

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMISSION

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

Minutes of Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Present: Scott Ward, Greg Miller, Karl Skala, Alyce Turner, Dick Parker, Dan Goldstein, Jean Sax

Absent: Steve Reichlin, Tom O'Connor, Lawrence Lile

City Staff: Barbara Buffaloe (City Liason), Stephanie Brown (Water & Light liaison)

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with motions by Dan Goldstein and Scott Ward.

MINUTES

Dick Parker made some corrections to the Comments of Commissioners section of the January 25, 2011 minutes. The minutes were approved with changes by motions from Mr. Parker and Mr. Ward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Renewable Energy Report – Barbara Buffaloe said that Water and Light will need comments about the report by Thursday, February 24 so that it can be presented to Council on March 7. Mr. Parker's recommendations were included in the report. Twenty acres of solar panels will be placed on a goat farm near the landfill. The commission will send a letter of appreciation for the consideration and inclusion of their recommendations in the report and also note the detailed cost information in the report.

Mr. Parker speculated that the costs of solar use will keep costs under 3%, meet the 15% renewable requirement and still have retail costs under 1%.

- b. Water Treatment Plant Expansion Report – The Carollo Engineering presentation will be March 10, 2011 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the 4th floor conference room of the City Building.
- c. Hinkson Creek TMDL/EPA – The health of the creek, erosion, and storm water are a concern. The City feels that EPA has not demonstrated that their directive will work. Mr. Skala felt that the commission should offer support while other commissioners felt that Council has not approached the EEC with this task. Alyce Turner would like the EEC to take a middle ground to support the task force. Kent

Metcalf recommends rain gardens. Ms. Buffaloe will ask John Glascock and Tom Wellman of the Public Works department to give a presentation on this matter at the next meeting. A subcommittee consisting of Jean Sax, Ms. Turner, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Skala will further research this issue and report at the March meeting.

- d. New Parking Garage, Lighting (Council Request) – Ms. Buffaloe said that Council has been receiving complaints that the lights in the new parking garage are too bright and may be using too much energy. LED lights are installed in that garage as a test project for cost comparison. Frank Cunningham has performed cost comparisons on the old garages. Mr. Skala said that the public needs to be made aware that these are LEDs which use less energy. Ms. Buffaloe suggested a night tour. There will be a presentation at the April meeting on costs. The EEC will respond back in the meantime and encourage the City's Parking division to promote awareness.

CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Building Codes Committee Report – Council has set a work session for March 15, 2011 at 6 p.m. to have the EEC and Building Codes Commission bring concerns and suggestions. Lawrence Lile and Tom O'Connor will give a PowerPoint presentation. Council tabled the request for the ordinance until after this work session. An ordinance does not need to be written, just amended. The EEC would like to meet with the City's legal department to discuss the proper procedures for an amendment. Ms. Buffaloe will initiate a meeting between the legal department and the subcommittee.
- b. Rental Property Energy Efficiency Committee – Mr. Parker and Ms. Buffaloe along with other committee members gave a presentation to Council. Council felt that this information would be difficult to compare and suggested pursuing a market based approach. Ms. Buffaloe and Leigh Britt will work with the City Channel to do a promotion. The City had received a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to submit customer usage, but because of privacy laws, the City was not able to do it. The committee will collect information from Water and Light and Boone Electric and discuss how to use this data in 3 to 4 weeks.
- c. LEED-ND – The Students will present at the Council work session on April 1, 2011 and possibly have Tim Teddy and John Glascock offer some information as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

- a. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned Earth Hour on March 26
- b. Ms. Turner reminded the EEC about Earth Day. She would like to compile a survey on rental energy efficiency.

Mr. Skala made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ward. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.