

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Present: Barbara Buffaloe, Jean Sax, Kip Kendrick, Dan Goldstein, Ted Dyer, Alyce Turner, Teresa Hunter, Bob Walters

Absent: Dick Parker, David Brodsky

Guests: Kiah Harris, Burns and McDonnell; Tina Worley, Water and Light Department; Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

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

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with changes.

MINUTES

The minutes for May 27, 2008 were approved with changes.

ELECTIONS

Ms. Sax nominated Ms. Hunter for the office of Secretary. Mr. Walters made a second motion. The commission approved the motion by voice vote.

PRESENTATION BY KIAH HARRIS, BURNS & McDONNELL ENGINEERING

Kiah Harris of Burns and McDonnell Engineering delivered a presentation on the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the future power supply of the city. It was a summary of the presentation given at the IRP public meeting in June. He stated that the IRP examines two sides for the Water and Light Department – supply side and demand side management. It was the goal of the IRP to develop an optimal blend of the two.

Mr. Harris said the Water and Light Department is required to keep a certain amount of reserved energy on hand. The fuel projections in the IRP came from EIA government forecasts.

Mr. Harris said pumped storage was examined in the report with wind energy. He said wind does not have a capacity credit and wind energy is more expensive than coal. However, compared to nuclear energy, wind energy is a cheaper alternative. He said there are owner's risks associated with the city housing its own wind system. For example, Associated Electric is incurring repair costs for the replacement of wind turbines and blades. Nuclear power was not considered at this time due to low demand and the difficulty of examining a working nuclear plant.

For demand side management, programs offered by the Water and Light Department were examined to determine the most optimal plans. Major areas of interest included residential and commercial HVAC systems and insulation. Mr. Harris said Burns and McDonnell uses a computer program which can model commercial buildings to help assess energy conservation methods. Tina Worley said currently there are 16,000 load control switches installed for the Load Management program. Thirty percent of the population participates in the program. This percentage is, however, affected by a percentage of the population who use window air units. Locations with window air units do not qualify for the program. Mr. Harris said the utility is still assessing the effectiveness of the load control switches on dual compressor units. Mr. Harris said net metering was not considered in the analysis because there is not a lot of impact on the industrial customers yet.

Mr. Goldstein felt that municipalities that hold on to their own power production plants eventually see lower cost energy. Mr. Dyer said cost of ownership must be considered in such a decision to house power production plants. Mr. Goldstein felt that a conflict arises between buying at market cost and being a municipal utility. He wanted to know how that would be balanced. Mr. Harris said taking embedded costs and accessibility has put the utility in a better market price bracket.

Mr. Harris said areas that are in need of support from the commission are the tightening of building codes to enforce certain energy conservation methods, the need for more staff and equipment to implement the demand side management programs, and the advent of time of use strategy.

The IRP draft is near completion and will be presented to the Power Supply Task Force in August.

Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that the commission would like to utilize Mr. Harris' knowledge as a resource when recommending subjects such as building code modifications to the City Council. Any further questions from the commission will be directed toward Ms. Worley.

Ms. Buffaloe suggested submitting a letter of response to Mr. Harris' presentation. A draft will be submitted at the next meeting.

LAND DISTURBANCE REPORT

Ms. Sax will contact Karl Skala of the City Council for feedback on the Urban Forestry Plan. Mr. Goldstein recommended establishing a subcommittee for this vast topic. Mr. Dyer recommended discussion with Mona Menezes, the Storm Water Educator for the city as a starting point for the land disturbance issue. Mr. Goldstein said there needs to be an actual suggestion of ordinance changes for presentation to the city and more communication with the City Council. Mr. Goldstein suggested discussion with the City Council for the next step.

Ms. Sax suggested utilizing the student service learning program to assist with the gathering and compiling of information for this topic. Gail Ludwig is the contact person for the service learning program.

Ms. Sax, Mr. Kendrick and Mr. Goldstein will form a subcommittee to follow up on land disturbance and the tree ordinance.

REGIONAL TRAVEL

Ms. Turner is working with the Boone County Partnership to develop a plan for the city to establish a test pilot program for the use of hybrid buses for public transportation between partnering cities. Interested cities include Jefferson City, Sturgeon, Centralia, and Hallsville. She said \$108,000 is still needed for the pilot program and it could be up and running in as little as six months once the program is approved and there are enough funds.

STREETLIGHTING

Since Mr. Dyer will be resigning from the Commission, Ms. Buffaloe would like to make sure the streetlighting project is continued by passing it to another commissioner. Mr. Dyer said Dan Clark of the Water and Light Department is ready to move forward with the phase out of the mercury vapor lights. At this point staff should be finished with the inventory of the remaining mercury vapor lights. Ms. Sax said she was able to contact Ann Arbor, MI who has LED light fixtures in place and would like a list of questions to present to them. She also suggested sending reminder letters to Council to make sure the city continues with the testing of the LED light fixture that will be placed in the new parking garage downtown.

RECYCLING

Mr. Dyer said he met with Layli Terrill, the Waste Minimization Supervisor in the Public Works Department. He said he was met with some challenges regarding outside vendors while pursuing this topic. He also mentioned that Dick Parker gave a presentation on the importance of recycling at the Boone EHS Network meeting. Ms. Buffaloe suggested that Mr. Parker continue with this issue in place of Mr. Dyer. Mr. Goldstein will assist with this topic in the area of recycling bottles and cans.

MAYOR'S CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Council asked the commission to provide examples of a report card to track the city's progress on fulfilling the resolution for the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. Ms. Buffaloe put an example together that was compiled of points from the resolution. She asked the commissioners to look it over and provide comments at the next meeting. Commissioners who showed interest and will pursue this topic are Ms. Sax, Mr. Kendrick, Ms. Hunter, Ms. Buffaloe, and Mr. Walters.

ANNUAL REPORT

A few suggestions were made for the annual report. Ms. Sax moved to send the report to Council once the changes have been made and Ms. Hunter made a second motion. It was approved by voice vote. Ms. Buffaloe will compose a cover letter to include with the report requesting that Council provide comments to the commission after letters and reports are submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONER

Ms. Sax is working with the Boone County Commission to arrange for a County liaison to attend the meetings, possibly from Planning and Zoning. Ms. Sax will provide more information at the next meeting.

The commission will invite Mr. Dyer, Mr. Miles and Mr. Cunningham to the next meeting to recognize them for their contribution to the commission. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. and then move to the Boone Tavern at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Walters would like to compose a letter regarding traffic light sequencing to reduce CO2 emissions from idling cars.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison