



**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.

\* \* \* \*

**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.

\* \* \* \*

**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.

\* \* \* \*

**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**

3400 Lee Road Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120 P 216.491.1400 F 216.491.1465 Ohio Relay Service 711  
**shakeronline.com www.shaker.life**

- 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.

\* \* \* \*

**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.

\* \* \* \*

### **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.

\* \* \* \*

**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.

\* \* \* \*

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.

---

Michael Peters  
Sustainability Coordinator