



SHAKER HEIGHTS

**Sustainability Committee Agenda
Via Zoom Due to COVID-19
Public Health Emergency
Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.**

For the safety of staff and residents, in-person attendance is not permitted. Join the Zoom meeting online as a viewer or listener from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device at <https://zoom.us/j/95689437182?pwd=SUKyVjMvTWxBNDd6cWdKcG1QVl9VUT09>, Password: 33553400: Description: Sustainability Committee; or join by phone at 833-548-0282 (toll free); Webinar ID: 956 8943 7182, Password: 33553400. International numbers available at <https://zoom.us/u/ahwKbeuA>.

1. Approval of the May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Documents:

[SUSTAINABILITY MIN 051321.PDF](#)

2. Welcome New Citizen Member.
3. Review of Existing Roadmap/Objectives.
 - a. Subcommittees Update on Progress
 - i. Stormwater and Greenspace (Carmen Franks)
 - ii. Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)
 - iii. High School Advisory Group (Michael Peters)
 - b. City Alternative Fuel Vehicle Update
 - i. Charger Update
 - ii. Public Safety and EV's Update
4. Old Business/New Business.
 - a. Doan Brook Watershed Partnership received its NOPEC sponsorship
 - b. LEED for Cities Question from last meeting: Eight cities have been certified Gold (Cincinnati certified at the Silver level): Tallahassee, Shaker Heights, Tampa, Palm Beach County, Costa Mesa, Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Orlando
 - c. USDA composting grant for 2021 was announced.

To request an accommodation for a person with a disability, call the City's ADA Coordinator at 216-491-1440, or Ohio Relay Service at 711 for TTY users.



Sustainability Committee Minutes
Thursday, May 13, 2021
8:00 A.M.
Via Zoom Conference

Members Present: Anne Williams, Committee Chair, Council Member
Carmen Franks, Citizen Member
Sean P. Malone, Council Member
Nancy Moore, Council Member
Julianne Potter, Citizen Member
Norman Robbins, Citizen Member

Others Present: David E. Weiss, Mayor
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator
Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works
Charles Orłowski, Forestry Superintendent
Kara O'Donnell, Principal Planner
John Barber, Friends of Lower Lake
Barbara Bradley, League of Women Voters
Tori Mills, Doan Brook Watershed Partnership
Cara Berg, Resident

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Anne Williams at 8:00 A.M.

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Approval of the April 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Nancy Moore and seconded by Norman Robbins that the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting be approved as recorded; unanimously passed.

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Tree Assessment Recommendation – Department of Public Works

The Committee was joined by Director of Public Works Patti Speese and Forestry Superintendent Chuck Orłowski to discuss the recommendation to increase the Tree Assessment. The Tree Assessment, which is included in the real property tax collection, is approved every three years and was last increased 21 years ago. It was \$1.01 per frontage foot in 1998, then increased to \$1.16 per frontage foot in 2001. The current recommendation is to increase it to \$1.66 per frontage foot. For a 40-foot frontage lot the resulting increase would be \$20 per year.

Currently the City plants between 300 and 400 trees per year. In its last meeting the Committee learned of the importance and benefits of trees, including how they enhance property value and contribute to

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the environment. Unfortunately, over the last several years removals have outpaced replacements – over the past several years 7,072 trees were removed and 6,337 trees were replaced. This is due to a number of factors including storm damage and disease. As a result, the tree canopy, as measured by Cuyahoga County’s tree survey, decreased 11.3 percent from the previous survey.

The City has 110 miles of roadway and ideally the entire City would be on a 5-year pruning cycle, or 22 miles of pruning each year. Due to personnel constraints, only about 12 miles is pruned each year. In 2005 the forestry crew averaged seven members while today it has three.

At the same time, costs have increased due to the availability of trees, deer protection that is required for new plantings, disease prevention, and watering that is now done by contractors.

The requested increase would result in approximately \$325,000 per year of additional funding to plant 150 additional trees each year, two additional staff, additional pruning, and an equipment reserve.

Questions from the committee included:

- Council Member Nancy Moore indicated that the matter had been discussed by the Tree Advisory Board and the recommendation was unanimous in recommending approval.

A motion was made by Nancy Moore and seconded by Sean Malone to recommend to City Council approval of the increase; it passed unanimously.

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Subcommittee Updates

Subcommittee updates include:

- High School Advisory Group (Julianne Potter)
 - The EcoChallenge was launched during week of Earth Day, and encourages practicing environmental and sustainable activities for points that can be redeemed at local businesses. Everyone is encouraged to register and participate.
- Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)
 - The Solar in Shaker Facebook group increased membership by 20 following the recent solar co-op livestream event and the article about residential solar in *Shaker Life* magazine.
 - The group is discussing a potential house tour of Shaker Heights homes with solar.
 - A possible year-round competition for simple, low cost energy efficiency improvements is also being discussed; the High School group has been consulted.
- Stormwater & Greenspace (Carmen Franks)
 - This subcommittee has also discussed a competition through the certified yard habitat that The Nature Center has been developing; the subcommittee will coordinate with the Renewable Energy Subcommittee.
 - Continuing to discuss stormwater credits for trees and bushes
 - Grow Not Mow: process continuing to identify sites and move them through the review process

- Stormwater code revisions: new MS4 permit expected soon for July 1st renewal; the City's engineer (GPD Group) will review and make recommendations. Subcommittee can help with review.
- Tori Mills also commented that the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership has provided proposed language to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District regarding stormwater credits for trees. This includes strategic placement in a depression with an accompanying downspout disconnect (taking into consideration the tree species and volume of water). Norman Robbins commented that just replacing lawn with planting beds and mulch increases the absorption and holding capacity of the yard and ideally would be considered. Tori Mills indicated that the credit is based solely on the roof area of the property in calculating the impermeable area.
- Nancy Moore also provided an update that The Heights Tree People have planted 71 new trees in yards and an additional 27 trees in Southerly Park. Additionally, the City was awarded a County grant to plant an additional 147 trees.

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Update on LEED for Cities

The City was awarded LEED for Cities certification on May 6th at the Gold level. The City achieved 60 out of 110 points (the minimum required for certification is 40 points, Silver is 50 points, Gold is 60 points, and Platinum is 80 points). Shaker Heights joins the City of Cincinnati (Silver) in certifying under the program. The City of Cleveland is currently going through the certification process, and the City of Columbus is certified under a previous version of the program.

Questions included:

- How many Gold cities are there (Subsequent info: none in Ohio but overall: Shaker Heights, Tampa, Palm Beach County, Costa Mesa, Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Orlando)
- Who were the other smaller cities in the 2020 cohort (Subsequent info: closest in size to Shaker Heights is Northampton (MA) with a population of 28,516, also Middleton (WI, suburb of Madison) at 19,487, and Abington Township (PA, suburb of Philadelphia) at 55,310)
- Should the certification be included in the City's tagline in some way? It is an important distinction and a resident, business, and City staff attraction and retention story.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2021 at 8:00am.

Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator