

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Present: Alyce Turner, Dick Parker, Teresa Hunter, Tom O'Connor, Kip Kendrick, Dillon Wyatt, David Brodsky

Absent: Barbara Buffaloe, Jean Sax, Bob Walters, Dan Goldstein

Guests: Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

Ms. Hunter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with changes.

MINUTES

The minutes for February 24, 2009 were approved with changes.

HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR FUNDING – TERRY FREEMAN

Terry Freeman, Energy Management Specialist II for the Water and Light Department, said the Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES) program is in its second year and is still getting contractors trained and certified. He said the amount of audits has increased from last year, and so far there have been 141 Home Performance Assessments since the birth of the program. He said to date there have been 40 customer-completed energy improvements since the program began in 2008. The program also offers low interest rate loans for qualified customers and improvements. Mr. Freeman said the program will help to implement the recommended changes from the Burns and McDonnell Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

Mr. Freeman said the program is still too new to project how successful the program is statistically. He said he keeps his projections modest while the program is still in the pilot phase, but expects increases in participation in the future. Mr. Freeman said currently the department is waiting on budget approval for staff additions and the purchase of a database to track all information with the program. Water and Light would like to add a position to manage the database. Mr. Parker said he would like to see a program implemented that will get 90% of customer participation in the DSM programs.

Mr. Freeman said staff has been working with Ameren to get customer usage information to apply to the assessment. Mr. Wyatt suggested implementing a permission form for use by the customer to gain access to their usage from Ameren.

Mr. Freeman said Water and Light offers to the contractors incentives of \$100 for the initial assessment and \$400 once improvements have been made. The customer pays \$200-\$400 per assessment and Water and Light offers rebates for approved improvements. He said customers are more likely to utilize the recommendations of the assessments when they cover the expense of the assessment themselves. Mr. Freeman said there are currently 12 contractor companies that have certified and approved contractors for the program; two of which operate in renewable contracting and can install solar panels and water heaters. Mr. Freeman said the initial upfront cost to contractors to get approved is approximately \$5000. Mr. Freeman said he monitors all work performed by the contractors and does a final inspection for the rebates and for the contractor's work.

Mr. Freeman said the utility currently receives a grant that covers 41% of the cost incurred for the program. The grant will end September 30, 2009. Mr. Parker suggested that Water and Light cover all costs with reimbursement of the initial customer cost after the suggested improvements have been made. Mr. Wyatt would like the customer to continue to be required to pay for the audit so that the cost of the program is not reflected in the utility rates. Mr. Freeman said the program must be cost effective to all parties involved. He said Water and Light is working to receive government stimulus funds as well. He said programs that are already established and proven to work will most likely be considered first. Ms. Turner recommended that detailed data is tracked to show that jobs are being created through these types of programs.

Ms. Turner inquired of efforts made in the commercial sector. Mr. Freeman said Jay Hasheider of Water and Light does some work with commercial customers. He said the utility also offers an infrared program. He added that more staff is needed to expand the commercial programs.

Mr. Freeman said staff is working with the Columbia Housing Authority and Central Missouri Community Action on the HPwES program. He also said there is now a website for customers to perform an online audit.

DRAFT LETTER – SAX

Mr. Brodsky said Planning and Zoning is submitting a Master Plan that he felt should be the focus of the letter. He said urban forestry was not included in the Master Plan and the letter could enforce its inclusion. This topic was tabled until a later meeting.

EARTH DAY

Mr. Kendrick recommended flyers for the Home Performance with Energy Star program for Earth Day on April 19. Ms. Turner, Mr. Kendrick, Mr. O'Connor, and Mr. Brodsky stated that they would be available to work at the booth. The schedule will be formulated via email.

REGIONAL TRAVEL

Ms. Turner said she gave a presentation to the City Council regarding the letter submitted by the EEC. She said the Mayor directed staff to proceed with this issue. She would like to contact the Boone County Commission. She asked that the commissioners email "Transform Missouri" with support.

DRINKING WATER

Mr. O'Connor drafted a letter regarding the effects on the drinking water supply and suggesting that a public forum be held at the next EEC meeting on April 28. Ms. Turner said she will help coordinate and invite guests. Ms. Brown will check the availability of conference rooms. Ms. Turner made a motion to approve the letter with changes and the motion was seconded by Mr. Parker. The motion was approved.

PROGRAM OF WORK

Mr. Parker suggested that the commissioners compile a list to submit to Ms. Buffaloe of items the group will be working on for the year. The list included:

1. Drinking Water
2. Urban Forestry
3. Land Disturbance
4. Energy Conservation – Demand Side Management Programs
5. Regional Transportation
6. Report Card on Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
7. Building Codes Related Issues
8. Stormwater Related Issues
9. Public Communications for the EEC

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Parker said the League of Women Voters asked if letters submitted by the EEC could be kept in the public library. Ms. Brown said they could be made available on the City's website under Environment and Energy Commission.

Ms. Turner announced that Barbara Hoppe will be holding a Smart Growth forum regarding the Natural Resources Inventory on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 on the CATV network.

UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

April – Drinking Water Forum

May – Building Codes

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison