



**Minutes of the August 2, 2023 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
Fairview Park Gemini Center**

In Attendance:

Mayor Patrick Cooney, City of Fairview Park
Mayor Matt Burke, City of Garfield Heights
Paul Herdeg, Cuyahoga County
Mary Kay Costello, City of Fairview Park
Megan Otter, City of Fairview Park
Mayor Annette Blackwell, City of Maple Heights
Brian Anderson, City of Cleveland Heights
Tom Ott, Cott Media
Mayor Brad Sellers, City of Warrensville Heights
Chalana Williams, First Federal of Lakewood
Eliseu Crub, First Federal of Lakewood
Mayor Stan Koci, City of Bedford
Mayor Gigi Traore, Village of Newburgh Heights
Joe Duffy, City of Maple Heights
Jennifer Kuzma, NEO-FSC

Mayor Koci opened the meeting at 9:16 AM, welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked Mayor Cooney for hosting at the Fairview Park Gemini Center. Mayor Cooney thanked members for coming to the Gemini Center and spoke a bit about initiatives in Fairview Park.

Mayor Koci then passed the meeting to Frank Greenland and Donna Friedman from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to talk about the Regional Stormwater Management Program. After presenting on details of the program, successes, and opportunities for communities to bring more Stormwater Management Programs to their communities, questions were answered, and Mr. Greenland asked that we share today's presentation with First Suburbs members.

Mayor Koci then moved the meeting to the first order of business – approval of the May 2023 NEO-FSC meeting minutes. Mayor Koci asked those present if any corrections or edits were needed to the minutes as they were presented. Hearing no edits needed, the minutes of the May 2023 NEO-FSC meeting were then unanimously approved with a motion made by Mayor Sellers which was seconded by Mayor Blackwell.

Mayor Koci and Jennifer Kuzma then discussed recommendations received from First Suburbs members to honor First Suburbs founder Ken Montlack. Discussion was held on two recommendations – an annual award given in Ken's name and setting up a

scholarship in Ken's name to assist CSU students pursuing a major in a field related to First Suburbs' work. Jennifer explained that awards would be made annually to both a visionary leader who has left an impact on First Suburbs communities and a visionary program/project that supports the goals of the organization. Jennifer also explained that in conversation with Ken's wife, she expressed an interest in pursuing the scholarship and would be speaking to colleagues and friends of Ken's to grow this award. After some discussion Mayor Traore made a motion to support these recommendations setting aside \$1,500 annually in the First Suburbs' budget to support the scholarship. Mayor Burke seconded the motion, and all members present unanimously approved the motion. Jennifer thanked the members for their support and will work through details to take nominations to make awards later this year.

In the First Suburbs Housing Committee Report, Jennifer reported on the upcoming Ohio APA Conference presentation on the Single-Family Zoning Analysis in two groups – one the project overall and a second on how to develop design guidelines for your community. Jennifer thanked those who were able to attend the recent open house at the newly constructed Land Bank infill property in South Euclid. Work is being done to pull together a developer/builder event for Fall 2023 to review the work completed the SFZ Analysis and to expand our network of builders/developers. Regular meetings of the Citizenserve clerks have begun and it has been a great way to expand our understanding of how this tool is being used across participating communities.

In the First Suburbs Development Council Report, Jennifer thanked the cities for their assistance pulling together the first collective advertisement focused on marketing available sites in our communities. The research work on the impact of the small businesses in our economy is nearly completed and will be used to advocating for more small business assistance programs. Jennifer has been working through the addition of two new communities to the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District. Beachwood and Rocky River have joined the District with two great projects.

In the Staff Report members spoke with Tom Ott about his interest to work with First Suburbs to help develop stories to use on a blog on the revamped First Suburbs website being updated now as a part of this project.

In Other Business, Mayor Traore talked about her upcoming Ohio Means Jobs Job and Resource Fair she is hosting in Newburgh Heights. Chalana Williams also offered First Federal of Lakewood as a potential resource for many community development needs including small business programs to financial literacy classes.

Jennifer reminded members that the next quarterly meeting of the NEO-FSC was scheduled for Wednesday, November 1 at 9 AM and would need to be rescheduled to a date after local elections. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.