter to the City Council regarding the regional travel guest speaker from October. She said it is also asking for the City Council to look further into this program and direct staff. She said it is not a commuter service, but it provides access to public transportation mainly for the disabled and elderly. It could, however, become a commuter service. She said the grant money has run out for this program, but it is a renewable grant. Ms. Sax said the letter should be addressed to both the City Council and Boone County Commission. Ms. Turner and Ms. Buffaloe will work together to revise the letter. Mr. Wyatt made a motion to approve the letter with the revisions of adding information on partnerships and addressing the Boone County Commission. Ms. Sax seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL FROM THE IRP

Mr. Parker said that the demand side management program suggested by the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and approved by the Power Supply Task Force was not adequate and beneficial to the rental community. He suggested that the EEC urge the City Council to address this issue. He felt that the 50% rebate option chosen to be included in the recommendations of the IRP was not beneficial to renters because the renter would not occupy the residence long enough to reap the benefits of investing 50% of the costs to make energy efficient improvements. Landlords would not benefit since they do not pay the utility bills. Mr. Parker said that four possible alternative solutions would be a 100% rebate from the utility, a Pay-As-You-Save (PAYS) program, individualized rates, and attaching the loan to the property tax. Ms. Buffaloe asked for some examples of other cities that have implemented these types of programs. Mr. Parker and Mr. Kendrick will research this topic.

RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

Ms. Brown said the ordinance pertaining to the City's renewable energy activity requires that the utility produce an annual report outlining the City's fulfillment of the ordinance requirements and have the EEC and the Water and Light Advisory Board review the report before it is submitted to the City Council for public hearing. Mr. Parker said he was concerned with the use of banked energy credits. The commission will review the report and discuss it at the next meeting.

MEETING CANCELLATIONS

Ms. Brown requested that the commissioners notify her of their preferred method of contact. Cancellations of meetings due to inclement weather will be determined by the acting chair and the staff liaison. Cancellations must be made by 3:00 p.m. on the meeting day.

PROGRAM OF WORK

Ms. Buffaloe tabled this topic until the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONER

Mr. Goldstein asked that the EEC consider supporting radon-resistant requirements in the building codes and to suggest that Appendix F regarding radon-resistant measures be left in the building codes. Ms. Buffaloe said she will do some research.

Ms. Turner suggested a guest speaker regarding the new Callaway Power Plant for the March meeting. She said Ryan Kind would be a good source of information on this topic.

Ms. Turner suggested that the EEC have informational presentations before regularly scheduled meetings.

COMMENTS OF VISITORS

Ms. Hoppe said she attended the Berkeley Power Conference in California which focused on sustainability

UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

1. February – Building Codes
2. March – Ameren guest speaker

ACTION ITEMS

Letters:

1. DSM Rental Issue
2. Land Disturbance (2)
3. Urban Forestry
4. Regional Travel

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison