



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Sustainability Committee Minutes

Thursday, May 11, 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
Shanna Keown, Citizen Member
Norman Robbins, Citizen Member

Others Present: David Weiss, Mayor
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Nancy Moore at 8:01 A.M.

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Approval of the April 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Anne Williams and seconded by Sean Malone that the minutes of the April 13, 2023 meeting be approved as recorded; unanimously passed.

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Overview of the City of Cleveland Decarbonization Summit

The City of Cleveland recently held a public Decarbonization Summit, similar to past Sustainable Cleveland summits. A summary of the event and in particular the topics from the transportation workshop in the afternoon were presented to the Sustainability Committee to ensure it was aware of regional efforts around sustainability, many of which could impact the City.

The City of Cleveland has a Climate Action Plan, reports emissions through the Carbon Disclosure Project, has a Sustainable Cleveland Municipal Action Plan, and has conducted extensive community-building and engagement around sustainability. It also certified under the US Green Building Council's LEED for Cities program (at the Silver level) and most recently authored a Circular Cleveland roadmap.

The City has committed to reduce city-wide emissions by 80 percent from 2010 to 2050. This includes transitioning to 100 percent clean and renewable energy sources by 2050.

CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS

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The summit focused on the questions that needed to be addressed to reach this goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Discussions included changes to infrastructure, where the changes will occur, how to ensure the transition is equitable, the cost of the changes, and how it will impact the workforce.

Decarbonization of energy systems is the lens to focus these efforts. Decarbonization is defined for this purpose as reducing or eliminating the amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere by human activities, especially those emitted from burning fossil fuels.

For the transportation sector, the least-cost scenario is being adopted to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. This includes high electrification of energy demand and the least-cost portfolio of energy supply technologies. Within this sector, the City has already made progress on driving cleaner and more efficient vehicles, building safe transportation systems, collaborating regionally on public transit, working to improve bicycle infrastructure, and greening the ports.

The common model to decarbonize transport consists of avoid, shift, and improve categories. Avoid is reducing the need to travel, shift is moving to more energy efficient modes, and improve is using more efficient vehicle technologies. For Cleveland this includes more transit oriented development, transportation demand strategies, and parking demand management to avoid travel; expand active transportation infrastructure, support public transit, and incentivize alternative modes for shifting demand; and, electrifying the municipal fleet, enacting EV-ready policies, and expanding EV charging for improving travel efficiencies.

The presentation also noted how the percentage of EVs sold in the County needs to increase dramatically to achieve these goals. This is complicated by the length of time many vehicles are on the road, resulting in a long transition period.

Finally, the work uses the US EPA's definition of environmental justice to guide the work. This is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Questions and comments included those from Nancy Moore who asked whether Shaker Heights needs a climate action plan and noted a First Suburbs Consortium meeting on sustainability on May 17th (Michael Peters responded that there are two approaches to sustainability planning and action, with a climate action plan requiring resources and time versus a more agile approach that responds to new technologies and opportunities); Norman Robbins asked about methane and natural gas within the decarbonization plan (the plan emphasizes the switch to electric appliances and renewably-sourced electricity as soon as possible); Sean Malone suggested thinking about a climate action plan and potentially a mid-year goals recap along with more discussion at year end about goals; the Mayor asked about the context for holding the Summit and commented that establishing joint priorities would be beneficial to both communities; Shanna Keown agreed that a mid-year check-in would be helpful, connected this work to the LEED certification and categories and the longer-term equity focus.

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Subcommittee Updates

Electric Lawn Mower Rebate Program (Michael Peters)

- An overview of the City's Electric Lawn Mower Rebate Program was provided, with the program aiming to improve air quality and reduce noise by replacing gasoline-powered mowers with electrics.
- Held in conjunction with the Hazardous Waste Roundup at the Service Center, 43 rebate requests were received from the program start on Saturday, April 29th through noon on Sunday, April 30th when new submissions were ended. A rush at the beginning resulted in 26 mowers collected by 9:30am on Saturday.
- Some residents took the opportunity to simply drop off old mowers, resulting in over 48 mowers being recycled. Public Works staff was incredibly helpful during the event and loaded the mowers into the metal recycling dumpster at the end of the day.
- The electric mowers purchased had a median cost of \$449 and the lowest cost mower was \$218. Participation included residents from most neighborhoods, although should the program be repeated more emphasis should be placed on ensuring residents in Moreland and Ludlow are aware of the program.
- Residents were well prepared with the vast majority already having purchased an electric mower and therefore came with copies of all required documents.
- The recommendation was to offer the program again in 2024, potentially expanding to include blowers, and using an online form to avoid handwriting issues.
- Nancy Moore also thanked Public Works and Communications and Marketing for their invaluable assistance and recommended that trimmers and blowers be included next year. Anne Williams noted that she has received several complaints from residents about blowers and supports including them next year. The Mayor also received comments regarding how appreciative and understanding residents were, recognizing it takes time for the transition.

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

- The 2023 EcoChallenge is complete with results to be reported at a later date. The students collected many prizes and incentives from local businesses and appreciated the article in Shaker Life about the event. They are planning for it again next year and working to improve the ease of recording points. This was applauded by Nancy Moore who agreed that the process for documentation can be challenging for the time bereft.

Stormwater & Greenspace (Nancy Moore and Michael Peters)

- Grow Not Mow
 - Site 1 GnM work day May 13 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Volunteers needed. 6 Sycamore trees being planted and invasives removed.
- Arbor Day Tree Planting & Onaway Service Day took place April 28th
 - Arbor Day Tree Planting was accompanied by the children's bookmark design contest from the Shaker Heights Library (Margaret Simon, who retired, is missed). Approximately 100 entries resulted in five designs that will now be produced.
 - Onaway School had a successful Earth Day of activities (mulching, pulling invasives, scarring and sowing redbud seeds and milkweed, picking up trash on the premises)
- The pesticide policy is under review with the Administration.
- Onaway native gardens will remain front and center of Onaway School thanks to student and parent-led support.
- District-wide composting

- Lomond School launched this week with Rust Belt!
 - Fernway and Onaway will continue composting next year.
 - Boulevard (and possibly Mercer) will start composting next year.
 - Onaway, Boulevard and Mercer to be funded largely by Shaker Schools Foundation (each school's PTO contributing a small amount toward composting).
- Given the success of working with local business Burgers Ace Hardware on the Electric Lawn Mower Rebate program, a suggestion was made to see if a collaboration with Heinen's on composting would be possible. The idea was that as the community comes to shop for food they could drop off food waste – driving business while helping the environment. Thank you to Economic Development for brainstorming ideas.

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Chair's Remarks/Old Business/New Business

- There was no old or new business and there were no additional comments.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2023 at 8:00am.



Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator