



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