

# Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday 22 May 2007

**Present:** John Miles, Norm Lenhardt, Frank Cunningham, Teresa Hunter, Jean Sax, Alyce Turner, David Brodsky, Bob Walters, Kip Kendrick

**Absent:**

**City Staff Liaison:** Stephanie Brown

1. Miles called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. He introduced himself to Teresa Hunter.
2. Agenda. Walters moved to approve the agenda without changes. Sax seconded.
3. Minutes. Kendrick made a change to item #13. Hunter also made a change. Walters moved to approve the minutes with changes. Kendrick seconded.
4. Measures of Energy Efficiency. Miles asked if electric meters were checked each month and said if the number of residents is known it may be possible to compare usage in accordance to different factors such as temperature. He mentioned that he will talk with Dan Dasho regarding some of these issues. Turner mentioned that she would like to see that observation done in rentals. Brodsky said that this project started out as a measurement of CO2. Cunningham asked how California measured their usage. Miles answered by stating that it goes by KWh per capita per year. Sax said that the city probably has some type of data collection because levelized billing is offered. Turner suggested recruiting interns to help with data collection and surveying. She said the EEC could write it up and administer it to the schools.
5. Solar Home Tour. Turner said she could not contact Tom Ram to inquire of a tour of his home in Cooper County. Miles asked if the synagogue was still an option, and Brodsky stated that it is still a possibility. Lenhardt said he has solar panels in his home and that could be a possible tour. Miles asked if there was a supplemental source of energy. Walters said the new City Hall will be a LEED building. Brodsky stated that the DNR building has a platinum rating and said there are four levels of LEED certification – certified, silver, gold, and platinum; platinum being the highest. He stated that the new City building will be silver. Sax mentioned that the Senior Service building in Kansas City is platinum. Brown was asked to find out who the project manager of the remodeling of the City building is and see if they would be willing to speak at one of the EEC meetings. It was suggested to possibly ask Mr. Dasho to see if the City building could have retrofit solar panels.
6. Discussion of Tree Ordinance. Sax explained the Sandy Springs Ordinance and the purpose of its study to bring Miles up to date. Miles asked if someone had taken the place of Liz Deken on leading the research of the city's tree ordinance. Sax mentioned that Deken liked the Sandy Springs Ordinance as a model for the city. Turner suggested asking Karl Skala to speak on behalf of the Council and clarify what they are looking to accomplish with the review of the tree ordinance. Lenhardt brought up a concern that there may be a conflict between the Tree

Ordinance and the use of solar energy. More trees could hinder the amount of solar energy available. Cunningham said the tree ordinance is mainly referring to commercial and preserving trees already in ground. Miles said it is to prevent the wiping out of trees completely. Sax and Kendrick said they would take over in Deken's place for the research of the tree ordinance. Kendrick said he met with Skala and received his materials regarding the tree ordinance. Sax announced that there would be a barbeque at her solar passive house on June 22. She said it is a earth contact home and would be willing to give tours of it. Turner will be in charge of setting up the next field trip.

7. Elections. It was decided that those elected would take office at the end of the meeting. Walter and Sax mentioned that they were up for reappointment. Miles nominated Cunningham for the position of Chair. Cunningham accepted. Walter motioned by acclamation for Cunningham to be the Chair and Turner seconded. Walter motioned by acclamation for Sax to be Vice Chair and Hunter seconded. Walters expressed interest in the position of Secretary. It was decided that Brown would take the minutes and the Secretary would be backup. Turner motioned by acclamation that Walters take the office of Secretary and Sax seconded. Brown was asked to check with the City Clerk regarding Board and Commission timelines, vacancies, and renewals.
8. Status of CO2 Emissions Report. Brown said the report was complete, but will go to Council first and then to the EEC. Brodsky asked who prepared the report and how often it will be done. Brown responded that Sam Clemens, an MU student, worked with Tina Worley and Jay Hasheider to use the software provided for the data and to prepare the report. She also stated that she was not sure how often the report would be done because this is the first time the city has done this. She would find out and report back to the EEC.
9. Computer Recycling. Walters announced that the city had the Household Hazardous Waste collection on Saturday. He also talked about the guy he met at Earth Day who refurbishes old and broken computers and distributes them to schools and families who need them. If he is unable to refurbish them he ships them to a prison where they are properly dismantled and discarded.
10. Announcements and Comments of Commissioners. Walters commented on the memo to Council from Columbia Water and Light regarding the Energy Star programs. He said trained contractors go out to residential homes to evaluate and help implement energy efficient measures. Turner thought this was a good marketing tool. Cunningham noted that Kansas City and St. Louis need more contractors and that training sites will be held in both Kansas City and St. Louis. Miles asked what takes place during a home visit. Cunningham said the contractor looks at the utility bill, walls, performs air leakage tests and a variety of other tests to enhance energy efficiency. Miles asked if there is anything the EEC needs to do. Walter suggested sending a copy of the memo to various people.
11. Sax mentioned that the annual report from the EEC had not been done yet for 2006 or 2005. Cunningham said there is no specification on when the report needs to be completed. Sax said the report runs for one calendar year – January 1 through December 31. Turner thought that the report should be done in an outline form. Sax said she would work on a draft report.
12. Lenhardt talked about the power plant possibly using wood energy. He also mentioned that he would be meeting with Bill Watkins, City Manager, in June. Cunningham suggested talking to Dasho and recommending that the power plant upgrade to a fluidized bed. Lenhardt will be representing himself and not the

EEC when he meets with Mr. Watkins. He also announced that he would be resigning from the EEC in September due to personal reasons.

13. Walter said the person who plants trees for MU on parking lots would speak at the Storm Water Task Force. He said he could be a possible July speaker.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison