



Sustainability Committee Minutes
Thursday, May 12, 2022
7:30 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, Committee Chair, Council Member
Sean P. Malone, Council Member
Anne Williams, Council Member
Shanna Keown, Citizen Member
Norman Robbins, Citizen Member

Others Present: David E. Weiss, Mayor
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator
Barbara Bradley, League of Women Voters
Torrey McMillan, Hathaway Brown School
Shaker Youth LEEDS Members (Kathleen, Sophie, Fanon, Ava, Cindy)

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Nancy Moore at 7:35 A.M.

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Presentation by Shaker Youth LEEDS on EcoChallenge

The Shaker Youth LEEDS subcommittee presented on the successful completion of their second annual community EcoChallenge. This program consists of numerous LEED-based challenges for participants to complete or practice over the course of a month.

Participants were recruited through social media, presentations, and local online media. They logged their activities online and were eligible for prizes provided by local sponsors. These activities as reported by the subcommittee included:

- 2 participants planted 9 or more trees, with species ranging from evergreens, oaks, maple, willow, and more. 5 more participants planted trees as well.
- 5 participants planted 9 or more plants that support pollinators.
- 5 participants removed 9 or more invasive plants.
- We had 17 participants try bird watching, with 2 people bird watching for 3 or more hours!
- 16 participants went out and supported a local farmers market.
- A total of 13 participants purchased plants from a local shop.
- 6 participants took a stab at talking to their school or business representative about composting.

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- 3 participants installed rain barrels, and 5 people installed either low flow showerheads or faucets
- We had a total of 12 volunteers, with 5 participants offering up 5 or more hours of their time.
- 16 participants explored Shaker parks.
- 3 people signed up for NOPEC’s adjusted electrical aggregation program, with one even purchasing a green-certified REC.
- 8 people installed efficient lighting.
- 7 participants purchased ENERGY STAR® products.
- 2 participants got an energy audit.
- 2 people installed solar panels!

There were 90 participants within a large age range. There were five prize winners, with a particularly strong showing among middle school students.

The subcommittee divided the work into three components: logistics, communications, and social media. They also connected with organizations such as NEORS, the Van Aken District, Rust Belt Riders, Shaker Rocks, and NOACA (which invited them to participate in the next Climate Action Summit). The group plans to continue and potentially expand the program next year, supported by the budget allocated through the Sustainability Committee.

The Committee thanked and congratulated the group, noting that the work with local businesses and the doubling of participants was particularly impressive. Torrey McMillan, advisor to the subcommittee, pointed out that this was entirely student led and administered. Norman Robbins pointed out that this was an innovative approach to collect actual feedback. Mayor Weiss congratulated the subcommittee on the growth of participation and the overall success of the program. Sean Malone suggested the expansion to other schools would be great and might add to school spirit.

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Approval of the April 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Norman Robbins and seconded by Anne Williams that the minutes of the April 14, 2022 meeting be approved as recorded; unanimously passed.

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Cuyahoga County Sustainability Toolkit Presentation by Marc Lefkowitz

The Committee was joined by Marc Lefkowitz, sustainability consultant to Cuyahoga County, to discuss the County’s online Sustainability Toolkit (which can be found at <https://www.cuyahogacounty.us/sustainability/sustainable-cuyahoga>). The toolkit was recently updated from the initial publication several years ago.

The toolkit has nine practice areas and each has examples of policies, programs, opportunities to collaborate, and best practices. These practice areas are: air quality, energy, food, green building and historic preservation, land use and development, solid waste, transportation, trees and land management, and watershed management.

Since the release of the initial toolkit, local leaders have made progress in numerous areas and this has resulted in a competitive edge to the communities leading this effort. Continued growth in awareness and the promotion of programs remains important. This includes awareness of organizations such as the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District, the County utility and microgrid work, and the cross-pollination of areas like energy and green building or transportation and EV charging.

The toolkit serves to inspire communities and find confirmation in their actions – with examples like certifying under LEED for Cities and creating a Sustainability Committee. It also serves to share examples of new programs and recommendations for actions. Communities can use the recommendations to collaborate and as a source of friendly competition.

The Committee members commented on the value of resources such as this and the ongoing conversations they help facilitate. Nancy Moore suggested addressing one of each of the practice areas at upcoming Committee meetings. Norman Robbins offered to cover the energy topic in the July meeting. Anne Williams also noted the complementary initiatives like the Local Government Clean Energy Caucus.

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Electric Vehicle Charging License Agreement

The City was approached by Tesla to construct and operate a Supercharger DC Fast Charge station in the public right of way. The proposed location is between Shaker Plaza and the terminal of the GCRTA Blue Line in The Van Aken District. Tesla proposes to install 12 charging stalls over 15 parking spaces including the required equipment. This proposed expansion of the City’s electric vehicle charging infrastructure is complementary to both the City’s chargers and its sustainability initiatives.

Tesla will be responsible for all costs for the construction and operation of the Supercharger station. In contrast, the City will be responsible for the operations of the similar DC Fast Charge station to be installed by NOACA.

The majority of electric vehicles currently registered in the City, based on Ohio Department of Transportation data, are Tesla models. However, the number of EVs is expected to increase dramatically over the next several years, and Tesla has made a public commitment to open its charging network to other EV manufacturers.

A question was raised by Sean Malone about the accessibility of these chargers by other EV drivers. The City asked Tesla to include in the license agreement a commitment to opening its network to other EV drivers but Tesla was unable to include that language. While this is disappointing, the economic development benefits that the Supercharger Station brings to local businesses and residents along with the other available chargers that work with all electric vehicles was deemed to outweigh this.

Other Committee members commented on the advances the City has made in offering residents and visitors access to charging and the potential benefits to the City from this development. Sean Malone asked to review the license agreement.

The motion to recommend was made by Anne Williams and seconded by Sean Malone and passed unanimously.

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Subcommittee Updates

Stormwater & Greenspace (Michael Peters and Nancy Moore)

- Grow Not Mow – Site 1 (Courtland and South Park Blvds) had a community planting day on April 30th from 10am until 1pm that was deemed an overwhelming success by all who attended. Led by numerous volunteers, the following recap was provided by John Barber:
 - a volunteer effort by 65 (+/-?) volunteers of all ages
 - 17 trees (1 Swamp White Oak, 2 Smooth Alders, 2 Persimmons, 2 Wild Plums, 10 Redbuds)
 - 60 shrubs (30 Buttonbush, 15 Silky Dogwoods, 5 Nine Bark, 5 Silky Willows, 5 Blue Haw Vibernums)
 - 13 donated plants (including Shrubby St John's Wort, Mountain Mint, Woodland Sunflower, etc.)
 - 90 trees, shrubs, and flowering plants in total.
 - This joint effort by the SH Sustainability Committee and the SH Tree Advisory Board was a productive citizen-involvement project, a great planting success, and an educational effort for all involved in how to plant trees and shrubs. The team leaders from the Tree Advisory Board (Nate Smith, Tim Kalan, Matt Burkhart, Nick Fletcher) were augmented by John Barber and Greg Van Niel from Friends of Lower Lake.
 - The Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (Elizabeth Smith) handled all registrations and check ins.
 - Holden Forests and Gardens donated several trees for this project as part of its Urban Community Forest program.
 - SH Public Works kindly dropped off wood chips for the project.
- Grow Not Mow Site #2 at South Park Boulevard and Lee Road was not awarded a grant by the Shaker Lakes Garden Club; awaiting word on a grant application to the Cuyahoga Soil and Water District.
- Onaway School Sustainability: Earth Day event at Onaway allowed nearly 400 kids to learn and experience composting thanks to Rust Belt Riders and educator Tim Kalan; Shaker School Foundation to provide substantial funding (along with Onaway PTO and SH City Sustainability budget) for full-school composting 2022-2023 school year with Rust Belt Riders
- The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes is offering a free native seed library (~15 users so far); a seed cleaning event may be offered in the future (for this year the seeds are already collected, cleaned and stratified; sorted by various growing conditions; 20 species); If one is a seed-taker this year, plan to return seed next year as a seed giver. City will include this in its communications.
- A new recycling option is offered to residents through Repeat Glass with free drop-off containers at the Rust Belt Riders drop-off sites (Nature Center, The Dealership, and Unitarian Universalist Church).

- Work continues on research and recommendations around transitioning from gasoline leaf blower and lawn equipment; City residents eligible for new electric lawn mower rebate when a gasoline lawn mower is scrapped – see City communications for details
- A 75-foot riparian buffer along the Doan Brook in Southerly Park was discussed with the Public Works mowing crews, consistent with the Parklands Management Plan and best practices
- The hanging baskets in Lomond were discussed as a possible native plant conversion for the 2023 year
- JCU Leadership Conference has high school students who will donate time on June 18th to remove invasive plants at Grown Not Mow Site #1

Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)

- There will be a meeting on June 9th at Nature’s Oasis on the solar co-op with Solar United Neighbors; deadline for next co-op is in the summer for those interested
- Dominion Energy is offering a home energy audit, free to Shaker Heights residents if they mention they are a resident when making the appointment; the recommended improvements are projected to result in savings of approximately \$230 per year for a typical household; finalizing program that will provide residents with a \$50 rebate (of the \$75 cost) if they elect to install a smart programmable thermostat (a savings of at least \$150-\$200); waiting on approval from Dominion to launch program that has funding for 80 rebates.
- Planning Department and Architectural Board of Review (ABR) revised procedure so that solar panel reviews will be an administrative approval process if the panels are not street-facing. Street-facing will continue to require ABR approval and the ABR will have written guidelines to help residents and installers to design systems within the expected parameters.
- Michael Peters gave an update of the Community Choice Aggregation process – the City’s consultant has been selected and is working with staff to collect data from the utility company and solicit indicative pricing. Working on recommendation by end of month for City Council work session on Tuesday, May 31 at noon.

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

- Please see notes above regarding the EcoChallenge
- Thinking about sustainability practices of other schools and how to share best practices among schools

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Chair’s Remarks

- Anne Williams will chair June meeting as Chair Nancy Moore will be attending Tree City USA award ceremony

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2022 at 8:00am.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MPeters', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator