

GENERAL

Ordinance Fact Sheet

180372

Ordinance Number

Brief Title

Approval Deadline

Reason

Update to the ordinance authorizing duties of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC)

Since its creation in 1994, the areas of focus for the EMC have changed & should be reflected in its ordinance

Details

Positions/Recommendations

Reason for Legislation

Originally established as the City's Environmental Management & Waste Minimization Commission in 1994 (Resolution #940657), the Commission was replaced in 1996 (Ordinance #960220) with a permanent Environmental Management Commission (EMC) whose primary duties were reviewing plans, budgets, programs, & actions of the City which substantially impact the City's environment and monitoring the City's compliance with state & federal environmental laws & regulations.

Over the past two decades, the City's activities and the EMC's areas of interest have broadened into a wider array of issues & priorities that impact the sustainability (environmental quality, social equity, & economic vitality) of our community.

It is appropriate to update the EMC ordinance to reflect the opportunity to address our current realities & priorities.

Sponsor

City Manager

Programs, Departments, or Groups Affected

Applicants / Proponents

Applicant Environmental

City Department Office of Environmental Quality

Other

Discussion

EMC consists of 17 citizen volunteers appointed by the Mayor to provide their expertise and perspective re environmental issues that are critical to the quality of life in Kansas City. In that role they have provided valuable policy recommendations re action to address climate change, approaches to reducing combined sewer overflows, repurposing vacant lots into community assets, and an increasing array of issues that impact the success of our City today and into the future.

As consideration of environmental issues have moved beyond regulatory compliance, solid waste & hazardous waste management, waste recycling, and air quality, EMC members have also assumed important liaison roles in representing the City on regional policy bodies (e.g. the Regional Air Quality Forum, MARC's Solid Waste Management District) and local ad hoc task forces (e.g. Climate Protection Steering Committee, Cost of Water Service Task Force, the Housing Policy Working Group).

The EMC has also offered policy recommendations to the Mayor & City Council, the City Manager, City staff, and other City boards & commissions re issues of environmental planning, management, & compliance.

Reflecting the broader issues being addressed by the City over the past two decades, the proposed revision of the duties of the EMC would clarify their roles in areas of policy recommendations and representing the City as liaisons with other cities, regional policy bodies, and organizations to advocate for timely inclusion of environmental considerations in all city policies and programs. No changes are proposed re the membership, appointments, and terms of office for the EMC.

Opponents

Groups or Individuals

None Known
Basis of opposition

Staff Recommendation

For
 Against

Reason Against

Board or Commission Recommendation

By
 For Against No action taken
 For, with revisions or conditions (see details column for conditions)

Council Committee Actions

Do pass
 Do pass (as amended)
 Committee Sub.
 Without Recommendation
 Hold
 Do not pass

Details

Is it good for the children?

Yes. Including environmental & sustainability considerations in all City policies and programs will improve public health & the quality of life for our children and increase the prospects for their future lives in our community.

How will this contribute to a sustainable Kansas City?

The input and policy recommendations from a diverse group of community representatives who have interests & expertise re environmental issues and sustainability will complement the work of elected officials & City staff who are committed to making Kansas City a healthy, sustainable community for all our current residents and those who will live, work, and play in our City in the future.

Policy/Program Impact

Policy or Program Change	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes This revision to the EMC ordinance clarifies an evolving role the EMC is serving today, reflecting changing conditions & new challenges we face, requiring leadership & action by the City.
Operational Impact Assessment	

Finances

Cost & Revenue Projections -- Including Indirect Costs	
Financial Impact	None
Fund Source (s) and Appropriation Account Codes	19__ Budget, Page ____ Unbudgeted, Appropriation _____ Fund 00-000-00-0000-A0000

(Use this space for further discussion, if necessary)

Applicable Dates:

Fact Sheet Prepared by:

Dennis Murphey
Chief Environmental Officer

Date -- May 14, 2018

Reviewed by:

Date --

Reference Numbers