



Sustainability Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2022

7:45 A.M.

**Via Zoom Conference Pursuant to Ordinance No. 21-76
And Resolution No. 21-77, Enacted August 23, 2021**

Members Present: Nancy Moore, Committee Chair, Council Member
Sean P. Malone, Council Member
Anne Williams, Council Member
Shanna Keown, Citizen Member

Others Present: Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator
Julia Larouche, Stormwater and Green Space Subcommittee
Matthew Burkhart, Resident
Shaker Youth LEEDS Subcommittee members:
Kathleen Gua, Co-president, Hathaway Brown
Sophie Gao, Co-president, Hathaway Brown
Natalie Conrad, Shaker Heights High School
Ava Keresztesy, Hathaway Brown
Fanon Miller, University School
Cindy Yu, Hathaway Brown
Torrey McMillan, SYLEEDS Advisor, Hathaway Brown

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Nancy Moore at 7:45 A.M.

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Shaker Youth LEEDS Presentation

The Shaker Youth LEEDS subcommittee (“SYLEEDS”) was started in 2019 to assist in evaluating potential credits for the City’s LEED for Cities certification. Now in its third academic year, the group is open to any high school student living in or going to school in Shaker Heights. It currently consists of members from Hathaway Brown, Shaker Heights High School, and University School.

The group members presented on two topics: Horseshoe Lake and their EcoChallenge.

The group did research to better understand the dam removal proposed for Horseshoe Lake. This included a tour with the Executive Director of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership and creating and distributing a survey to residents. The survey was open to the public and outreach for participation included high school students, the Shaker Historical Society, the Friends of Lower Lake, and the Save Horseshoe Lake proponents. They received 91 responses. Overall there was a feeling that the respondents wanted more information and needed greater awareness of the situation.

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During questions the discussion included a description of the 2-year public planning process (that hopefully the students can participate in), an offer to share drone footage and the website link for additional info, and a suggestion that SYLEEDS could help the City in future survey and outreach activities.

The EcoChallenge, which will be held for the second year, will encourage residents to take sustainable actions that align with the credit categories of LEED for Cities. Participants log their activities and the group is working with local businesses for prizes. They are hoping to partner with additional new businesses this year (last year's businesses included 3-19 Coffee, Stump Plants, and Rust Belt Riders) and potentially expand the geography of the EcoChallenge to Cleveland. They are also looking to partner with other regional youth groups interested in sustainability topics.

The group also inquired about potential funding and encouraged everyone to follow them on [Instagram](#).

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Approval of the December 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Anne Williams and seconded by Sean Malone that the minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting be approved as recorded; unanimously passed.

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NOACA EV Charger Grant

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (“NOACA”) has proposed the installation of electric vehicle (“EV”) chargers at The Van Aken District on public right-of-way. These would be DC Fast Chargers that would complement the City’s existing AC Level 2 chargers at City Hall, Thornton Park, The Dealership, and Larchmere Public Parking. These chargers are capable of recharging EVs much more quickly than the AC Level 2 chargers (but are more expensive to install and operate).

NOACA would pay for the engineering, equipment, and installation and transfer ownership of the equipment to the City upon completion. Through a Partnership Agreement, the City would agree to operate the chargers for a minimum of five years.

These chargers are an important addition to the City’s charging network and will provide economic development, equity, and sustainability benefits. This includes allowing residents in multifamily apartment and condo buildings to have access to charging, which would allow them to own EVs as private homeowners who can install chargers can.

While the equipment will be paid for by NOACA, the City will be assuming operational costs, primarily for the electricity consumption. This type of equipment requires a commercial connection that is subject to “demand charges” due to the large electricity draw when a vehicle is charging. An estimate of costs was created with the utility (as no actual bills from the region are available as there are very few of these chargers currently). The cost to operate the chargers could be in the \$1,800 to \$1,900 per month range, offset in part by any fees that drivers pay.

The request to the Committee is to encourage the Mayor to enter into the Partnership Agreement with NOACA. An allocation for operating costs will be included in the 2023 budget (there is expected

to be limited financial implications in 2022 as the chargers would likely only be operational late in the year). The motion was made by Anne Williams, seconded by Sean Malone, and passed unanimously.

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2022 Committee Goals

The Committee was asked to consider goals for 2022 both as a Committee and at the Subcommittee level. Each Subcommittee will discuss in their upcoming meetings.

Many potential goals are ongoing from 2021 and include:

- Developing potential options for the City’s electric aggregation program
- Continuing to evaluate options for rooftop solar on City facilities
- Expanding the electric vehicle fleet and electric vehicle charging stations
- Engaging the City Green Team for updates and new ideas
- Continuing to track developments and opportunities related to LED streetlights
- Tracking opportunities to reduce waste and better quantify the commercial waste generated in the City
- Working with the Stormwater & Green Space Subcommittee on transitioning to electric landscape equipment

Additional suggestions from Committee members included:

- Reviewing the stormwater code revisions (expected early 2022) in collaboration with the Safety & Public Works Committee
- Investigating opportunities for residents to increase energy efficiency (potentially through Dominion program)
- Participating in the planning process for Horseshoe Lake, which could include subcommittee work from both Stormwater & Green Space and SYLEEDS
- Funding additional tree planting
- Expanding mobility options such as shared scooters and activating the Rapid Stations at Coventry Road and Lynnfield Road

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Subcommittee Updates

Stormwater & Greenspace (Julia Larouche)

- The December meeting included a discussion of the stormwater code revisions (presentation on these expected in March 2022)
- A planting session will be held April 30th at Grow Not Mow site #1 (Courtland and South Park Boulevards)
- Continuing to work with The Nature Center of a Certified Yard Habitat program for residents
- A question was asked regarding the participation of the schools; outreach will be made to the schools as a follow-up item
- Next meeting is Friday, January 28th at 4pm via Zoom

Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)

- Next meeting is Tuesday, January 18th at 4pm via Zoom
- Noted availability of Dominion home energy audit; it has a small cost but also includes potential rebates

Shaker Youth LEEDs / High School Advisory Group (Shanna Keown)

- The group is working on the EcoChallenge
- Meetings are on Tuesday evenings

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New Business

- In collaboration with the Recreation Department, Shaker Heights will once again host a Drive Electric Earth Day event on April 23rd in conjunction with the City's "Touch a Truck" event. This national program, hosted by non-profit organizations Plug In America, the Electric Vehicle Association, and EVHybrid Noire, lists the event on their website, which has a large media and social media following.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2022 at 8:00am.



Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator