

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMISSION

City of Columbia & County of Boone • City Hall, Conference Room 1B

Minutes of Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Present: Tom O'Connor, Alyce Turner, Scott Ward, Jean Sax, Dan Goldstein, Lawrence Lile, Bob Walters, Dick Parker

Absent: David Brodsky (also 1 City vacancy + 1 County vacancy)

Guests: Media

City Staff: Melissa Giboney (Water & Light liaison)

AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved after some items were re-ordered. *Motion: O'Connor; Second: Sax*

MINUTES

The February, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved. *Motion: Parker; Second: Lile*

CITY OF COLUMBIA WATER ISSUES

Tom O'Connor moderated a Power Point presentation regarding the City's plans to build a 16th well near its McBaine water treatment plant. He re-capped the data and comments the he and the EEC previously provided to the City Council at a November public hearing.

The presentation included maps and historical water quality testing for potential well sites adjacent to the Missouri River and the City's wetland cells close by. Ultimately, the Council deferred a decision on if and where to build well #16. A decision will likely be reconsidered following the completion of a water quality study now under way.

Newer information included in the presentation focused on the City's gross water usage and how a concerted conservation effort could actually reduce demand to a point where well #16 would not be needed, at least as soon as has been forecast. A reduction in demand by 1 million gallons per day, or 4%, would forestall the construction of a new well, estimated at \$300,000.

The ensuing discussion dealt with what, if anything, the EEC could or should do regarding the pending decision. It was pointed out the City's business model actually encourages water usage instead of water conservation. However, some Commissioners cited recent statements by the City Manager supporting the restructuring of water rates to correct this inducement/conservation dilemma.

It was determined to continue the discussion at the March 23 EEC meeting focusing on the following:

- The EEC should advocate the City prioritize water conservation as a community goal
- The EEC should recommend most suitable locations for the new City well regardless when it is built
- The EEC should publicly advocate and/or support water rate restructuring.
- The Commission needs additional data regarding residential usage vs. non-residential
- Determine whether the Water & Light Department has future water use projections

2010 RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

Commission members generally praised the report, its findings, and the City's commitment to renewable energy source. Dick Parker observed that wind energy, on a municipal utility scale, is still not feasible. Tom O'Connor questioned the wisdom of diverting yard waste to the landfill now that the City no longer provides clear plastic bags to consumers along with its blue recycling bags and regular black bags.

A general observation on the report was that the City is settling for the basic threshold of renewables in its energy portfolio instead of striving to exceed those levels by embracing whatever options were available, provide those options remained economically feasible.

→ A motion was made (Goldstein), seconded (Sax) and unanimously approved to send a letter to the Water & Light Department that would (a) commend the City on its energy policies, (b) encourage the utilization of more renewable sources in excess of those levels prescribed by the voter approved ballot initiative, and (c) be consistent in documenting the same attributable costs-per-megawatt-hour for each type of energy.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Due to the resignation of Barbara Buffaloe, a new Chair and Vice Chair must be elected to serve until regular annual elections occur at the June meeting.

→ A motion was made (Walters), seconded (Parker), and unanimously approved to elect Dan Goldstein to serve as Chair until the June meeting.

Then, candidates for Vice Chair were solicited. Jean Sax and Tom O'Connor agreed. A secret ballot of those Commissioners attending was conducted. Tom O'Connor was elected to serve as Vice Chair until the June meeting.

CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE

Responses to the annual survey sent to Boards and Commissions by the City Council were reviewed. In regard to question 5, some discussion dealt with whether formal liaisons with other Boards or Commissions should be requested. It was ultimately decided to respond that the makeup of the EEC is satisfactory.

More discussion focused on question 1: *Does this (enabling ordinance) accurately identify what EEC does on a regular basis? If not please explain any differences.*

(1) Prepare a commission report to the city council on how a plan for energy conservation might be developed. In order to prepare this report, the commission should gather information from other parts of the country, particularly those cities who have such a plan in place; the commission, or representatives of the commission, should visit certain model cities who have ongoing plans in place, to see how that particular model has worked; and, in limited situations, may require the services of a consultant. The final report should be a blueprint for the city to proceed in the development of a comprehensive energy conservation plan.

A motion was made (Walters), seconded (Parker) and approved (7 yes 1 no) that the paragraph (cited above) should be struck because it refers to a report that has been completed.

MISCELLANEOUS BRIEFS

Earth Day. Commissioners were polled regarding their interest in manning a table at Columbia's Earth Day event. No one volunteered to do so but agreed to revisit the topic at its March 23rd meeting to see if there was any possibility of coordinating outreach efforts with the Sustainability Director.

LEED-ND. Jean Sax reported that Planning Director, Tim Teddy, expressed interest in addressing the EEC regarding the City's possible role in implementing or facilitating LEED Neighborhood Development standards. He will be invited to attend our April meeting or, in the event of a conflict, our March 23 meeting.

International Energy Code. Lawrence Lile presented a table titled "Overview of Proposed Columbia Building Ordinance vs 2009 International Energy Code". He has attended numerous meetings with Building Code staff and commission members who have been reviewing new energy efficiency standards for several months. The EEC has already provided comment to the City Council on this topic but will likely provide additional comments as the Code undergoes further review by other stakeholders and City staff.

Announcements, Comments, Etcetera

- Dick Parker requested the EEC should form a sub committee focusing on energy efficiency standards and issues affecting rental property. Lawrence Lile agreed to work with him in this regard.
- Scott Ward recounted a conversation with County Commissioner, Karen Miller. She expressed an interest in setting a date when EEC members could meet with the County Commission and staff regarding the EEC's goals, activities, and priorities.
- Agenda Items for March 23, 2010 meeting were summarized:
 - A. Continuation of Water Quality issues.
 - B. LEED-ND (or April 27)
 - C. Confirm EEC Vacancies are properly posted
 - D. Confirm whether Planning & Zoning liaison David Brodsky, can vote on EEC issues
 - E. Earth Day involvement
 - F. Updates on sub committee working on Soil Storage Piles and Cut/Fill issues.
 - G. Rental Property Energy Efficiency

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.