

## Minutes for July 14, 2020 CCL-KC General Membership Meeting

1. The July 14, 2020 CCL-KC General Membership Meeting was held by Go To Meeting and convened at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Stephen Melton, Paula Leppert, Dave Mitchell, Kurt Kloster, Frank Zilm, Donna Jones, and Lia and Karen Uhlenhuth. We were joined by new member Audrey McCalley, a public health expert who recently moved here from New York. Welcome, Audrey, and thanks to all who attended the meeting!

2. Announcements. Dave stated June CCL Conference drew 4685 attendees and the Lobby Days featured 442 meetings with members of congress or their staffs. Both figures exceeded expectations. The videos of the conference keynote speakers are now on the CCL Website at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/keynote-speakers-offer-encouragement-progress-on-climate/>. There was much praise regarding the excellent quality of the speakers and classes. Dave also discussed the Saturday CCL National Call on July 11 and stated Dr. Renee Lertzman, environmental psychologist, provided excellent suggestions for how to handle climate grief and anxiety. You can watch her recent TED talk at [https://www.ted.com/talks/renee\\_lertzman\\_how\\_to\\_turn\\_climate\\_anxiety\\_into\\_action?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/renee_lertzman_how_to_turn_climate_anxiety_into_action?language=en). Steve noted that the December CCL Virtual Conference is now scheduled for December 5 and 6, with lobby days the following week. The format for both will be similar to the June conference.

3. Recent Progress in Washington D.C. Dave initiated a discussion of the bipartisan Growing Climate Solutions Act, which would allow the Department of Agriculture to certify carbon sequestration in farmland and forests for the purpose of selling carbon credits. We also discussed the the recent Democratic report from the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis <https://climatecrisis.house.gov/sites/climatecrisis.house.gov/files/Climate%20Crisis%20Action%20Plan.pdf> and Joe Biden's July 13 proposal for addressing climate change. Both are enormous steps forward, promising meeting Paris agreement goals by 2050, and deep nearer term cuts in carbon emissions. Both add great clarity to the climate debate. The House report calls for 100% carbon free electricity by 2040, and also suggests regulations for vehicles and buildings. The Biden proposal sets 2035 as the carbon free electricity goal and focusses more on clean buildings and job creation.

Danny Richter, CCL's VP for Gov't Affairs said on July 13 about the House proposal. 1) It's a Democratic document and he expects the Republicans on the committee to publish their own report in a few months. 2) The report takes mainly a regulatory approach, although it does urge Congress to "put a price on carbon" as well. 3) An independent study of the proposal says that the House proposal will not meet its emission reduction targets of 45% by 2030 and 100% by 2050 without a carbon price. 4) CCL supports the carbon fee and dividend approach as the "best first step" (though not a silver bullet) and is convinced it beats the regulatory approach legislated in the Clean Air Act, which is at best a status quo document and is not solving the global

warming problem. He believes the regulatory pause in HR 763 is necessary to win Republican support.

4. Reengaging Members of Congress. CCL asked that all chapters try to set up Zoom meetings this summer with their MOCs. Frank suggested that we include other environmental partners, such as the Sierra Club and American Institute of Architects, to have greater impact. Also that we begin to prepare for what we want happen post-election. We agreed to form a separate committee (Steve Melton, Dave Mitchell, Frank Zilm, Paula Leppart, and Theresa Noble) to pursue these initiatives.

5. Obtaining Business/Leader Endorsements. Lia told us the story behind the Broadway Roastery and Cafe's recent endorsement of the EICD. Great work by Karen and Lia! Bottom line is that we want business endorsers and will provide them with a framed certificate of appreciation, CCL-KC handouts and stickers, and mention on our website and social media. Steve promised to renew the overtures to Boulevard Brewing, heretofore interrupted by COVID.

6. Steve informed the group that we, with our Kansas partners, are submitting the paperwork to get Climate Action KC's endorsement of the EICD Act. All thought we should go forward with it. Frank promised to get the Sierra Club's position on the EICD.

7. Next Steps on KC Building Codes. In June 2020, the KC city council passed a resolution adopting the 2018 building codes, except for the codes, which will await the publication of the much stronger energy codes we expect to be published in September. Frank and Eslun, along with the Sierra Club, American Institute of Architects, and many local architectural firms, were instrumental in meeting with council members, explaining our position, and securing a unanimous vote. We will be asking the CCL membership to support the resolution for adoption of the new energy codes, which will include a zero-emission annex, once they are received in the fall. Buildings are a major emitter of green house gasses.

8. Website, Facebook, Social Media. Frank reported we average 30-40 hits a month on our website, which Go Daddy considers average for a site like ours.

9. Newsletter. Julie reported by email that the June newsletter had a 12.9% open rate, meaning 48 people opened it. She suggested we send an email to people who don't read it to find out why. Several people said they didn't get the newsletter, which went out on June 30 and was titled, "June recap and ways to help CCL in July." I you didn't get it, check your spam folder and drag it into your inbox so your computer knows not to put it in spam. Some thought the title for the newsletter may have been misleading.

10. Donna reported we have \$353.71 in the checking account and everyone thanked Frank for paying the Go Daddy subscription out of his own pocket. (Thanks Frank!)

11. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

12. Our next meeting will be August 11 at 6:30 PM, also by Go To Meeting.

13. Thanks for all you do!

Stephen Melton and Dave Mitchell  
CCL-KC Chapter Co-Leaders