

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, 24 October 2006

Present: Deken, Miles, Skala, Lenhardt, Sax, Walters, Cunningham

Absent: Collins, Turner, Brodsky, Hunter

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

1. Deken called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. The Minutes of 26 September 2006 were approved with slight spelling modifications.
3. The Agenda was approved as amended.
4. In response to an invitation from EEC Chair Deken, John Glascock, Director of Public Works, gave a brief overview of the review/approval process and criteria for Land Use Permitting, as followed by his office. Skala inquired about the level of discretion Glascock believes he has, and Glascock responded that he assumes no discretion so long as the permit application meets the ordinance requirements. Skala also sought Glascock's thoughts on a method of permit oversight which might prevent situations of severe grading of property limiting the land use options prior to an anticipated rezoning request? Glascock indicated he does not have a solution for that problem.
5. Cunningham asked Glascock whether the proposed storm water ordinance revision will affect the land use permitting process. Glascock felt it probably would, though the revision is still in draft form. Walters offered to give a progress report on the proposed revision at the next EEC meeting. The EEC asked Skala to take the lead in researching and drafting the requested land use permitting report to the City Council.
6. Dan Dasho, Director of Water and Light, addressed the EEC on the previously (EEC-) suggested topic of Measures of Energy Efficiency. He cited some areas where his department is encouraging energy efficiency: a) Energy audits and follow-ups, b) Commercial lighting assessment, and c) Rebates for high efficiency AC units. In response to a question about some measure of the effectiveness of the cited activities, Dasho agreed to look into annual kWhrs per capita for Columbia in comparison to representative cities in our region, and attempt to normalize this data by degree heating/cooling days.
7. Sax gave an update on Lenhardt's document on New Development Guidelines, including a draft cover letter and Priority Guidelines. Some EEC members expressed concerns that the document was a collection of un-focused items. Suggestions were made to alleviate these concerns.
8. The agenda items on Energy Efficiency in Rental Properties and on Vouchers for Blue and Clear Refuse Bags were tabled. They were scheduled to be presented by Deken at a later date.
9. Cunningham reported on the Sustainable Living Fair, where the keynote speaker, David Konkle of Ann Arbor, spoke about the value of membership in ICLEI (www.iclei.com). Specifically, ICLEI can provide tools and software to a city to do an energy and greenhouse gas inventory. As a follow-up to the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, joining the ICLEI could help the City in doing the greenhouse inventory as required in the Mayors Agreement. Significantly, Dan Dasho has

- indicated that the W & L Department is already looking into joining ICLEI. Cunningham recommended that the EEC support W & L in its decision process on whether or not to join ICLEI.
10. Skala reported on his discussion with City Manager Watkins regarding the EEC's responsibility to report its activities to the City Council. Watkins indicated that the EEC practice of forwarding the EEC Minutes, Agenda, and Final Reports to the City Clerk for distribution to the Council is on target. Further, a compiled archive of these items (with a table of contents) should be maintained by the W & L Liaison to the EEC to satisfy public access requirements.
 11. Deken made some announcements of pertinent local events and developments. She also noted that the agenda for the November meeting would be e-mailed prior to the meeting.
 12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Prepared by: John B. Miles, EEC Secretary