

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMISSION

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

Minutes of Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Present: Barbara Buffaloe, David Brodsky, Tom O'Connor, Michael Merkle, Jean Sax, Bob Walters, Dick Parker, Alyce Turner, Dan Goldstein, Lawrence Lile, and Scott Ward

Absent: None

City Staff: Stephanie Brown (Water & Light liaison)

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with minor changes including addition of Earth Day discussion.

MINUTES

The December, 2009 minutes were unanimously approved.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Due to the selection of current EEC Chair, Barbara Buffaloe, as the City of Columbia's new Sustainability Manager, Barbara resigned from the EEC. A short discussion then ensued regarding the election of a new Chair at this meeting or waiting to do so at the February 17, 2010 meeting.

→ A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to conduct the election at the February meeting.

LAND DISTURBANCE & STEEP SLOPES

A copy of an Executive Summary prepared by the City Manager for the City Council was distributed and discussed briefly. The Summary regarded two ordinances proposed for review, discussion and possible approval that would (A) regulate the accumulation and long term "storage" of black dirt scraped off of land development sites and (B) regulate the development or disturbance of land with slopes exceeding 15%.

→ A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to create a sub committee to meet and study the two proposed ordinances and subsequently report its recommendations back to the EEC.

→ A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to request the Chair of Planning and Zoning to designate P&Z members to serve with EEC appointees on the subcommittee studying the two ordinances under consideration regarding dirt piles and steep slope development.

Bob Walters, Dan Goldstein, Scott Ward and David Brodsky agreed to serve as EEC reps for the subcommittee.

RESPONSE TO CITY QUESTIONNAIRE

The Chair received the annual letter from the Mayor and City Council requesting input for policy or issue priorities the EEC deemed important for the next year. Individual members responded.

Lawrence Lile:	Energy Codes • Building Codes
Bob Walters:	Designating responsibility to someone in appropriate City Departments to respond to queries or requests of support made by the EEC.
Michael Merkle:	More specific direction from the City Council regarding directives to the EEC • A communications protocol from the EEC to the Council and Staff
Dick Parker:	Demand side management issues • CO2 emissions • Long term City energy goals
Alyce Turner:	Working with the Sustainability Director regarding community or citizen initiatives
Jean Sax:	LEED in Neighborhood Design • Land development issues • Tree ordinance loop-holes
Tom O'Connor:	Council linkage. Feasibility of EEC Chair attending and conversing with the Council at its work sessions or public sessions • Water quality • Water conservation
Barb Buffaloe:	Formalize liaison with Water & Light Advisory Board • \$18,000,000 Natural Gas Energy Center

STATE OF MISSOURI ENERGY POLICY

EEC Member Mike Merkle is an attorney working for the State in Jefferson City. He was previously asked to provide an overview of Missouri policy initiatives or legislation he expected to occur in the near future.

1. Repeal of the CWIP statute, resulting from the demise of the AmerenUE nuclear initiative.
2. Expectation that Nuclear Energy would be designated as a renewable energy source.
3. More municipal use of carbon sequestration. The City of Springfield has received grants to pursue this as an alternative to cap and trade.
4. Distressed water way issues will increase.

ENERGY & CONSTRUCTION CODES

Commission members asked Lawrence Lile if he might draft a letter to the City Council and Building Codes Commission regarding progress on the pending adoption of new international energy code criteria in Columbia.

Lawrence was asked to summarize the key difference between the current (2006) code and the new proposals. He cited (1) emphasis on the containment of air ducts, (2) specification that 50% of light fixtures in new construction must be high efficiency ones, and (3) mandatory use of programmable thermostats.

He also pointed out the Building Codes task force reviewing new energy guidelines is opposed to a mandatory blower door test for new home construction, a measure supported by the EEC. He added City Staff had commented there is not enough staff to administer this.

Announcements, Comments, Etcetera

- Lawrence Lile and Jean Sax will confer with Tim Teddy and conduct further research before briefing the EEC on LEED in Neighborhood Design at a future meeting.
- Earth Day plans should be discussed at the February EEC meeting.
- Mike Merkle announced his resignation from the EEC due to a new job he's accepted in St. Louis.
- Pecan pie, requested by Stephanie Brown, was served in celebration of Stephanie's final official meeting as Water & Light Department liaison to the EEC.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.