

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday 27 February 2007

Present: Deken, Hunter, Lenhardt, Cunningham, Sax, Walters, Turner, Brodsky

Absent: Miles, Skala

City Staff Liaison: Brown

1. Deken called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. The Agenda was approved as amended.
3. The Minutes were approved with moderate changes.
4. Deken said that Miles suggested changing the next meeting date due to it conflicting with the University's spring break. She also noted that she would like to invite Win Colwill to the next meeting.
5. Sax mentioned that she had talked to Chad Herwald, a forester, regarding the Grindstone Park Project where a group, including Sax, did some xeriscaping by planting a savanna using natural grass. She said Herwald mentioned that Colorado was where he had received extensive experience with xeriscaping and he would be willing to be a guest speaker.
6. Cunningham explained the Environmental Visioning Group. He said they were broken down into three sub-groups: Energy, Resource Conservation, and Environmental Protection. Cunningham said Scott Hamilton, a member on the Environmental Protection sub-group, is the Hinkson Creek Watershed Coordinator and is looking into environmental issues around Columbia. Cunningham also mentioned that the goal statement for the Environmental Group focuses on energy conservation and renewables as well as ways the City may progress on renewable programs. Deken asked if Cunningham could give a monthly update on the progress of the Visioning Group.
7. Sax talked about a model tree ordinance she found from Sandy Springs, GA. She said the city seemed to be a bedroom community for Atlanta (many people work in Atlanta and live in this community). This ordinance contained a tree conservation checklist. She noted that it seems like the City of Sandy Springs wanted to protect its streams and trees. Sax said that some cities even have an ordinance support officer. Deken noted that the ordinance was very detailed and specific and that there were many points in the Sandy Springs ordinance that were different from that of Columbia; i.e. a person must have a permit to remove just one tree. She noted that they had an excellent list of definitions. Deken also liked the advice the ordinance gave for tree preservation along with pictures and diagrams. She said she will look over the Sandy Springs Tree Ordinance for some ideas. Sax was asked to forward the ordinance to Deken. Sax also talked about possibly having a survey on Community Access Television (CAT TV) regarding different environmental issues such as the tree ordinance and the programs offered by the City. Turner mentioned that viewer ship is unknown. Sax added that it could be offered online as well.
8. Turner spoke on Skala's behalf regarding the letter sent to Council. Skala attended the last Council meeting where the letter on Land Disturbance was addressed. He

- was not happy with the Council response. Turner said the Mayor told Skala that with the Visioning meetings taking place now, this subject could not be focused on at the moment. Brodsky mentioned that he couldn't see the subject of Land Disturbance coming up in one of the Visioning Groups. Deken asked if there is a timeline for the Visioning Groups. It was mentioned that it is six months.
9. Deken asked if anyone had any questions regarding xeriscaping and if a speaker on the subject would be needed. Turner thought the idea of xeriscaping was great. Brodsky suggested having someone from Wild Ones speak. Lenhardt said that there are too many trees that are not native to Missouri being planted and would like the subject of planting large trees that may be a potential nuisance to be addressed. Deken responded that xeriscaping has nothing to do with native trees. Cunningham recommended getting nurseries to provide xeriscaping plants. Deken added that Columbia's ordinance gives no recommendation for landscaping and that there is no recommendation to use resource plants such as landscaping that needs little maintenance. It was also noted that the ordinance does not talk about plant fitness. She said it should address things like drought tolerance. Brodsky mentioned the Stadium 63 project and the issues with it. Deken suggested that the ordinance needs more of a whole scale view. Hunter said there needs to be a table that shows how much maintenance certain plants need. Cunningham suggested the Botanical Gardens of Missouri as a resource for suggestions on what can be done. Deken added that she would compile a list of focal points for the Tree Ordinance.
 10. Deken asked if there was an interest in the EEC participating in the Earth Day Festival on April 22. She said a survey could be performed during that event. She will report the details at the next meeting.
 11. Deken mentioned that Win Colwill would speak at the March meeting. Colwill had sent an e-mail to several members regarding her meeting with Bill Watkins, City Manager, to discuss what steps need to be taken by the City on the US Mayors Climate Protection Program. Watkins thought the EEC was setting that up for the City. Colwill wants the Mayor to appoint a task force. Walters suggested sending out a report card on how the EEC is doing. Cunningham asked what measures have been taken beyond what has already been done and what does the City plan to do. Walters suggested applying pressure on various fronts concerning this subject. Turner asked if the Topic Groups can do anything. Deken thought it may be a good idea to have a city liaison to bridge the gap between the various departments of the City. Turner said she would suggest that idea with her Governing Group.
 12. Cunningham talked about Columbia Water and Light proposing net metering and interconnection. With this system utilities can buy back customer generated energy and pay the avoided costs. Brown mentioned that the next Public Utilities Regulatory Act (PURPA) will be March 27, 2007.
 13. Lenhardt passed out information on Land Value Taxation. He said that 28% of energy used is from transit.
 14. Deken mentioned that a Texas oil company is turning into a green oil company.
 15. Deken adjourned at 8:26 p.m.