



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Climate and Environment Commission

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
6:00 PM

Regular

701 E Broadway
City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Leanne Tippet Mosby called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Staff: Eric Hempel (Sustainability), Becca Elder (Sustainability); John Simon (Community Development), Todd McVicker (Utilities)

Members of the public: Rick Shanker, Nikki, Melinda Hemmelgarn, Dan Hemmelgarn

II. INTRODUCTIONS

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

Present: 11 - Linda Godwin, Ryan Kaufmann, Matthew Ludden, Leanne Tippet Mosby, Dick Parker, Abra Spisso, Roni Becherer, Jessica Norris, Emily Gustafson, David Adams and David Huhman

Excused: 4 - Annette Triplett, Joseph Barnett, Jacquelyn Sample and Raymond Holland

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda: Dick Parker

Second: Matthew Ludden

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes: Emily Gustafson

Second: Linda Godwin

Abra Spisso abstained; motion carried.

TMP-23889 February 2023 CEC Meeting Minutes Draft

Attachments: [February 2023 CEC Minutes Draft](#)

V. SPECIAL ITEMS

TMP-23890 Pesticide Drift- Melinda Hemmelgarn

Attachments: [Commission on climate and environment - pesticides - Hemmelgarn](#)
[Pesticides, Climate, Environment Resource List.docx](#)
[Organic Land Management ActionPlan.2023 Columbia MO \(002\).docx](#)
[Planning a Garden - for Westmount Neighbors - 2](#)

Melinda Hemmelgarn presented on the risks of pesticides on babies and children, pregnant women, and pollinators. Hemmelgarn spoke about Beyond Pesticides as a potential solution to pesticide use in the Columbia community. The potential benefits of

organic land management were discussed. Hemmelgarn spoke about the chemicals used by the City of Columbia and suggested that the CEC recommend that the City Council/Mayor sign up for a free pilot program with Beyond Pesticides that would provide an 8 hour training to City staff. Hemmelgarn's presentation is attached as "Commission on climate and environment - pesticides - Hemmelgarn." Additional information provided by Hemmelgarn is also attached.

Chair Leanne Tippet Mosby thanked Hemmelgarn for presenting and said that the commission members should review the materials shared and be prepared to discuss this at the April CEC meeting if there is room on the April agenda.

Members and staff discussed asking City staff for input on the subject. Staff member Eric Hempel volunteered to reach out to other City staff about this.

TMP-23891 **Building Construction Codes Commission (BCCC) Action on 2021 International Energy Codes Commission codes- Richard Shanker**

Rick Shanker was speaking as a resident of Columbia rather than as a representative of the Building Construction Codes Commission (BCCC). Shanker described the process of reviewing and updating codes in the City of Columbia and spoke about modifying the electrical code due to supply chain problems and affordability.

Climate and Environment Commissions (CEC) members asked questions about supply chain issues and changes.

City staff member John Simon spoke about recent supply issues in Columbia, and stated that the 2024 code review could start next year. It was stated that the International Energy Conservation Code made some changes to the scope of the code to be less cost intensive.

Leanne Tippet Mosby spoke about the ad hoc committee on the 2021 IECC. She said there were concerns about the cost versus benefit of some of the items in the code, including the extra insulation requirements. Therefore, she said her recommendation at this time is to move to reviewing the 2024 code now instead of moving forward with the 2021 code at this point.

Members discussed a review of John Simon's report and the 2024 IECC code.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

TMP-23892 **Vice Chair Elections**

Jessica Norris was elected as the Vice Chair of the Climate and Environment Commission.

Motion to nominate Jessica Norris to serve as Vice Chair of the Climate and Environment Commission: Leanne Tippet Mosby

Second: Ryan Kaufmann

Motion passed unanimously.

TMP-23893 **Climate and Environment Commission Annual Report**

Attachments: [CEC 2022 annual report draft materials](#)

[Edits on 2022 CEC Priorities Final](#)

[CAAP 2021 Annual Report](#)

Leanne Tippet Mosby presented draft materials for the CEC's annual report on 2022,

attached as "CEC 2022 annual report draft materials." Commission members were asked to look at the draft thoroughly and send comments to Leanne Tippet Mosby so that a polished draft can be completed at the April meeting.

Commission members went through the priorities table that was in the attached 2021 CAAP (Climate Action & Adaptation Plan) Annual Report beginning on page 19. The table with the markups (action steps highlighted in yellow and removals in red) is attached as "Edits on 2022 CEC Priorities Final." The priorities for the 2022 annual report will be refined at the April 2023 CEC meeting.

The commission discussed adding new priorities for 2023, specifically for transportation strategies T-1.2 and T-1.5.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

TMP-23894 Climate and Environment Commission Field Trips Discussion (e.g. energy production facilities)

Commission members discussed potential locations for the commission to visit. Members expressed the most interest in seeing the Material Recovery Facility first. The commission also discussed touring City Hall, the University, and the bioreactor.

TMP-23895 Natural Gas Rebate Proposal

Attachments: [GHG rebate proposal.docx](#)
[RATIONALE for GHG REBATE FY14.docx](#)
[Markup_The Climate and Environment Commission Rebate](#)

Dick Parker read the statement on the "GHG rebate proposal.docx" attachment, which was a suggested statement for the CEC to pass. Parker explained the proposal and the need for natural gas rebates, which is also detailed in "RATIONALE for GHG REBATE FY14." Parker estimated that this approach would add \$400-\$500 to the rebates.

Members discussed the statement. Staff member Todd McVicker provided context on natural gas rebate revisions and stated that the City of Columbia Utility and the Water and Light Advisory Board will be reviewing the incentive programs.

CEC members edited the proposed statement and voted to approve the edited statement. The version with the markups is attached as "Markup_The Climate and Environment Commission Rebate".

Motion that the Climate and Environment Commission adopt the statement in the document titled "GHG rebate proposal.docx": Dick Parker

Second: Ryan Kaufmann

Motion was withdrawn.

Motion that The Climate and Environment Commission recommends that, among the incentives for energy reduction, Columbia Water & Light consider a rebate based upon the quantity of GHG reduction that will be achieved by replacing natural gas using equipment with electricity using equipment: Dick Parker

Second: Ryan Kaufmann

Motion passed unanimously.

TMP-23896 Earth Day

Members discussed the upcoming Earth Day event and logistics related to the commissions' booth at the event, including printing materials and members volunteering

to work the booth.

VIII. TASK UPDATES

There were no task updates.

IX. STAFF REPORT

Eric Hempel's staff report included the following:

Staff are preparing a rental energy efficiency engagement report to City Council.

The Office of Sustainability has hired a Community Resilience Organizer to continue next steps of Show Me the Heat.

There is an opening in the Office of Sustainability for a full time Environmental Programs Coordinator.

The Community Conservationist, Danielle Fox, is finalizing a story map for the Show Me the Heat Campaign.

Staff are reviewing grant opportunities.

Commission members are asked to share electronic copies of any materials they would like shared at meetings so that virtual attendees can view them and so they can easily be added to the minutes.

X. CHAIR REPORT

Leanne Tippet Mosby told the commission about an upcoming webinar that would be sent out.

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

A local plant sale was announced.

It was clarified that the natural gas statement the commission had voted to approve should be sent to the Water & Light Advisory Board and Columbia Water & Light.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

April 25th, 2023 at 6 PM in City Council Chambers.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Motion to adjourn: Matthew Ludden

Second: Jessica Norris

Motion passed unanimously.

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