Sustainability Committee Agenda
City Hall Conference Room B
Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 7:30 a.m.

1. Approval of the November 14, 2019 meeting minutes.

   Documents:

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   a. Subcommittees - Update on Progress
      i. Stormwater Management (Carmen Franks)
      ii. Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)
      iii. High School Advisory Group (Julianne Potter)
      iv. Recycling (Anne Williams)
   b. City Energy Efficiency/Conservation Update
   c. City Alternative Fuel Vehicle Update
   d. Green Team Update
   e. Solar Demonstration Project Update

4. Update on LEED for Cities Progress.

5. Report of Sustainability Coordinator.

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 November 14, 2019  
7:30 A.M.  
City Hall Conference Room B

Members Present: Julianna Johnston Senturia, Committee Chair, Council Member  
Carmen Franks, Citizen Member  
Sean P. Malone, Council Member  
Julianne Potter, Citizen Member  
Norman Robbins, Citizen Member

Others Present: David Weiss, Mayor  
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer  
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator  
Kamla Lewis, Neighborhood Revitalization Director  
John Barber, Co-Chair, Friends of Lower Lake

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Julianna Johnston Senturia at 7:32 A.M.

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**Approval of the October 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Sean Malone and seconded by Julianne Potter that the minutes of the October 10, 2019 meeting be approved as recorded.

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**Presentation/Q&A with Cleveland Owns**

The meeting began with a presentation from Jonathan Welle, founder of Cleveland Owns, a non-profit. Cleveland Owns promotes community-owned community solar installations. He began by working with residents of the Hough neighborhood in Cleveland.

Three insights from working with Hough residents: the energy economy is changing very quickly given the urgency of the climate crisis, only the communities that are organized will benefit from these changes, and on the spectrum of organizing, ownership is the ultimate fulfillment of that benefit.

Cleveland Owns is organized around the premise that we can only build an equitable region when we have an equitable distribution of ownership. It views itself as a radical incubator working to build community wealth and community power using collective ownership, with solar as a main sector of focus. They combine two elements that are often siloed: business development and community organizing.

While the work in Hough relates to Cleveland Public Power, they are also working to build community solar in Lakewood where it relates to First Energy. Local, direct, grassroots action will be required to change policy. In Lakewood there was a six-week intensive program to develop the strategy around a
cooperative to build and own solar, starting with rooftop. It also developed a plan to put pressure on Lakewood City Council to in turn pressure First Energy to allow for policies such as community solar.

There is currently work to incorporate the first cooperative in Lakewood. The project could be anywhere in the First Energy territory if virtual net metering was allowed by First Energy. Looking at a $3 million, 1.6MWh project on 8-acres. 2MWh provides power for about 500 homes.

Funding options include member equity, traditional debt financing, and/or private ownership (a developer). In Hough it would likely be a developer who then sells it to the coop in year 6 (after the tax credit and accelerated depreciation are captured) by using traditional financing and or a program-related investment.

Working with a small grant to bring a program similar to Lakewood’s to Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights residents.

Cleveland Owns is also doing work around food justice and a food cooperative in the Central-Kinsman neighborhood and a buying cooperative for faith institutions.

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Review of Sustainability Committee Roadmap & Objectives
Subcommittees updates:

- Stormwater Management (Carmen Franks)
  - Had second meeting on October 25th
  - Spoke to Christian Maier at Public Works
    - City can do green infrastructure grant proposals without assistance
    - Can assist with public education (website for residents) and finding additional grant or funding opportunities
    - Doan Brook Watershed Partnership brought to attention an opportunity through the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative Grant to be a pilot city to help residents learn how to reduce the stormwater management fees (collaboration with NEORSD)
  - Next meeting on Monday

- Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)
  - Continue to explore economics for solar with Shaker Schools
  - Made website edits/suggestions (forwarded to Communications and Marketing)
  - Lakewood organized an informal meeting with NOPEC at their annual meeting that included Shaker Heights and South Euclid to allow communities who choose to have the 100% option as the default option for their residents; Chuck Keiper stated his willingness to make it happen during his remarks at the meeting; could be part of next NOPEC 3-year contract with its electric generation supplier (so not effective immediately)
• High School Advisory Group (Julianne Potter)
  o Met October 23rd; Collaborative among Hathaway Brown, Laurel, University School and Shaker Heights High School; have about 20 or so interested students
  o Students selecting topics from long-term sustainability goals within LEED for Cities framework; there is a strong interest in addressing current concerns too
  o Group meets at The Dealership each month through May and will present to this Committee in April

• Recycling (Anne Williams)
  o This subcommittee will review not just recycling but solid waste management generally including composting
  o Will work with Building & Housing to include name of private waste hauler on rental license form
  o Rust Belt Riders worked with the high school to do a waste audit (hopefully as a prelude to composting there)

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Other Activities

Other updates:
  ▪ Energy audits of seven city buildings completed and expected to be delivered November 15th; these will make recommendations on energy efficiency measures
  ▪ Looking at an idle reduction pilot on a city vehicle
  ▪ Green Team made recommendations to Management Team; follow up scheduled to discuss implementation items that include:
    o Education and awareness among city staff on conservation measures
    o Shredding practices (shredding is not recycled in the main recycling stream but shredding companies will take shredded material)
    o Single use plastic reductions
    o Composting to be extended to also include Fire Station #2, Police & Courts, and City Hall
  ▪ Watching City of Cleveland’s solar RFP; bids were pushed back, still waiting on info
  ▪ LEED for Cities maps being created by Cuyahoga County Planning, they have been very helpful
  ▪ Recommendation to include map of EV charging stations on sustainability website

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 A.M. The next meeting will be scheduled for early 2020.

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Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator