



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Sustainability Committee Agenda City Hall Conference Room B March 14, 2019, 7:30 a.m.

1. Approval of the February 7, 2019 meeting minutes.

Documents:

[020719 MIN.PDF](#)

2. Requesting approval of a grant application to the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) for Energy and Community Grant Funds in the amount of \$55,958 for the City Hall generator and electrical services upgrade project.

Documents:

[NOPEC GRANT.PDF](#)

3. Requesting approval of a grant application to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) with the estimated total value of \$25,000 for LEED for Cities certification.

Documents:

[190311 LEED FOR CITIES.PDF](#)

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SHAKER HEIGHTS

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

City Hall Conference Room B
February 7, 2019

Members present: Council member Chair Julianna Johnston Senturia
Council member Sean P. Malone
Council member Anne E. Williams

Others present: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin
Michael Peters, Coventry Land LLC

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Audio of this meeting may be found [here](#) through May 7, 2019.

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The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Council member Chair Julianna Johnston Senturia. She gave background information on the transition of the Sustainable Shaker Task Force to the Sustainability Committee.

The members reviewed the draft Mission Statement for the Committee and suggested a few changes. The final Mission Statement is: "The purpose of the City of Shaker Heights' Sustainability Committee is to educate, advocate for, and support the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the community in partnership with our residents, businesses and government to meet the needs of our entire community without compromising the resources or well-being of future generations."

The structure of the Committee was discussed. In addition to the three Council members, the Mayor will appoint 3-4 residents to the Committee. An invitation to residents to apply to serve on a variety of committees, boards, commissions and task forces is now posted on the City website and a number of residents have submitted their names for the Sustainability Committee. The members agreed that the qualifications for serving on this Committee would include a broad interest in sustainability; a mix of academic and policy backgrounds; no professional conflicts of interest, and diversity in demographics. After citizen members are appointed the Committee will consider the best way to involve other residents who are interested in more specific issues related to sustainability.

The Committee will focus on achievable, short, mid and long range goals and when appropriate will invite members of other Council Committees to join their discussion. Recycling operations are the purview of Council's Safety and Public Works Committee so the Sustainability Committee members may be invited to the Safety and Public Works

Committee meeting when recycling is discussed. Short term goals will include energy conservation measures in City facilities, including an internal City “green team.”

Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin presented a recommendation to enter into a contract with Coventry Land Company LLC for sustainability consulting services for the period March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2020. The City sought proposals for a consulting firm or individuals with expertise in environmental sustainability, municipal operations, and organizational best practices to support the Sustainability Committee.

Six applications were received from:

- Michael Peters - Shaker Heights, OH
- Julia Larouche, PhD - Shaker Heights, OH
- Kristeena Blaser - Stow, OH
- Hannah Kiraly- Lakewood, OH
- Geri Unger - Shaker Heights, OH
- Rick Flood - Oberlin, OH

The review committee (Mayor David E. Weiss, Committee chair Council member Julianna Senturia, Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin, Senior Economic Development Specialist Katharyne Starinsky, Neighborhood Revitalization Director Kamla Lewis, and Planner Cameron Roberts) interviewed three applicants:

- Michael Peters
- Geri Unger
- Julia Larouche, PhD

Michael Peters of Coventry Land Company LLC was determined to be the most qualified to provide the desired consulting services. Mr. Peters, a Shaker Heights resident, was a member of the original Sustainable Shaker Task Force.

Coventry Land Company which Mr. Peters started in 2010, serves community development corporations, local governments, institutional clients and individuals to achieve neighborhood and real estate sustainability. Mr. Peters’ vision of sustainability for Shaker is as an “attract and retain” tool. He understands that we need to show tangible results of our sustainability efforts amid short, medium, and long term goals, and that public outreach and feedback is important in addition to the input of those who serve directly on the Sustainability Committee. He has experience working with the Ecodistrict model for sustainable urban development, and is currently consulting for the City of Lakewood and MetroHealth Hospital. He has established relationships with many community partners, including both the Cuyahoga County and City of Cleveland offices of sustainability, and has overall knowledge of and experience in the City of Shaker Heights.

Committee members were impressed with the “Shaker quality” applicants for this work. The consultant will have a unique role working with the Administration, Council and our residents. They felt that Mr. Peters has both the technical and practical experience for this consultant work and he will bring continuity to the role, having been a member of the original Sustainable Shaker Task Force. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the recommendation for a contract with Coventry land LLC.

The Committee determined to set the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. as their regular day and time for their meeting beginning with March 14, 2019.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:14p.m.

Sustainability/020719Min



SHAKER HEIGHTS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Sustainability Committee

FROM: Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer

CC: Mayor David E. Weiss

DATE: March 8, 2019

RE: **Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC)
Energized Community Grant Application**

The City is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC). NOPEC is a regional council of governments formed under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code which serves as a vehicle for communities wishing to proceed jointly with an aggregation program for the purchase of electricity or gas. NOPEC is currently comprised of over 200 communities who have been authorized by ballot to purchase electricity or gas on behalf of their citizens. NOPEC provides electricity or gas at the lowest possible rates while at the same time insuring stability in prices by entering into long-term contracts with suppliers to provide electricity or gas to our community and our residents.

Shaker Heights offers its residents an electric aggregation through NOPEC but currently offers our own gas aggregation program approved by a vote of our residents.

NOPEC's Energized Community Grant Program provides funds to help member communities implement energy savings or energy infrastructure measures. In 2018 the City received \$60,445 in grant funds which were applied to the \$95,000 replacement of the original boiler in the Police/Court Building at 3355 Lee Road. For 2019, \$55,958 is available, based on 7,994 accounts (measured for April 2018 – September 2018) at \$7/each, a decline from the 8,635 accounts for the period April 2017 – September 2017.

The grant agreement entered into in 2018 between the City and NOPEC is in effect for the 2019 grant application, but Council approval is required for the application. We propose applying to use the \$55,958 to go toward the \$150,000 generator replacement and electrical service upgrade project at City Hall, 3400 Lee Road. City Hall currently has two electrical services and two generators. One service is single phase and is original to the building. The other electrical service is three phase and was added in 1973. A three phase electrical service is more efficient, provides a higher power factor and allows for future high efficiency equipment upgrades. The two City Hall generators are old and past their expected lifecycle. One generator was placed into service in 1973 and the other was installed in 1977. This project will allow the City to replace the two old generators with one new three phase generator – thereby reducing fuel usage and

maintenance costs. The electrical service will be upgraded into a three phase (efficient) service and the single phase (inefficient) service will be eliminated.

When we receive the \$55,958 in grant funds it will be deposited in Fund 401, the General Capital Fund, to offset the City funds allocated to this project.

The Sustainability Committee is requested to recommend to Council the approval of a grant application to NOPEC in the amount of \$55,958 for the generator replacement and electrical service upgrade project at City Hall.

Jec19/NOPEC grant



SHAKER HEIGHTS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Sustainability Committee

FROM: Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: March 11, 2019

RE: LEED for Cities Grant Opportunity and Deadline

The US Green Building Council (USGBC) recently released a grant opportunity that will award 14 US cities funding and resources to achieve LEED for Cities certification. This is not a cash award but provides for:

- A one-year Silver membership in the USGBC (\$1,500 annually),
- the certification fee (\$5,000 one-time),
- a two-day orientation program in Washington DC for two members of the city team (including travel),
- one registration for the annual USGBC Greenbuild conference (taking place in Atlanta, travel not included)
- technical resources and monthly calls among the cohort of 14 selected cities.

Estimated total value is approximately \$25,000.

LEED for Cities is a new program of the USGBC, intended to complement its other programs such as LEED for buildings, LEED for Neighborhood Development, WELL, and SITES. Last year the STAR Communities Program, previously a separate non-profit that certified cities for best practices in sustainability, merged into the USGBC. On April 1, 2019, the USGBC will announce the new LEED for Cities rating system, incorporating the prior STAR system, and this grant is meant to accelerate the adoption of this new program.

The LEED for Cities rating system is organized into eight categories and within each category there are requirements (prerequisites) and credits (optional items). A scorecard, which will be released on April 1st, will detail these items and assign a point score to each credit. The new rating system is expected to incorporate concepts from the STAR Communities program, other LEED programs, and aspects of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Rating System Categories

-  Ecology & Natural Systems
-  Transportation & Land Use
-  Water
-  Energy & GHG
-  Materials & Resources
-  Quality of Life
-  Innovation
-  Regional Priorities

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The Sustainability Committee is currently determining its goals and priorities, and using a framework like LEED for Cities could be an appropriate tool for tracking, prioritizing, and communicating its goals.

The high-level advantages of using a framework are benefiting from the best practices of other cities (STAR certified 70 cities in the past), leveraging resources that often only a much larger city would have access to, and having a clear set of goals that everyone can work towards. The disadvantage is typically the cost and staff time.

There are other frameworks that could be considered, including EcoDistricts, Living Communities Challenge, and LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED ND). EcoDistricts and LEED ND are often better suited for a neighborhood rather than a city and are complementary in many ways to LEED for Cities. For example, as part of the certification process there may be a consideration of using one of these frameworks to meet a specific goal in one or more neighborhoods. The Living Community Challenge is targeted more at the design of new communities rather than those that are already mostly developed and is quite aspirational.

Recommendation:

The request is for the Sustainability Committee to approve the submission of an application to the LEED for Cities grant. If selected, the city would enter into an agreement with the USGBC to pursue certification. While the details of the rating have not been released, there is a strong likelihood that Shaker Heights would qualify for certification and possibly exceed the base level (40 points out of 100). This would also establish a baseline and in the future the Committee may determine that it wants to pursue a higher level of certification (a score of 50 to 59 would achieve LEED Bronze, 60 to 69 LEED Silver, 70 to 79 LEED Gold, and 80 to 100 LEED Platinum).

Last year six cities were given a similar grant, also funded through the Bank of America Foundation: Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Phoenix, San Jose, and Washington DC. This year the program has expanded to 14 awards and the selection committee is targeting cities with: an emerging sustainability program that would benefit from USGBC technical support, diverse factors (population, geography, economic conditions, land area), and “a vision for using certification to advance solutions and prioritize investments in community-wide sustainability.” For these reasons, despite the prior winners all being large cities, the recent commitment of Shaker Heights to the Sustainability Coordinator position, its size, and diverse population should position us well in the competition.