

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Present: Barbara Buffaloe, Alyce Turner, Dick Parker, Tom O'Connor, Jean Sax, Bob Walters, Dan Goldstein, Teresa Hunter, Michael Merkle, David Brodsky

Absent: Dillon Wyatt, Kip Kendrick

Guests: John Sudduth, City of Columbia Public Works; Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with changes.

MINUTES

The March 24, 2009 minutes were approved without changes. The April 28, 2009 minutes were approved without changes.

UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Ms. Buffaloe informed the Commission on resigning commissioners and new members. Michael Merkle was introduced as the new county member.

DISCUSSION OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Walters moved to re-elect Ms. Buffaloe by acclamation as the Chair. The Commission agreed and Ms. Buffaloe was re-elected as Chair. Ms. Hunter nominated Ms. Sax as Vice Chair, and Mr. Goldstein volunteered to run for Vice Chair. Mr. Goldstein was elected as Vice Chair by majority of ballot votes. Mr. Walters nominated himself as Secretary.

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION REVIEW

Ms. Buffaloe said Council met with the Commission to go over the Program of Work. Ms. Buffaloe, Mr. Goldstein, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Walters attended the work session. Mr. Goldstein said they discussed the process of communication between the City Council, City staff, and the Boards and Commissions. Council sends information to the Director who submits it to the EEC. Mr. Goldstein suggested that the chair receive a copy of all correspondence, and would also like updates regarding staff directives. Mr. Parker said there was also discussion on whether the commissioners should wait for directive from Council before pursuing a topic. Mr. Goldstein suggested that the Commission should not change their procedures of communication at this time unless directed to do so. Mr. Parker said to make sure that Council is aware of what the EEC is doing.

WATER MEETING REVIEW

Ms. Buffaloe said she would like to add to the monthly agenda a review of the last meeting and would like to limit certain topics to no more than two or three meetings. Mr. Parker felt that there are too many guest speakers. Ms. Sax said the water meeting should have been a separate meeting outside of the normal meeting time so that the EEC business can be dealt with in a timely manner. Mr. Goldstein felt that it was a good meeting, but commissioner assignments are needed. Mr. O'Connor felt like the water supply issue was not fully dealt with and was concerned with the future of the water supply and the location of the wells in accordance with the Eagle Bluffs. Ms. Sax said the subject must remain in the public eye so that people are made aware of the ongoing situation.

Ms. Buffaloe nominated Mr. O'Connor to put together a synopsis of the meeting for public awareness of which he accepted. Mr. Brodsky felt that it is a budget issue regarding how much emphasis is placed on this topic. Ms. Sax and Mr. Parker will work with Mr. O'Connor on the water issue. Ms. Buffaloe suggested submitting letters to the newspapers as private citizens.

EARTH DAY REVIEW

Ms. Buffaloe recommended a tent for the EEC booth next year. Mr. Walters suggested adding other interactive tools to the booth. Ms. Turner suggested requesting the energy bicycle from the Department of Natural Resources for next year. The commission will request it in January.

CITY'S STIMULUS GRANT

Ms. Buffaloe, Mr. Goldstein, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Parker, Mr. Walters, Mr. Merkle, and Ms. Sax said they would try to attend the Block Grant joint meeting on May 27, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Buffaloe said they had narrowed the projects down to five activities. She would like the commissioners to review the activities and bring comments to the meeting. Mr. Goldstein made a motion for the EEC to support the inclusion of a Sustainability Director in the block grant fund and Mr. Walters made a second. The motion was passed with one opposition.

BUILDING CODES

Ms. Buffaloe said the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the Water and Light Department called for an increase in the energy efficiency measures of the City's building codes. She added that the Building Codes Commission (BCC) is currently reviewing the 2009 International Building Codes for adoption. One of the EEC's roles is to share ENERGY STAR guidelines with them. Ms. Buffaloe will gather the guidelines to send to the BCC. John Sudduth, City liaison to the BCC, said sub committees will review the sections pertaining to their expertise. Then their collective recommendations will be submitted to the City Council in which there will be two public hearings before the City Council votes.

Ms. Buffaloe said the proposed Building Codes incentive program will start on a voluntary basis and offer a waiver of some permit fees for meeting the energy efficiency standards. Ms. Buffaloe said she will also ask to be kept up to date on the process and will inquire about retrofits.

Ms. Turner said Randy Maley is still interested in talking to the EEC regarding radon and measures to eliminate it from homes through building codes. Mr. Goldstein reminded the commission that if measures are taken at the time of construction it is less expensive than if performed later. Ms. Turner said she will send Mr. Sudduth an email regarding Mr. Maley.

ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Sax asked that the Commission review the list of items to be included in the annual report. Ms. Brown will send it to Ms. Sax.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Brodsky mentioned the Master Plan from Planning and Zoning. He said they are currently working on the east Columbia plan.

UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

June – Water
Recycling
Annual Report

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison