



## SHAKER HEIGHTS

### Sustainability Committee Agenda Via Video and Audio Conference Due to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

For the safety of staff and residents, in-person attendance is not permitted. Join the Zoom meeting from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device. Join online to listen and watch at <https://zoom.us/j/99349720079?pwd=K29NNGINbVEvRDFKeDk5RGNuTUQ0QT09>, Password: 33553400; Description: Sustainability Committee; or join by phone to listen at 833-548-0282 (toll free); Webinar ID: 993 4972 0079, Password: 33553400.

1. Approval of the February 13, 2020 meeting minutes.

Documents:

[021320 SUS MIN.PDF](#)

2. Review and Approval of NOPEC Energized Community Grant Submission.

Documents:

[NOPEC GRANT MEMO SUS 2020.PDF](#)

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 (Julianne Porter)
    - 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.

Documents:

[SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES 052020.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 February 13, 2020  
7:30 A.M.  
City Hall Conference Room B**

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  
John Barber, Co-Chair, Friends of Lower Lake  
Tom Egelhoff, Renewable Energy Subcommittee Member

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Anne Williams at 7:34 A.M.

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**Overview of the Sustainability Committee Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the Sustainability Committee are to educate, advocate, and support the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the community. Consider policy recommendations relating to sustainability for residents, businesses, and city government. Review proposed legislative actions referred to Council from various city departments.

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**Approval of the November 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Norman Robbins and seconded by Julianne Potter that the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting be approved as recorded. The Committee welcomed new member Nancy Moore and did brief introductions.

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**Review of 2019 Goals and Discussion of 2020 Goals**

The Sustainability Coordinator presented an updated status of the original Committee goals. These included:

- City Facilities' Utility Costs and Savings:
  - Initial objective was to determine the baseline energy use of the city; this is being accomplished through the implementation of EnergyCAP software where utility bills are catalogued and analyzed. Data from 2018 entered and 2019 is being processed.

**CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS**

- The city's three electricity contracts were up for renewal and bid through an energy broker resulting in consolidation into two three-year contracts (streetlights and all other city operations) with an expected savings of over \$42,000 per year while providing Green-e certified Renewable Energy Credits demonstrating that renewable sources produced an equivalent amount of electricity.
- Working with FirstEnergy to determine how the city's demand charges are calculated to see if any cost-saving strategies can be employed.
- Energy Conservation Measures for City Buildings
  - Completed COSE/FirstEnergy Building Energy Audits; list of energy conservation measures being reviewed by Public Works to determine feasibility of in-house versus vendor contracted items, including LED lighting retrofit.
  - Streetlights were reviewed with FirstEnergy experimental LED tariff but economics not compelling, reviewing alternatives.
- Alternative Fuel Options for City Vehicles
  - Idle management reviewed for existing fleet to gain efficiencies; Police determined economics were not worth pursuing.
  - Efforts going forward concentrated on electric vehicle conversion; bid for potential electric vehicle received and in review; cost to install charging station(s) in process.
- Internal City Green Team
  - Green Team members consist of staff from various departments, have had several meetings.
  - Composting initiated in four city buildings (Firehouse 1, Firehouse 2, City Hall, and Police & Courts).
  - Residential options to either drop off (Nature Center or The Dealership) or weekly pickup at residence. Presented to GAINS (Akron) and had many questions about how the city offers composting.
  - Planning for more zero waste city events.
- Solar Power Generation
  - Reviewed Cuyahoga County Power Purchase Agreement option, outright purchase of system, and possibility of RFP. Waiting on results of City of Cleveland responses to their solar RFP.
- Other Green Initiatives
  - Predominantly collecting data and information from various stakeholders for LEED for Cities program; met with Commissioner of Cleveland Water regarding data needed. Stormwater & Greenspace subcommittee have contributed to several credits.

Committee discussed various items, including:

- Zero waste events: looking at cost and renovation of former Fire Department space in City Hall to include dishwashing capabilities; sustainability events have used creative methods to reduce waste such as using ice cream cones as containers. Can we use our learning on this to encourage the Van Aken District to provide composting for visitors?
- Emphasis on prioritizing items that have reasonable economic return.

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### **Overview of Doan Brook Watershed Partnership and Tree Advisory Committee**

New Committee Member and City Council Member Nancy Moore provided an overview of the work of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, on whose board she sits and serves as president, and the Shaker Heights Tree Advisory Board, which she chairs.

The importance of green infrastructure, especially as it pertains to stormwater management and the health of the Doan Brook watershed, and the tree canopy was reviewed. The tree canopy has been particularly hard hit in the watershed. In our area the age of the trees has contributed to the decline in the canopy along with climate change, and challenges persist including a reduced staff and funding. Shaker Heights has lost 11 percent of its tree canopy, and trees take 10 years to develop a canopy that appears in a LIDAR survey.

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### **Subcommittee Updates**

- High School Advisory Group (Julianne Potter)
  - Shaker Youth LEEDs: Collaborative among Hathaway Brown, Laurel, University School and Shaker Heights High School; reviewing how the city can achieve higher levels of certification in the next 5 to 10 years.
  - Two categories – Energy and Quality of Life – are the main focus of the students. Looking at about a dozen action steps around these goals.
  - Group also participating in the Climate Youth Summit that will take place in October in Cleveland; great opportunity to get involved in climate leadership.
  
- Stormwater & Greenspace (Carmen Franks)
  - Reviewed goals of subcommittee for new attendees (as previously reported)
  - Laudable Lawns, a former program of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership and The Nature Center, is being reviewed to potentially re-launch.
  - Discussed pilot with NEORS and the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership to work with residents to encourage the management of their stormwater and decrease stormwater fees.
  - Subcommittee had an update on the new stormwater codes and ordinances from Chagrin River Watershed Partnership.
  - Next meeting on Monday
  
- Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)
  - Continue to focus on obtaining clean energy for residents and energy conservation measures, including promoting NOPEC 100% renewable option, Shaker Heights Schools and solar options, and encouraging participation in multi-city effort to increase availability of renewable power options for residents.
  - Subcommittee working on increasing awareness of FirstEnergy residential energy audits.
  - Working on increasing public electric vehicle charging options in the city.
  
- Recycling (Anne Williams)
  - June 25<sup>th</sup> will be a composting seminar from the Solid Waste District, will focus on backyard composting but will also include a discussion of the city's programs through Rust Belt Riders.

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**Other Discussion Items**

- City of Brooklyn and Cuyahoga County collaborated on a solar installation; can be viewed as a potential example for city energy production.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit and day prior there will be a municipal sustainability summit, waiting on additional information.
- Timing of meeting moved from 7:30am to 8:00am going forward.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2020 and the time has moved to 8:00am.

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Michael Peters  
Sustainability Coordinator



# SHAKER HEIGHTS

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the Sustainability Committee

**FROM:** Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator

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

**DATE:** June 11, 2020

**RE:** **Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC)  
Energized Community Grant Application**

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The City is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC). NOPEC is a regional council of governments formed under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code to administer electric and/or gas aggregation programs for communities. NOPEC currently serves over 200 communities who have been authorized by ballot to purchase electricity or gas on behalf of their citizens.

Shaker Heights offers its residents electric aggregation through NOPEC but currently administers our own gas aggregation program approved by a vote of our residents.

NOPEC's Energized Community Grant Program provides funds to member communities to implement energy savings or energy infrastructure measures. In 2019 the City received \$55,958 in grant funds that were applied to the \$150,000 replacement of the aging generators and electrical service upgrades at City Hall at 3400 Lee Road. For 2020, \$52,472 is available, based on 7,496 accounts in 2019 at \$7 per account. The number of NOPEC accounts in the city has been on a declining trend, with 8,635 accounts for 2017 and 7,994 accounts for 2018.

The grant agreement entered into in 2018 between the City and NOPEC remains in effect for the 2020 grant application, but Council approval is required for the application. We propose applying to use the \$52,472 to go toward the \$75,000 electrical service upgrade and emergency generator replacement at Fire Station II, 2801 Warrensville Center Road.

When we receive the \$52,472 in grant funds it will be deposited in Fund 401, the General Capital Fund, to offset the City funds allocated to this project.

The Committee is requested to approve the grant application to NOPEC in the amount of \$52,472 for the generator replacement and electrical service upgrade project at Fire Station II in order to send this request to the Finance Committee and City Council for final approval.

## **Sustainability Coordinator Activities: May 2020**

Recent sustainability news of interest to Shaker Heights includes:

- Reported last month as before council, the City of Cleveland Heights approved the power purchase agreement through the Cuyahoga County Aggregated Solar Project for solar installations on three buildings: City Hall, the Community Center, and the Service Department garage. Additional information was learned on a May 27th call of local governments to discuss sustainability practices: the cost savings and expected generation of the three systems. Expected completion is by year end.
  - City Hall: currently averaging 10.56 cents/kWh and the PPA is 10.06 cents/kWh. Expected generation is 145,000 kWh of the total demand of 680,000 kWh or 21 percent.
  - Community Center: currently averaging 10.23 cents/kWh and expected generation is 590,000 kWh of the 1.7 million kWh demand, or 35 percent.
  - Service Garage: currently averaging 11.4 cents/kWh and expected generation is 360,000 kWh of the 370,000 kWh demand, or 97 percent.
- The City of Cleveland announced a goal to reach LEED Platinum in the LEED for Cities rating system by 2030. It is still determining what level it will achieve when it initially certifies later this year or early next.
- On May 21st, the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) released [\*Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery\*](#). This report includes guidance for cities about strategies including:
  - Lanes for Biking & Rolling
  - Sidewalk Extensions
  - Transit Lanes
  - Slow Streets
  - Pickup & Delivery Zones
  - Outdoor Dining
  - Markets

Shaker Heights was invited to participate in a LEED for Cities webinar along with Santa Monica and Sante Fe. These cities were chosen for their strong cultural and historic significance.

Each year the city is awarded two grants from NOPEC, the Energized Community Grant and a Community Sponsorship. The 2019 Energized Community Grant is awaiting an invoice for the City Hall generator replacement for disbursement. The application for the 2020 grant is expected to be approved by the Sustainability and Finance Committees in June for recommendation to Council. The Community Sponsorship will go to the Shaker Arts Council for a series of virtual art lessons. The application is complete and awaiting bank information for disbursement.

## **Summary of work conducted by category:**

### **1. City Facilities' Utility Costs and Savings**

- Continuing implementation of the EnergyCAP utility bill tracking and analysis software.
- Continuing to wait on First Energy on formula for calculating demand charges for city facilities and reducing the monthly customer fee for The Dealership (to be in line with other city-owned buildings).

### **2. Energy Conservation Measures for City Buildings**

- Suspended: Analysis from Public Works on implementation of COSE energy audit recommendations.

### **3. Alternative Fuel Options for City Vehicles**

- Suspended: acquisition of electric vehicle for city fleet, EV chargers.
- Received informal notice of a grant award for electric vehicle charging, awaiting formal notice.

### **4. Leading an Internal City Green Team**

- Resumed: Composting at Police & Courts Building and Fire Station #1 and #2; suspended at City Hall until return to work warrants demand. Residential programs also resumed May 20th.

### **5. Solar Power Generation on City Owned Vacant Lots**

- Conversations to be resumed as time permits.

### **6. Other Green Initiatives**

- Ongoing: collecting final data needed for LEED for Cities; awaiting data from various stakeholders, especially Cleveland Water.
- Shaker Youth LEEDS, the four-high school group researching LEED for Cities criteria, will make a recommendation to the Committee in July.
- Postponed: Tour of material recovery facility for Sustainability Committee.

### **7. Liaison to the Sustainability Committee and Green Team**

- Monthly meetings to resume in June.