



Sustainability Committee Minutes

Thursday, April 14, 2022

8:00 A.M.

**Via Zoom Pursuant to Chapters 113 And 115 of the
Codified Ordinances (as Amended In Ordinance 22-28), and
Resolution 22-29, enacted On March 22, 2022.**

Members Present: Nancy Moore, Committee Chair, Council Member
Sean P. Malone, Council Member
Anne Williams, Council Member
Julia Larouche, Citizen Member
Norman Robbins, Citizen Member
Jeff Isaacs, Ex Officio, Shaker Heights City School Board

Others Present: David E. Weiss, Mayor
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator
Barbara Bradley, League of Women Voters
Jonathon Keller, Shaker Heights Public Library
Philip Leppla, Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Nancy Moore at 8:01 A.M.

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Approval of the March 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Anne Williams and seconded by Sean Malone that the minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting be approved as recorded; unanimously passed.

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Holden Forests & Gardens – Trees for People Program

Our guest speaker was not able to join the call, but sent two documents for distribution (both are attached to the online agenda) regarding the Trees for People program. This initiative of Holden Forests & Gardens, which includes the Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Botanical Garden, has a goal of planting 15,000 trees by 2025.

To achieve this goal, the Trees for People program includes a pledge made by a home owner, institution, or business to plant one or more trees. Once this pledge is made, online at holdenfg.org/trees-for-people, the pledger will receive access to multiple resources for successfully selecting, planting, and caring for a young tree. This includes a tree selection guide, tree care toolkit, and emails outlining resources available.

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shakeronline.com www.shaker.life

Holden has also identified ways to make taking the pledge as accessible as possible, by promoting events where free tree seedlings are available (the next one is for Arbor Day at Holden’s facilities), using free wood chips available from the City (near Lower Lake at Larchmere and South Park Boulevards), and using compost (available from Rust Belt Riders or made in the back yard – please get your permit).

Council Member Nancy Moore added that the City’s Tree Advisory Board can also assist residents with tree selection and identifying native species. She also noted that for front yard planting in particular to call OUPS for a free identification of all utility lines in the yard so the tree is not planted above a utility line that may cause issues in the future. In addition to the free wood chips, those planting trees should also provide deer protection by using wire mesh and ideally staking the tree.

Holden has also been supportive of the City’s efforts, with Amanda Woods suggesting appropriate trees for the Grow Not Mow site at South Park Boulevard and Lee Road.

Upcoming tree events include the planting day at the Grow Not Mow site at South Park and Courtland Boulevards on April 30th (10am to 1pm) and on May 7th from 9am to noon in the Moreland Neighborhood with Boise and the Arbor Day Foundation to fill in gaps in the tree canopy by planting 24 trees on treelawns.

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Electric Vehicle Charging License Agreement

This matter was postponed until the May meeting.

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Subcommittee Updates

Stormwater & Greenspace (Julia Larouche)

- The Subcommittee requested information from the City and Schools about pesticide use; it is in the process of drafting a policy statement regarding disclosure
- Grow Not Mow – Site 1 (Courtland and South Park Blvds) will have a community planting day on April 30th from 10am until 1pm; grants have been pursued for Site 2 (Lee Road and South Park Blvd) for future planning. Sites 3 and 4 were presented by
- School District sustainability efforts were discussed, including the current RFP for a food service vendor and the inclusion of language regarding diverting food waste. While individual schools with support of their PTOs have been a focus of expanding food diversion strategies, a District-level approach is also important.
 - Nancy Moore suggested Julia Larouche and Michael Peters attend the Onaway Association meeting on April 24th.
 - Onaway is discussing a program for the next academic year with Rust Belt Riders and will have an Earth Day composting event this year.
 - Sean Malone asked about recycling in the Schools, which reportedly has stopped at least at the Middle School. Jeff Isaacs said he would inquire.
 - Norman Robbins asked about integrating these concepts into the education plan; Jeff Isaacs indicated they were part of the curriculum at the elementary school level and likely even more widely; he will also report back on this.

- Nancy Moore discussed how the approach is like a 4-legged stool requiring the participation and cooperation of the Schools, PTOs, City, and community organizations.

Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)

- A subcommittee member reported that at a recent Architectural Board of Review meeting there were five applications for rooftop solar.
- There will be a meeting on June 9th at Nature’s Oasis on the solar co-op.
- Dominion Energy is offering a home energy audit, free to Shaker Heights residents if they mention they are a resident when making the appointment; continuing to look into providing residents with a rebate if they elect to install a smart programmable thermostat that is projected to result in savings of 10 to 15 percent.
- Michael Peters gave an update of the Community Choice Aggregation process – four responses were received to the RFP for a consultant, all were deemed to be of high quality. A City Council work session next week will provide a further update.
- Nancy Moore discussed the C-PACE or Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy program that a Shaker Heights business is using to increase the energy efficiency of a building. This was arranged with the assistance of the City’s Economic Development Department. The City’s membership in the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District allows for C-PACE financing in the City, which is collected through the real estate tax bill.
- David Pogue’s recent talk at the Shaker Heights Public Library was mentioned along with a question about planning for climate change at the City level. Michael Peters responded that much of this longer-range planning was being done at the Cuyahoga County level, including work with the University of Buffalo.

Shaker Youth LEEDs / High School Advisory Group (presented by Michael Peters)

- EcoChallenge started April 1st – everyone is encouraged to sign up

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Discussion of Hybrid Versus In Person Meetings

The Committee was asked to weigh in on whether it would prefer to continue to have virtual meetings, return to in-person meetings, or take a hybrid approach. Several members commented on their preference for the flexibility virtual meetings offered and the resulting high attendance. It was decided to continue to primarily meet virtually with periodic in-person meetings for brainstorming and networking.

Should a future meeting be held in a hybrid format, it was also decided that a Committee Member joining electronically could vote and be counted towards quorum.

For virtual meetings, it was also decided that while being visible on video was preferred, if a Committee Member was not able to be on video the vote would be valid.

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Old/New Business

- The City received its 37th Tree City USA award and 11th Growth Award
- The City's eNews was cited for its mention of the natural gas aggregation program, the Cuyahoga County plastic bag ban and BYOB promotion, the EcoChallenge, and the sustainability video from 2021.
- A request was made to see if Planning could do a literature search on the case for preserving schools as part of the Forward Together process; the Mayor indicated he would make such a request to the Planning Department by forwarding an email request made to him.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2022 at 8:00am.



Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator