

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday 24 July 2007

Present: Norm Lenhardt, John Miles, Teresa Hunter, Jean Sax, Alyce Turner, Bob Walters, Kip Kendrick, Barbara Buffaloe, David Brodsky, Ted Dyer
Absent: Frank Cunningham

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

1. Sax called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Agenda. Buffaloe motioned to approve the agenda with changes. Miles seconded.
3. Minutes. Miles moved to approve the minutes with changes. Buffaloes seconded.
4. CO2 Report. Dan Dasho attended the meeting to explain the CO2 report and answer any questions regarding it. He explained that the City Council is carrying out the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and that greenhouse gas reduction is apart of that. He said the first task was to take an inventory of the greenhouse gases in Columbia and that Water and Light set out to complete this mission. He explained that a software program was used to collect and access the data. Dasho said usable data could not be collected from 1990 so the baseline data goes back to 2000. Data was collected from several variables such as the landfill, power plant, and transportation information. However, it was discovered that transportation and landfill gas was not a major contributor to the emissions. He said there were increases in the emissions because of population growth. He said Water and Light has a strong focus on energy efficiency. He said there is the question on how to improve the rental housing market in regards to becoming more energy efficient. Miles asked how electrical energy consumed and transportation miles driven were measured. Dasho said cars and trucks in Columbia were included in the data collected and MoDOT provided a gas mileage assumption. He also said the energy that is purchased from outside plants was counted as Columbia. He said that according to the agreement, Columbia must reduce CO2 emissions by 7.5% from the 1990s by the year 2012. Miles stated that it was a little unrealistic. Dasho said this problem is worldwide and how do you reduce the emissions when the population is growing. Miles asked what Columbia could have done over this time period. Buffaloe asked if population affects this and Dasho's response was yes, but the CO2 growth rate was higher than the population rate. Dasho said Water and Light did not have much say in the transportation numbers. MoDOT provided the numbers and the computer models. Dyer said they could possibly measure transportation using vehicle registrations and gas consumption. Miles asked if Columbia is doing better or worse. Dasho said better in that more is being done now to become more energy efficient even though CO2 numbers are higher. Walters asked if it is expensive or useful to have an air quality measurement usage. Dasho said it depends on how that would be derived and that yes, it would be expensive. He also said the power

plant does measure energy consumption and output and that Ameren has some information on measurements. Sax asked what would be the direction from here and it was answered with it's up to the City Council. He said the next step is for the Council to take action possibly creating a task force to spearhead different areas.

5. Tree Ordinance. Sax said there is no actual tree ordinance. It is just part of the Land Disturbance Ordinance which mainly talks about how to plant trees. She said Liz Dekken, former member of the EEC, picked out things she liked from the Sandy Springs Tree Ordinance and it's being used as a model. Walters said there are enforceable restrictions for tree preservation mentioned in Columbia's ordinances. Sax submitted a packet with a draft tree ordinance, excerpts from the Sandy Springs ordinance, the City of Columbia Standards and Guidelines for Landscaping and Tree Preservation, a cover letter for the draft, and a copy of what was done previously by Karl Skala, former E&E commissioner. Miles said he would like to see an introduction, a notation on the document of who prepared it, possibly indicate the sources in a different font. Sax said that this is a draft and it needs to be reviewed by the commissioners. She also said what was done in the past was that Skala made recommendations in regards to land disturbance. Walter inquired if the E&E was on the right path in accordance to the request of Council. Sax said the draft is an example of what could be included in an ordinance. Miles suggested tabling this item until the objective is clearly established. Sax said no decisions should be made today, just a review of the information and the draft. Brown will forward the e-mail outlining what the City Council is looking for to all of the Commissioners. A week prior to the August 28 meeting, Sax and Walters will send information to the Commissioners that includes: information from the prior review of the tree ordinance in 2004, the Council direction now, listing of operative documents, revisions clarified on the draft, and sources.
6. Annual Report. Sax said she is still collecting documents from 2005 and 2006. She said Cunningham would like an outline. Sax asked Brown to gather all correspondence and minutes from 2005 and 2006.
7. CO2 Report. Miles said the population growth percentage was not given for the time period studied and that it's not clear from looking at the report whether Columbia is doing good or bad. There is no conclusion at the end. Dyer said Kyoto looks strictly at CO2. Miles motioned to ask for population impact on report and a table or chart that shows growth during this time period. Walters seconded. Miles also motioned for a list of sources of documents, authors, and dates. Walters seconded.
8. Nick Peckham, an architect of LEED called Sax to help him get the word out on green buildings. The community has a problem with the cost of a green roof on the new city building. Brodsky said a green roof lowers the heat and collects rainwater. Buffaloe said the two types of green roofing are intensive and extensive, depending on the depth of the soil.
9. Measures of Energy Efficiency. Miles said he met with Dan Dasho, Director of Water and Light, and Jim Windsor, Manager of Rates and Fiscal Planning to suggest including a city wide comparison of usage on individual utility bills to show the customer the efficiency of their home. He also discussed looking at the data from high summer months and comparing it to a baseline from noncooling months to determine if the air conditioning unit has good energy usage. He said the biggest encumbrance of including these items on the bill was the finance department. Turner suggested getting the Council members to support.

10. Walters commented on the third high school location and whether it is an issue for the E&E to discuss. Brodsky asked is it environmentally sensitive
11. Lenhardt talked about areas of major energy usage. He said we can't keep using agricultural land for residential housing.
12. Solar Home Tour. Turner said individuals could join the Sustainable Living solar home tour or the E&E go as a group.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next Agenda Items:

1. Tree ordinance documents
2. Tony St. Romaine, Assistant City Manager – Speaker for City Building Renovations
3. LEED Certification
4. Third High School Location

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison