



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Sustainability Committee Meeting Agenda
Via Zoom pursuant to Chapters 113 and 115 of the Codified Ordinances
(as amended in Ordinance No. 22-28), and Resolution No. 22-29,
enacted by City Council on March 22, 2022.
Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

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?](https://zoom.us/j/95689437182?pwd=SUKyVjMvTWxBNDd6cWdKcG1QVi9VUT09)

pwd=SUKyVjMvTWxBNDd6cWdKcG1QVi9VUT09, 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 March 10, 2022 meeting minutes.

Documents:

[SUSTAINABILITY MIN 20220310.PDF](#)

2. Presentation by Margaret Thresher, Vice President of Marketing for Holden Forests and Gardens.

Documents:

[PEOPLE FOR TREES - FAQ.PDF](#)
[PEOPLE FOR TREES FACT SHEET.PDF](#)

3. Recommendation for Tesla Supercharger Station at Shaker Plaza.

Documents:

[220407 TESLA SUS.PDF](#)

4. Review of Existing Roadmap/Objectives.
 - a. Subcommittees Update on Progress
 - i. Stormwater and Greenspace (Julia Larouche)

ii. Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)

-Update on Community Choice Aggregation RFP (Michael Peters)

iii. High School Advisory Group (Shanna Keown)

5. Discussion of Hybrid Versus In Person Meetings.

Documents:

[HYBRID VERSUS INPERSON MEETINGS - SUS.PDF](#)

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 March 10, 2022

8:00 A.M.

**Via Zoom Pursuant to Ordinance No. 22-02
and Resolution No. 22-03, enacted January 10, 2022.**

Members Present: Nancy Moore, Committee Chair, Council Member
Sean P. Malone, Council Member
Anne Williams, Council Member
Shanna Keown, Citizen 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
William Ondrey Gruber, Law Director
Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works
Christian Maier, Department of Public Works
Kyle Krewson, Director of Building & Housing
Kim Brewster Shefelton, Chagrin River Watershed Partners
Joe Ciuni, GPD
Jessica Looper, GPD
Ivan Valentic, GPD
Jonathon Keller, Shaker Heights Public Library
Barbara Bradley, League of Women Voters
Matt Burkhart, Stormwater & Green Space Subcommittee Member

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

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Approval of the February 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

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Recommendation for Energized Community Grant Agreement

The City is eligible for a grant from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) in the amount of \$36,258 as part of NOPEC’s Energized Community Grant program. The City has received this grant for the past several years and relates to our participation in the electricity Community Choice

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Aggregation program. The amount is based on the number of accounts enrolled in the program. The proceeds of the grant are to be used for an energy efficiency program benefiting the City. The proceeds of this grant is being allocated to the new systems in City Hall supporting the former Fire Station space that is now the home of the Building & Housing Department.

To be eligible for the grant, a grant agreement is required and the Committee was asked to recommend to City Council approval to enter into it.

Questions included a clarification on the implications of entering into the agreement and how projects are chosen as the beneficiary of the grant. The projects are recommended by Public Works who identifies an applicable energy efficiency project. Another question was about the timing for completion of City Hall renovations (May for Building & Housing and Economic Development) and this was addressed by Director Speese.

The motion to recommend that the City enter into the grant agreement was made by Anne Williams, seconded by Sean Malone, and unanimously passed.

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Stormwater Code Revisions - Presentation

The Sustainability Committee was joined by members of the City’s Public Works Department, the City Engineer and his GPD colleagues, and a representative of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners for a presentation on updates to the City’s Stormwater Code. The presentation (which can be accessed on the City Agenda Center) discussed the context for the changes, the history of the code, and the suggested changes.

The importance of these revisions was outlined by Committee Chair Nancy Moore who provided an overview of the City’s location within the Doan Brook Watershed, the critical aspects of protecting Lake Erie, and the changes in the environment – such as impervious surfaces – that impact water quality. The code revisions describe how the City will protect, preserve, and restore the watershed.

Law Director William Gruber provided context for the presentation, including the process for review and approval of the revisions. Thanks were extended to the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership and Chagrin River Watershed Partners for their review and guidance. The City Departments of Public Works and Building and Housing have worked with the City’s engineering firm, GPD, on the process. Director Gruber noted that stormwater is not processed in a facility but is directed into the Doan Brook and through other means into Lake Erie, underscoring the importance of this code. The process started in 2017 with ongoing meetings among the collaborators and incorporating updates from the Ohio EPA.

The GPD team shared a presentation that included background, permit requirements, and a comparison of existing and proposed ordinances. There are two permits: general construction and general discharge permit. These are typically updated every five years. The General Construction Permit controls discharges associated with construction projects – generally sites over 1 acre of disturbance (as regulated by the EPA and Clean Water Act). The contractor sends a Notice of Intent at the start of a project and a Notice of Termination at the end of the project. Water Quality Volume calculations have changed, along with some of the Best Management Practices. Changes also include

GIS mapping (coordinated with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District) and post-construction requirements.

The changes from the existing to the proposed ordinances include a change in definition from Land Disturbing Activities to Soil Disturbing Activities (including clearing and stump removal, changes in Earth's surface, filling of wetlands), moving from one to three separate sets of regulation, commercial and industrial sites of any size are included (residential over 1 acre), and riparian and wetland setbacks.

Next steps include a final review by GPD, the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, the Safety and Public Works Committee, and City Council. Once approved the Director of Public Works issues the new regulations.

Questions included the timeline for next steps (April), why small parcels are not required to get permits (Director's discretion, they still have to follow erosion and sediment control), additional time for review by Council (work session to be scheduled), and how climate change impacts were incorporated into the process (calculation factors, requirements can be changed without requiring a new ordinance).

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Subcommittee Updates

Stormwater & Greenspace (Julia Larouche)

- 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 Matt Burkhart:
 - Site 3 is an area around a heritage tree (a White Oak estimated at 200+ years) along the southern shore of Lower Lake; the plan is to eliminate mowing around the tree to reduce damage to surface roots, reduce soil compaction, and allow insects to complete their lifecycle over the seasons. Future planting could help to delineate the protected area with understory shrubs.
 - Site 4 is a parcel across from the Middle School along Shaker Boulevard; in planning stages with current request to reduce the frequency of mowing. This will reduce emissions, labor costs, and soil compaction.
- Looking into methods to encourage the transition from gas to electric landscaping equipment.

Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)

- Planning for solar home tour over the summer, with marketing at events throughout the summer to drive interest.
- Dominion has agreed to provide a code for Shaker Heights residents for the Dominion home energy audit; working on ways to encourage smart thermostat option (\$75) as part of this program, potentially through a reimbursement
- Looking at energy conservation messaging around driving a gasoline vehicle – avoiding jack rabbit starts, going 5 mph less – these can add up to 30 percent savings; difficult as it is a behavioral change.

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

- EcoChallenge starts April 1st - following up on the successful EcoChallenge from last year, the subcommittee is working with local businesses and partners
- Sharing social media posts is very helpful, working on a newsletter that can be shared

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Old/New Business

- The RFP for the Community Choice Electric Aggregation program was distributed February 23rd with responses requested March 22nd
- Earth Day coming up in April – Drive Electric Earth Day is April 23rd (this is not Touch a Truck as reported, it is September 24th)
- April 6th presentation on climate change by Shaker Heights High School graduate David Pogue to present in collaboration with the Shaker Heights Public Library (location is Shaker Heights Middle School)

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2022 at 8:00am.



Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator



HOLDEN FORESTS & GARDENS
People for Trees™
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is *People for Trees*?

Holden Forests & Gardens *People for Trees* is an invitation to join a movement. By 2025, we aim to have 15,000 trees planted and cared for in rural and urban communities in Northeast Ohio and we need your help. It's also a call to increase your awareness of and love of trees.

Why should I consider taking the time to plant a tree?

Planting a tree is one of THE most important things we can all do to combat climate change, starting in our own backyards. It's a relatively simple undertaking that collectively provides enormously benefits, now and long into the future.

What do I need to do to participate?

We invite you to begin by thinking about planting a tree and caring for it in your backyard, or your front yard if space allows. Then, take just a moment to make a pledge to plant your tree at holdenfg.org/people-for-trees.

Once you make your pledge, you will begin to receive information via email about tree planting and care, access to how-to-tree planting videos and much more. Once you become a part of *People for Trees*, we will help you learn the basic, simple but important steps to planting, growing, and caring for your special tree. Perhaps the most important thing to know is that you don't need a huge commitment of time to plant and care for a tree, just the willingness to give it a great start and to pay attention to its needs through the seasons. Doing so will reward you in ways you haven't imagined.

I don't know where to start! How do I choose where to plant my tree?

Once you make your pledge, the first items you will receive is a Tree Selection Guide and a Tree Care Toolkit with information about where to plant your tree, what cool species of trees there are to plant and how to care for your new tree.

How do I select a tree, and where do I get it?

There are so many beautiful trees to consider. Your Tree Selection Guide will give you some great ideas. Find a garden center or nursery that is near your home and have fun choosing the best tree for your yard.

How much money will I spend?

Planting a tree is a commitment. It can cost up to \$250 to plant a new tree on your property, and it will require regular care (watering and mulching) especially during the first two years to get established. But there are many ways to cut these costs! Look for free trees being distributed by Holden Forests & Gardens and other organizations this spring and fall. Turn your food scraps into rich compost. See if your community gives away free wood chips. Set up a rain barrel to collect stormwater. These ways to cut the costs of tree care are also great for our environment.

Are there free trees being distributed anywhere?

There are planned giveaways on and around Arbor Day at several places around Northeast Ohio. On Arbor Day we'll have seedlings at both of our campuses - the Holden Arboretum and the Cleveland Botanical Garden - free to good homes.

Does planting and caring for one tree really make a difference?

Improving a city's urban tree canopy by planting just one tree has countless benefits, including improving public health by providing oxygen, filtering the air, and reducing stress. Trees also calm traffic and cool sidewalks and streets, making neighborhoods safer and more walkable. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to combat climate change. A beautiful tree canopy attracts businesses and residents.

Make your pledge at holdenfg.org/people-for-trees and become a part of the *People for Trees* movement today!

Holden Forests & Gardens' mission is to connect people with the wonder, beauty, and value of trees and plants, to inspire action for healthy communities. For more information, please contact Margaret Thresher in the Public Relations and Marketing Department at mthresher@holdenfg.org.



FACT SHEET

Northeast Ohio Needs Trees

Despite increased action to plant and care for trees over the past five years, our tree cover in Northeast Ohio continues to decline. Due to a combination of factors including pests and diseases, climate change, and human activity, we are losing trees at an alarming rate—more than one percent of tree cover each year. Together, we must plant and protect tens of thousands of trees to reverse the trends of tree loss in Northeast Ohio. (Sources: Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and the Cleveland Tree Plan 2020 Tree Canopy Progress Report.)

Trees provide numerous benefits to people and the environment. They cool our air, filter our water, improve our health, bolster businesses, and add value to properties. Tree canopy is essential to the health and well-being of individuals and the community-- it is truly green *infrastructure*.

Yet not all neighborhoods equally benefit from trees. Tree canopy is uneven across our region, tending to be lowest in marginalized communities, including communities of color. These same communities are at greatest risk for the future negative effects of climate change. Because of the many benefits that trees provide, planting and caring for trees is an important way that we can take action to help reduce health and social inequalities now and in the future. The scope of the need to plant and protect trees in Northeast Ohio is big enough that no one entity can do it alone. This effort will require diverse partners including residents, businesses, institutions, and governments. Private landowner engagement is crucial; 85% of forested land is privately owned in Ohio.

This is why Holden Forests & Gardens is announcing our new campaign, *People for Trees*, to address the need to preserve and expand tree canopy in communities across Northeast Ohio.

Holden Forests & Gardens' *People for Trees* Campaign

Holden Forests & Gardens' *People for Trees* invites you - our members, visitors, partners, and local communities across Northeast Ohio - to join in a regional effort to plant and care for trees where you live and work, beginning with making a pledge.

The goal of the *People for Trees* Campaign is to work together to plant and care for at least 15,000 trees throughout Northeast Ohio by 2025.

How You Can Become *People for Trees*

For Residents

- Make a pledge to plant and care for trees on your property at www.holdenfg.org/people-for-trees.
- Once you pledge to plant a tree, you will receive an easy-to-follow Tree Selection Guide, a Tree Care Toolkit, and other helpful information and inspiration to help you become a good steward of your new tree. Pledgers will receive ongoing communications about tree care, invitations to free virtual classes, and more.
- Share your pledge on social media using the hashtag #MytreeinCLE.

For Institutional Partners

- Make a pledge to plant and care for trees on your property at www.holdenfg.org/people-for-trees.
- Our experts at Holden Forests & Gardens can help you choose tree species that are right for your needs and connect you with industry standards for proper planting and maintenance.
- If you are an institution that works with communities of color and/or in areas with low existing tree canopy, we may be able to provide additional support for your tree projects. Get in touch with Sandra Albro at salbro@holdenfg.org about partnership opportunities through *People For Trees*.

For Businesses

- Make a pledge to plant and care for trees on your property at www.holdenfg.org/people-for-trees.
- Our experts at Holden Forests & Gardens can help you choose tree species that are right for your needs and connect you with industry standards for proper planting and maintenance.
- Get the word out about your *People for Trees* story to your constituents! Our marketing team can help tell your story.

Essential Benefits of Trees

Did you know that trees provide numerous benefits, extending beyond property lines to improve the health and wellbeing of entire neighborhoods? These are just some of the ways that trees are essential for homes, businesses, and communities:

- Trees improve public health by providing oxygen, filtering the air, and reducing stress, which have been linked to reductions in asthma and heart disease.
- Trees calm traffic and cool sidewalks and streets, making neighborhoods safer and more walkable.
- Trees increase business traffic and home values.
- Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to combat climate change.
- Trees save energy on heating and cooling.
- Trees filter and retain stormwater and prevent soil erosion, which keeps our rivers and Lake Erie cleaner.
- Trees provide habitat for birds and pollinators.

Why Holden Forests & Gardens?

We want to put our 90+ years of expertise in trees and plants to use to improve the health of communities throughout Northeast Ohio. By sharing our technical expertise, advocacy work and policy development, advancing scientific research, providing training and education, and working together to plant and care for trees and native plants, we can help make neighborhoods throughout Northeast Ohio healthier and happier.

Holden Forests & Gardens can build a Northeast Ohio-wide movement through our strong network of community partnerships and family of ambassadors: 380,000 annual visitors in a typical year, nearly 17,000 members, our Board of Directors, more than 1,500 volunteers, 50+ Garden Club affiliates and more than 100,000 social media followers.

Our team consists of: Scientists, arborists, community foresters, horticulturalists, and environmental/nature educators including:

- 59 staff experts
- 350+ volunteers working in research, conservation, community forestry/outreach, collections, horticulture, education

Our demonstration and inspiration sites are located within the 14th largest public garden and arboretum in the United States:

- The Holden Arboretum: 3,500 acres including *Working Woods*, a 62-acre demonstration site for healthy forest management.
- The Cleveland Botanical Garden: 11 acres in the urban center of University Circle.
- Our urban farm sites in Slavic Village and Fairfax neighborhoods.

Our Partnerships

Holden Forests & Gardens looks forward to continuing our service on the Cleveland Tree Coalition and its leadership board. At the same time, we recognize a need to partner beyond Cleveland borders, given the regional scope of tree canopy loss and the footprint of our institution in multiple Northeast Ohio counties.

Additional partnerships include: American Public Gardens Association, The Nature Conservancy, The Ohio Department of National Resources, The United States Forest Service, Community Development Corporations, Libraries, and Colleges and Universities to name a few. (A complete listing appears on the *People for Trees* infographic.)

Holden Forests & Gardens' mission is to connect people with the wonder, beauty, and value of trees and plants, to inspire action for healthy communities. For more information, please contact Margaret Thresher in the Public Relations and Marketing Department at mthresher@holdenfg.org.



Memorandum

To: Members of Sustainability Committee

From: Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator

cc: Mayor David E. Weiss
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: April 5, 2022

Re: **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure / Shaker Plaza**

The City has been requested by Tesla to host a Supercharger electric vehicle charging location in the City-owned parking lot at Shaker Plaza. The site is the lower level parking lot adjacent to the shopping center and the RTA Blue Line rapid terminal. This Supercharger location would host 12 charging stations, which is reported by Tesla to be their standard configuration.

The addition of this infrastructure is consistent with the City's electric vehicle charging and overall sustainability initiatives. It is complementary to the electric vehicle charging stations installed by the City and in the nearby Van Aken District parking garage and in aggregate remains a small fraction of the overall public charging facilities that will be required as electric vehicle (EV) adoption continues to grow exponentially.

This location will establish the Van Aken District as a regional electric vehicle charging hub and is expected to benefit the City and its residents and businesses. A Supercharger location, which to date is rarely found away from an interstate highway, will be an attraction for EV drivers who will then likely patronize the local businesses in Shaker Plaza and the Van Aken District. This location will appear in all Tesla vehicles in the navigation system as a charging location and draw drivers to the area.

The much faster charging speeds of these chargers will also allow residents who live in multi-family housing and may not have access to charging to also realize the benefits of driving an EV (including much lower operating and maintenance costs).

Currently the Superchargers are limited to charging Tesla vehicles; however, Tesla has committed to opening the charging network to additional EVs and is piloting such a program in Europe currently. Tesla representatives have indicated that this location would similarly be opened to other EVs as the program is expanded to the U.S. (however no firm timeline has been announced). Additional DC Fast Chargers, similar in capacity to the Superchargers, are also scheduled to be installed through a NOACA program on Tuttle Road later this year. These will be compatible with nearly all EVs and mitigates the concerns over the initial limited availability of the Superchargers.

According to the Drive Ohio / ODOT database, as of January 2022 there are 98 battery electric vehicles registered in Shaker Heights. Of those, 68 are Tesla models, or 69%.

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3400 Lee Road Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120 P 216.491.1400 F 216.491.1465 Ohio Relay Service 711
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Tesla is requesting a license to install the 12 Superchargers and accompanying equipment in the City-owned parking area and it will be responsible for all costs associated with installing and operating the Superchargers. The agreement is being finalized but anticipates a 5-year initial term with two 5-year renewals. There is a relocation provision. The City would receive no revenues or direct payments. In contrast, the two DC Fast Chargers being installed by NOACA will be installed by NOACA but the City will assume operational responsibility, including the electric service. For the 2023 budget, \$12,000 is being projected for net costs to the City for operating the chargers.

The Sustainability Committee is requested to recommend to City Council that it authorize the Mayor to enter into the license agreement, once finalized, with Tesla for the construction and operation of the Shaker Heights Supercharger location. The Finance Committee will also review this matter prior to discussion by City Council.



Memorandum

To: Members of Sustainability Committee
From: Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin
Cc: Mayor David E. Weiss
Date: April 7, 2022
Re: Discussion of Hybrid Versus In Person Meetings

As you know, since early 2021 the City has been adopting ordinances to allow virtual meetings of public bodies (i.e. Council, Committees, BZA/CPC, SHDC, ABR, Board of Appeals, etc.).

These ordinances had expiration dates for the authority, with the most current expiration date being April 8th.

Recently, City Council adopted a codified ordinance to permanently allow virtual meetings. So there will be no more expiration dates for this authority, and no need for Council to regularly pass this type of legislation.

Council also adopted revised Rules of Conduct for meetings which also have no expiration date, so they will continue until changed by Council. The Rules continue, with slight modification, the previously passed Rules going back to April 2021, which are as follows:

1. All regular monthly Council work sessions and meetings, held generally on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of each month, respectively, shall be held at Council Chambers in City Hall (subject to change of location as necessary due to the unavailability of Council Chambers or for other reasonable cause, as determined by the Mayor and/or Council).
2. Except as permitted in Section 4, all members of Council must attend all regular monthly Council work sessions and meetings in-person in order to be counted for a quorum and to vote at such meetings. In order to preside at regular meetings held in-person, the Mayor as Chairperson shall be in attendance in-person. If the Mayor is not able to attend in-person, then the Vice Mayor shall preside at such meeting, or other Member of Council as designated by the Mayor.
3. All special meetings of City Council, meetings of Council Committees, and all meetings of all other City public bodies, shall be held virtually, unless and until the Mayor and the Chairperson of a particular public body determines to hold in-person meetings, or hybrid in-person and virtual meetings. Any such meetings shall comply with Chapters 113 and 115 as to public notice and public attendance.

4. The Mayor, with the concurrence of the Vice Mayor, may waive some or all of the requirements set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, to allow a regular monthly Council work session and/or meeting to be held virtually, or both in-person and virtually (a) due to a health or other emergency in order to protect the health and safety of Council members, City staff and/or the public, or (b) due to any other extraordinary circumstance for an individual Council Member or the Mayor, as determined by the Mayor and Vice Mayor.

The Sustainability Committee is asked to consider a few items related to these meeting rules.

1. Does this Committee want to hold in person meetings or hybrid meetings moving forward?
2. If the Committee chooses hybrid meetings, can a member appear virtually and vote as related to quorum?
3. Also, if a committee member is permitted to attend virtually, are they required to be on camera or can they use a phone off camera?

It is recommended that the Sustainability Committee discuss the questions above and come to a decision that will be considered by the Law Department with regard to rule changes for public bodies.