

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMISSION

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

Minutes of Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Present: Tom O'Connor, Jean Sax, David Brodsky, Brandon Renaud
Bob Walters, Dick Parker, Dan Goldstein, Lawrence Lile,

Absent: Alyce Turner, Scott Ward

City Staff: Melissa Giboney (Water & Light liaison)

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 4H: Service Learning. (Motion: O'Connor; 2nd Parker)

MINUTES

The March 23, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved. (Motion: Parker; 2nd Sax)

RENTAL PROPERTY ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUB-COMMITTEE

Dick Parker distributed a one page report in the form of a draft City Ordinance. Much of the discussion focused on potential problems and effectiveness of informing potential renters through proposed mandatory advertising provisions. Such provisions would require disclosure of a rental property's electric and natural gas usage for the previous year.

Doubts about enforcing and policing such advertising were expressed. One alternative (to advertising energy stats) was adopting a mandatory Uniform Lease that would include a rental unit's energy costs for the previous year.

It was agreed to continue discussion of the topic at the May 25 EEC meeting.

BUILDING CODES SUB-COMMITTEE

Lawrence Lile reported on a joint meeting of the Sub-Committee and the Boone County Codes Commission (BCCC). It was agreed that the EEC should have a more formalized liaison with the Codes Commission when the energy codes are reviewed again in 2013.

Lawrence agreed to get an update on the BCCC's actions in moving forward since the joint meeting in mid April.

WATER ISSUES

Tom O'Connor briefly update the Commission on water quality concerns relevant to the City's study of adding and locating Well #16. Included were remarks about the Water Sense Program developed by the Environmental Protection Agency. He characterized it as an Energy Star system for water usage.

From the website, "Launched in 2006, WaterSense is an EPA-sponsored partnership program that seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products, programs, and practices". Over 280 U.S. cities have implemented the WaterSense program including Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield, MO.

For more info: www.epa.gov/watersense/

→ A motion was made (Walters) and seconded (Sax) that the City Council should direct the Water & Light Department to execute the necessary steps required to participate in the EPA's WaterSense Program. The motion was unanimously approved.

LAND DISTURBANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The sub-committee, which meets also with members of the Planning & Zoning Commission, has completed its review and made its recommendations regarding soil piles created on construction sites. Now the Sub-Committee is turning its focus to possible revisions of City policies dealing with land disturbance activities on steep slopes and on setting parameters on the scope and nature of cut/fill activities.

L.E.D. STREET LIGHTING

It was reported that Utility Services Manager, Tina Worley has recommended interim Water & Light Director, Mike Schmitz to join the MSSSLC, described in the following press release.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that Seattle City Light (Seattle, WA), was selected to lead a national effort to guide municipalities in evaluating light-emitting diode (LED) street lights. The Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium, will collect, analyze, and share information and lessons learned related to LED street lighting demonstrations.

Cities and power providers and others who invest in street and area lighting are invited to join the Consortium and share their experiences through national and regional meetings, webcasts, web-based discussion forums, and other means. The goal is to build a repository of valuable field experience and data that will significantly accelerate the learning curve for buying and implementing high quality, energy-efficient LED street lights. For more info, visit www.ssl.energy.gov/consortium.html.

SERVICE LEARNING

Service learning is a volunteer for credit internship for 'capstone' UMC students who are seniors or grad students. They can be used for research, surveys, or internet[web page setup] management projects for area businesses, government or service agencies, boards and commissions.. Weekly meeting and consistent oversight are necessary from the requesting agency.

The coordinator, Pat Fowler, knows some of our ongoing topics (land disturbance, building codes, water treatment and LEED-Neighborhood Development) and will speak with the student advisors and get back to us. She has to have the project and students matched by August.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, ETCETERA

- Per a suggestion by the EEC, the 2010 Renewable Energy Report was revised to reflect operational and maintenance costs in the section regarding Columbia BioGas.
- Planning Director, Tim Teddy, was expected to address the EEC regarding LEED-Neighborhood Development. He did not appear and will be asked to reschedule.
- Bob Walters announced he would not renew his application to serve on the EEC. His last meeting will be May 25, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.