



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Sustainability Committee Minutes

Thursday, April 13, 2023

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, Council Member
Sean P. Malone, Council Member
Anne Williams, Council Member
Julia Larouche, Citizen Member
Norman Robbins, Citizen Member

Others Present: David Weiss, Mayor
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Jeff Isaacs, Shaker Heights School District Board Member
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Nancy Moore at 8:03 A.M.

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Approval of the March 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Anne Williams and seconded by Sean Malone that the minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting be approved as recorded; unanimously passed.

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Presentation on Cuyahoga County Sustainability Toolkit (Focus Area: Transportation)

The Cuyahoga County Sustainability Toolkit focus area that was reviewed this month was Transportation. The overall theme was how communities could distinguish themselves by providing residents (and potential residents) with sustainable transport options.

Examples provided were Millennials attracted by bike lanes, walkable commercial districts, transit, trails, and parks, redesigning transportation systems guided by sustainability and efforts like Vision Zero, and the high impact decarbonizing transportation can have on overall greenhouse gas emissions.

In the Leadership and Education section, examples included:

- Encouraging more multi-model options for commuters, like GOhio Commute
- Installing traffic calming devices (as Shaker Heights recently did in the Moreland neighborhood)
- Consider a Safe Routes to Parks plan for increased bike access
- Host adult bike safety classes (as Shaker Heights did during the Ciclovía event last summer)

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- Support flexible first mile/last mile connections to transit
- Produce a trails and greenways plan

In the Municipal Operations category potential suggestions included:

- Establish a parks access initiative
- Invite an orderly introduction to shared mobility devices – and the examples of “virtual docks” was noted as a new technology advancement
- Encourage City employees to use bike and scooter sharing programs when they exist
- Collaborate with local bike groups to repurpose impounded bikes
- Transition the light duty fleet to EVs and prioritize the future acquisition of EVs

In the Policy & Ordinances section, examples included:

- Focus on safety and speeding to reduce crashes through traffic calming and reducing speed limits
- Promote equity and shared mobility by requiring bikes and scooters to be in low and moderate income neighborhoods
- Support road diets as Shaker Heights is doing on Lee Road
- Design for a multi-modal system through a complete streets policy
- Plan for climate resilience by investing in green infrastructure

Finally, in the Regional Collaboration section, suggestions included:

- Support NOACA’s Environmental Justice policy
- Support the transition to electric buses by the transit agencies
- Support state funding for EV chargers
- Support the Cuyahoga County Regional Lakefront Transportation Connection study
- Support equity in transportation
- Support a countywide bike and greenway network

Questions and comments following the presentation included Nancy Moore noting that the Shaker Heights City Schools has an EV bus on order with Jeff Isaac adding that it also had 2 EVs in its fleet currently and an RFP for nine smaller vans; she also noted that countywide initiatives are evident in transportation with communities adopting different approaches and that speed reduction is often of interest by residents and the examples are helpful; Sean Malone asked for an update on where the City stood on shared bikes and scooters noting previous discussions about having them use streets or sidewalks and Jeri Chaikin noted that City Council had tabled the discussion to 2024; Jeff Isaacs asked about the GOhio Commute program and in particular the Schools-related program; and Norman Robbins pointed out that studies have been conducted on the severity of head injuries from scooter use.

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Subcommittee Updates

Stormwater & Greenspace (Julia Larouche)

- Grow Not Mow Site 1: a workday is scheduled for May 13th from 10am to 1pm, signup is through the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership

- An Arbor Day Tree Planting is planned with the Tree Advisory Board for Aldersyde and Laurel Roads with the Onaway School Garden Club where a Buckeye tree will be planted and followed by the Onaway PTO Service Day.
- Onaway will also have a special program for the April 19th Plastic Free Lunch Day with flyer to raise awareness and hope that next year there will possibly be a lunch that is plastic free for the day
- An update on composting at the School:
 - The Schools COO is supportive of the efforts and will seek Administration and Board approval to include it in future budgets
 - All five elementary schools are expected to offer a composting program for the 2023-2024 school year
- The pesticide policy statement is being reviewed and it was noted that the youth baseball program is using organics
- The electric lawn mower rebate program is scheduled for April 29th and 30th at the Service Center (15600 Chagrin Blvd.) where 40 rebates of \$100 will be available on a first come first served basis. Burgers Ace Hardware will also help promote the rebate and assist residents in the purchase of an electric mower. This pilot will hopefully be extended in the future to commercial landscapers.
- The Tree Advisory Board is promoting a bookmark design project with the Shaker Heights Public Library, more information is available online, and all participants will receive a reusable lunch tote.
- Jeff Isaacs thanked the subcommittee for its work on the Schools composting program with Nancy Moore adding that it's a win-win as it reduces methane and the volume of solid waste sent to landfill

Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)

- The Subcommittee continues to discuss how best to publicize the incentives for homeowners in the Inflation Reduction Act. The first year is almost completely tax credits that are difficult for low and moderate income residents to access. In the second year rebates are expected, especially for low and moderate income residents, to expand on this initial work.
- The group is benefitting from advice by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication on best practices for communicating with residents and notes that 50 percent have no awareness of the IRA provisions and the other 50 percent largely see no personal benefit, so trusted ambassadors are needed to increase awareness including hearing the message from the faith communities; the Unitarian Church is discussing ways to promote the IRA and a call is scheduled for Sunday to discuss.
- Nancy Moore noted that residents have a lot of questions especially on solar and she refers them to Chris Kerr who has solar on his slate roof.
- She also noted that the Planning Department's administrative review process has been helpful in the uptick in interest along with the IRA.

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

- The 2023 EcoChallenge is happening this month, log on to the Google form to track your points and encourage your networks to participate and learn more about

sustainable practices. Nancy Moore offered to send the link and noted how easy it is to register and log points.

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Chair's Remarks/Old Business/New Business

- Sean Malone expressed thanks to Norman Robbins, without whom the Sustainable Committee wouldn't exist. Anne Williams added to the appreciation and recognition. Norman Robbins commented that this is a great group to be working with and how he appreciated doing so.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for My 11, 2023 at 8:00am.



Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator