



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Climate and Environment Commission

Tuesday, September 23, 2025
6:00 PM

City Hall
Conference Room 1A
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Abra Spisso called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Present: 12 - Linda Godwin, Abra Spisso, Emily Gustafson, Alexis Hall, Richard Shanker, Eric Kvam, Andrew Sell, Kira Smith, Abby Dickinson, Cherylyn Kelley, Morgan Wozniak and Eileen Avery

Excused: 3 - Leanne Tippet Mosby, David Huhman and Nathan Elwood

Climate and Environment Commission Public Comment Practice

Members of the public may request up to 10 minutes on the agenda to present to the commission under the Special Item section. Placement on the agenda will be at the discretion of the Chair based on relevance to the duties and responsibilities of the commission outlined in Sec. 2-294 of the city code. Every agenda will include a section for general comments by the public. Each member of the public wishing to speak will be allowed up to three minutes. Persons representing a group will be allowed up to 5 minutes.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Members, staff, and guests introduced themselves around the room.

Guests:

Erin Holmes

Kaylee Woelfel

Mike Currier

Dr. David Diamond

Kyle Sullivan

Staff

Tyler Gerstheimer

Eric Hempel

Subha Khan

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Abby Dickinson Made a motion to Approve the agenda, Rylyn Kelley seconded, unanimous approval, motion carries.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Eric Kvam made a motion to Approve 7-22-2025 CEC meeting minutes at the 10-28-2025 CEC meeting. Andrew Sell econded the motion, unanimous approval, motion carries.

Attachments: [CEC MeetingMinutes 7-22-2025](#)

V. SPECIAL ITEMS

Attachments: CEC Presentation - Bird City
CEC Diamond Sep 23 2025

Erin Holmes (USFWS) and Kaylee Woelfel (Missouri River Bird Observatory), went over the background of the Bird City program nationally as well as the launch of Bird City Missouri.

Requires 10 actions tailored specifically for Missouri,
Once the actions are complete then City can apply for the bird city designation
Members asked questions regarding continued reporting and compliance with the actions.
The CEC will finalize a memo to City Council requesting a resolution the their next meeting.

Dr David Diamond presented a proposal regarding a potential specially designated Gans Creek Nature Preserve that would emphasize natural resource management and low-impact recreation; develop interpretive and educational materials; consider developing hiking trails south of Gans Creek to meet the needs of nature trail users, and to protect the creek, the soils, and the karst features; maintain the connected core ecosystem values compatible with Gans Creek Wild Area to the west.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Attachments: [Climate and Environment Commission \(CEC\) 2025 Priorities](#)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Attachments: CAAP Update

Lelande Rehard (Staff) presented information about the CAAP Update process.
The CEC will have representation on the CAAP Executive Committee.

Rylyn Kelley made a motion to Draft a letter to the City Council with the proposed (Bird City) resolution" Abby Dickinson seconded motion carries with unanimous approval.

VIII. REPORTS

Attachments: CEC Members' Terms Expiring 11-2025

Chair reminded those with expiring terms to apply if interested in continuing service.

Chair reminded that attendance record will be posted in the agenda

Attachments: AUGUST_Social_Media_2025_BRIEF

Staff commented that the FY2026 City of Columbia Budget passed. New items are focussed on better data collection for EVs and data informed decisions in climate planning.

Tree planting and distribution with CoMO Canopy is continuing this fall in areas of low canopy and high summer temperatures.

Social Media Report, attached.

At their Nov 17 PreCouncil meeting, the City Council will hear a presentation called Energy Codes 101.

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Rick Shanker made comments about the potential reconstruction project at the MRF.

Rylyn Kelley clarified the role of the Community Development Director in the Building Code adoption process

Kyle Sullivan - presented to the Commission on the potential for the \$120M Energy Engineering and Economic Policy Research Center at the University of Missouri - Columbia.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 28, 2025

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Rylyn Kelley moved for Adjournment, Abby Dickinson seconded. Motion carries with unanimous voice vote.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573.874.CITY (2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit CoMo.gov/upload.