SHAKER HEIGHTS

Sustainability Committee Minutes
Thursday September 10, 2020
8:00 A.M.
Via Zoom Conference

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: Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator
Barbara Bradley, League of Women Voters
Pat Choker, Resident
Pat Agatisa, Resident

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

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Approval of the August 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes
It was moved by Sean Malone and seconded by Norman Robbins that the minutes of the August 13, 2020 meeting be approved as recorded; unanimously passed.

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Briefing on Stormwater Management and Shaker Lakes
Director or Public Works Patricia Speese provided an update and briefing on the city's work on stormwater management including work at the Shaker Lakes. This was timely, coming just days after a significant rain event on Monday, September 7th where over four inches of rain was reported in approximately four hours of heavy rain. This rain event, categorized as a 75-year event, exceeded the event in July of 2014 that was a 50-year rain event and led to the creation of what is today the Sustainability Committee.

Director Speese reported that the recently-completed dam and spillway at Green Lake performed as designed. Overall, the city fared better than most surrounding communities, due in part to the lakes. The ongoing investigation and work at Horseshoe Lake and Lower Lake resulted in Horseshoe Lake being in a drained state at the beginning of the rain event and subsequently filled. Personnel from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources

(ODNR) were on site to monitor the affairs and University Circle, downstream from the lakes, was spared flooding.

The ODNR is working with the city and NEORSD to determine possible alternatives for the current dam repairs at Horseshoe Lake. In July there was investigative work on the spillway that will require repairs. The overall project for this Class I dam was originally estimated at $2.5 million was most recently estimated at $10 million. No other alternatives, such as wetlands, are being contemplated.

The question of how Public Works is planning for climate change was raised. Director Speese described how the current work will allow the stormwater system to manage a 5-year storm event but that a regional approach to managing stormwater is necessary. Current work includes discussions with Beachwood and coordination regionally with the NEORSD.

An additional question regarding how best to educate residents, especially newer residents, about infrastructure was posed. There is information on both the city's website and the NEORSD website. Often homeowners think about managing stormwater through their roof, and ensuring good maintenance of it, but do not as frequently consider the importance of maintaining their basement waterproofing and sewer lines. Some areas of the city have an older sewer design (a cross-connection) where the storm sewer flushes out the sanitary sewer line (both are typically in the same trench with the sanitary under the storm sewer). In torrential rains the storm sewer can backflow the sanitary lines, which results in flooded basements. Keeping these lines maintained and cleaned is the homeowner's responsibility and increasing awareness of this is important. The master street plan will also take into account the location of sewer lines and trees to minimize issues with tree roots infiltrating sewer lines.

A suggestion was made to include in the Mayor's eNews a reminder to homeowners to periodically clean and maintain their sewer lines.

Thanks were extended from Pat Agatisa, Chair of the Cherry Tree Committee, on behalf of several board members of the Horseshoe Lake Park Garden Cherry Tree Grove for support in their efforts.

Additionally, thanks to diligence of residents, Public Works crews, and the Friends of the Lower Lake, the city has saved considerable expense in diverting organic materials.

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<u>Subcommittee Updates</u>

- Stormwater & Greenspace (Carmen Franks)
    - Next meeting next week
    - Continuing work on consolidating information regarding the stormwater and greenspace resources for city website; working with Public Works and Doan Brook Watershed Partnership
    - Past *Shaker Life* resource on sewer responsibilities could be a resource for this
    - Targeting resources to be available for residents in time for spring yard work

- Renewable Energy (Norman Robbins)
    - Subcommittee increasing activity after a pause; Neil Dick has joined and is working on residential solar information for homeowners; contemplating identifying local mentors that has installed solar on their homes.
    - Discussing with Economic Development about potential ways to help Shaker Heights businesses identify cost-effective renewable energy sources; will distribute survey to businesses for input.

- High School Advisory Group (Julianne Potter)
    - Kickoff meeting is scheduled along with topics for further research and investigation with subject matter experts.
    - Submitting grant application in support of students' work.
    - New members welcome; contact Julianne Potter for more information.

- Recycling (Anne Williams)
    - No report this month

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<u>Other Discussion Items</u>

- Consortium that submitted grant application to USDA was notified it did not receive a grant (there were 78 applications). Hope to continue moving forward, potentially with High School Group.
- City Utility Costs:
    - Working on training for streetlight audit to help prepare for future technology and an eventual LED conversion. Collecting data in ESRI ArcGIS through Cuyahoga County Information Technology Department.
    - Working with Finance Department on cataloguing utility bills; will have dashboard.
- Alternative Fuel Vehicles Update:
    - NOPEC EV charger grant moving forward, collecting estimates for three sites: City Hall Annex, Thornton Park, and Larchmere Parking Lot.
- Solar Demonstration Project:
    - Waiting to hear from City of Cleveland on their solar RFP
    - Continuing to review power purchase and solar options
- LEED for Cities Update:
    - Working with USGBC to determine strategies for final requirements

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2020 at 8:00 am.

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Michael Peters
Sustainability Coordinator