

Energy and Environment Commission City of Columbia

September 25, 2018

Members of the City Council,

Last night Sept. 24), the EEC discussed the “Scooter Issue” and the following points were made:

1. The Bird Scooters are energy efficient and lead to less reliance on vehicles powered by internal combustion engines. There is a small amount of energy consumed in recharging. Overall, the energy efficiency of the scooters is commendable.
2. A motion was made and passed that the City Council adopt an ordinance on electric-powered scooters similar to the Skateboard ordinance.
3. An amendment was passed with the following concerns:
 - a. Scooters are operated on sidewalks, endangering pedestrians.
 - b. No helmets are required to operate the scooters.
 - c. The scooters are stored on City property, including sewer covers, storm drains, and city sidewalks (there was a question about whether this violates a City Ordinance).
 - d There is currently no permit to store or operate the scooters within the City of Columbia. It is our understanding that a permit application has been filed, but not yet approved. However, the scooters are here and are being operated.

We ask that our concerns be addressed.

Sincerely,

Ken Midkiff
Chair, Environment and Energy Commission