

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County
Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, 26 September 2006

Present: Liz Deken, Karl Skala, Norm Lenhardt, Jean Sax, Bob Walters, Alyce Turner, Frank Cunningham.

Absent: John Miles, Nan Collins, David Brodsky, Teresa Hunter

City Staff Liaison: Jay Hasheider, Stephanie Brown

1. Deken called the meeting to order at 7:00
2. The Agenda was amended to include Vouchers for Blue Bags and approved.
3. The Minutes of 22 August 2006 were approved without amendments.
4. Stephanie Brown was introduced as the W&L staff liaison, replacing Jay Hasheider.
5. Mayor's Climate Change. B Walters spoke about his representation of this issue to the City Council, which was documented in the Council's meeting minutes that had been sent out. F Cunningham said he was disheartened with the statements the Council removed before passing it. K Skala said his problem was the lack of any discussion on the issue. Dan Dasho said the passed resolution had been referred to W&L and wanted to know if the EEC intended for a Greenhouse Gas Inventory to be made, because such a study would necessarily involve data external to the W&L and city government. Natural Gas usage, gasoline consumption, the University Power Plant, are all examples. Discussion followed regarding what data would be needed, how demographic growth would be accounted, and what other cities' are doing. Dasho offered to return to the October meeting with more information.
6. Columbia's Efficiency Profile. D Dasho referred to the EEC letter written to City Council August/06 regarding quantification of energy efficiency. B Walters read the letter to the Commission. Discussion included the nature of household energy use, how it is changing and what effects audits have with residences, and the nature of the low income residents who rent in energy inefficient buildings. Dasho pointed out that low income energy use was an EEC agenda in 1984, and that the City Council currently is interested in it. EEC passed a motion to have Liz Deken write a letter to Council supporting energy efficient improvements to rental housing.
7. Draft of Letter regarding Priority Guidelines. J Sax presented a revised draft of a letter originally written by N Lenhardt, with a list of planning priorities for the city. Discussion involved whether the letter plus handouts was too lengthy, what the letter was intended to do, grammatical corrections that were needed, and whether the facts stated in the guidelines (IE if 70% of residential heating can be supplied by solar, or the relation between zero lot lines and runoff) are substantiated. Generally, it was agreed to seek a revision of the letter with handouts, and discuss it at the next meeting.

8. Land Disturbance. K Skala took issue with several points in a letter written by John Glascock, Public Works Director, regarding Land Disturbance permits. The main point is whether or not the PW Director has discretion regarding enforcement options. The letter says that there are only minimum guidelines that apply, however, Skala cannot find a reference of any such guidelines, which means that the Director has a wider latitude of enforcement than he says. B Walters points out that the guideline issue will be cleared up when the stormwater commission report comes out. Skala would like further EEC investigation of the issue. L Deken offered to invite Glascock to a future meeting, A Turner said that at some point in the process, Gaye Baumgartner would also be a resource to invite.

9. Indoor Air Quality. A Turner read the revised letter that she authored regarding indoor air quality, which was approved by the Commission.

10. Blue Bag Vouchers. L Deken pointed out the announced change in blue bag distribution. She could not find anything about it on the City's website, however, thinks that it might be a good idea. A Turner wondered if it would discourage people from recycling. B Walters volunteered to find out more about it for the next meeting.

11. EEC announcements. Sustainable Living Fair is September 30. Indoor Air Quality vote is scheduled for two weeks.

12. Visitor comments. John Schultz pointed out that the indoor air quality issue was not within the purview of the Commission, that it is a health concern. Also that, if smoking is banned, shouldn't wood burning also be banned? L Deken responded that it is an air quality issue, that is environmental concern and within the bounds of the Commission's mission.

Dick Parker pointed out that the Kyoto Accord referenced CO2 emissions as target reductions and that the Commission should press Dasho to research CO2 data, and not accept Water and Light data.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.