

Minutes for November 8, 2023 CCL-KC General Membership Meeting

1. The November 8, 2023 CCL-KC General Membership Meeting convened at the Plaza Library at 6:30 PM. Attending in person were Stephen Melton, Lorraine Elmore, Donna Jones, and Frank Zilm. Attending via Zoom were Sharen Hunt, Kurt Kloster, Karen Uhlenhuth, Paula Leppert, and newcomer Laura Gowens, who is a tech executive and also volunteers with “Social Heart”, a fundraiser for local charities. Thanks to all who contributed to this meeting.

2. Announcements.

a. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R.5744) has been reintroduced. CCL priority now is to get House co-sponsors. Learn more at citizensclimatelobby.org. Click on the Take Action link.

b. CCL other emphasis now is bipartisan permitting reform legislation.

c. The Big Wires Act has been introduced in both houses of Congress. Was a CCL Primary Ask at November 4 Conference. Goal is to permit and build transmission lines to move wind and solar energy from region to region. Target is 30% over peak load. (Or plus 15% from current transmission capacity.)

d. The Grain Belt Express, which will carry Kansas wind energy into northern Missouri and Illinois, was approved by Missouri Public Services Commission! Big victory for clean energy! Thanks to all who helped make this happen.

3. Update on Energy Efficient Buildings.

a. IECC2021 is in full effect in KCMO and the phasing-in period is over.

b. Frank reported that he and other members of the KC chapter of the American Institute of Architects met with council members Bough and Bunch to maintain their continued support for the building codes. They are concerned that the Missouri government may again try to enact a preemptive law next year.

c. Kansas municipalities are waiting on the 2024 IECC to try to standardize building codes in the ir half of the Metro.

d. Karen reported that Andy Sevastino, KCMO Environmental Officer, reported “no problems” concerning the new codes.

e. Some discussion about whether the new codes affected building permits in KCMO. MEC is probably tracking.

4. Discussion on Urban Reforestation Next Steps.

a. Group discussed the passage of Ballot Measure 2 (authorizing sale of 5.399 acres of Northland forest).

b. Group discussed latest draft of forestry letter to city council members and agreed to send me final edits this week so that the letter can be mailed next week.

c. We all agreed that we should continue to push this CCL priority, especially when the Tree preservation Ordinance is reviewed in March 2024.

5. Grassroots Engagement

a. Tabling was very effective this year! (KCMO election and building codes, especially.) Thanks again to all volunteers!

- b. 2024 Tabling Season kickoff will be the Northland Ethnic Festival at Staley High School on April 13. This was highly successful last year.
 - c. Lorraine will re-apply for Brookside Farmers Market for 2024.
 - d. Laura will contact Art Garden K.C. to see if we can table with them at the City Market.
 - e. Lorraine is looking for opportunities for 10-year-olds to join in our activities.
6. Urbavore Urban Farms and Compost Collective KC.
 - a. Success! KCMO City manager Brian Platt recently met with the owners and promised to reach resolution on the matters in contention.
 - b. NPR news report: <https://www.npr.org/2023/11/06/1210826900/why-not-all-cities-are-welcoming-community-composters>.
 - c. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause and writing letters of support. And thank Donna for spearheading this effort!
7. CCL Climate Action Program.
 - a. Please contact your senators and representatives on a regular basis. Go to: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/get-loud-take-action/>
 - b. CCL's November push is to phone your senators and representatives in support of H.R.5744 and the Big Wires Act. Learn more at citizensclimatelobby.org. Click on the Take Action link.
8. Treasury. Donna reported we have \$1174.83 in our checking account.
9. New Business. Paula recommended the movie "Common Ground" about regenerative farming and preserving healthy soil. It should open at the Glenwood Arts on December 1, with a panel discussion occurring afterwards.
10. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.
11. Our next CCL-KC meeting will be a PIZZA PARTY on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 PM at Spin Pizza in Crown Center. All members and their plus-ones are invited. We are asking our Kansas-side CCL partners to join us as well. Think of it as a bi-state CCL Christmas party! Our next regular meeting will be January 10, 2024 in the Plaza Library small meeting room. Zoom instructions will be published in the January newsletter.

Thanks to everyone for all you do!

Stephen Melton
CCL-KC(MO) Chapter Leader
smelton822@icloud.com
913-683-0168