



**Minutes of the February 7, 2024 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
Brooklyn City Hall in Brooklyn**

In Attendance:

Christopher Alvarado, Cuyahoga County Regional Collaboration Director
Jeremy Rowan, City of Brooklyn
Megan Otter, City of Fairview Park
Howard Katz, CSU College of Law
Mayor Marie Gallo, City of Parma Heights
Patrick Grogan-Myers, City of Euclid
Brendan Zak, City of Shaker Heights
Dawn Ford, City of Brooklyn
Ben Brown, City of Warrensville Heights
Councilman Tony Cuda, City of Cleveland Heights
Mayor Tim DeGeeter, City of Parma
Jennifer Kuzma, NEO-FSC
Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan, City of University Heights
Mayor Phil Stevens, City of Bedford Heights
Doug Sawyer, Cuyahoga Land Bank
Vince Adamus, Cuyahoga Land Bank
Joe Duffy, City of Maple Heights
Mayor Annette Blackwell, City of Maple Heights
Geoff Englebrecht, City of University Heights
Ricardo Leon, Cuyahoga Land Bank
Michael Sweeney, Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office
Mayor Ron Van Kirk, City of Brooklyn
Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, City of Euclid
Mayor Brad Sellers, City of Warrensville Heights
Victoria Berry, Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office
Treasurer Brad Cromes, Cuyahoga County

Mayor DeGeeter opened the meeting at 9:05 AM, welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked Mayor Van Kirk for hosting at the new Brooklyn City Hall. Mayor Van Kirk thanked members for coming out to Brooklyn and offered tours of the new facility following the meeting for any attendees interested in seeing the new center.

Mayor DeGeeter then turned the meeting over to Cuyahoga County Treasurer Brad Cromes and Dr. Victoria Berry who took attendees through a presentation on the upcoming collection and outreach to residents. Treasurer Cromes also touched on SB186 and discussion was held on First Suburbs lending support as well. Jennifer will send a draft letter to members of the Executive Committee to review before sending to the full mayoral

membership for their signature. Jennifer will share Treasurer Cromes' presentation following the meeting.

Mayor DeGeeter moved the meeting to the approval of the November 2023 NEO-FSC meeting minutes. Mayor DeGeeter 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 November 2023 NEO-FSC meeting were then unanimously approved with a motion made by Mayor Sellers which was seconded by Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan.

In the First Suburbs Executive Committee Report, Mayor DeGeeter reported that the new members of the First Suburbs Executive Committee began attending monthly meetings in January. Mayor Gallo and Mayor Brennan bring two new communities to the executive committee and serve as representatives on numerous regional boards.

In the First Suburbs Housing Committee Report, Jennifer reported on actions by the Senate Select Committee on Housing including providing testimony in January for the Cleveland hearing date. It is anticipated that a report will be released by the Committee in April along with potential legislation in support of their report. Jennifer asked Patrick Grogan-Myers to share an update on the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's parcel inventory project for Cleveland Heights, Euclid and South Euclid. Due to a warm winter, city inspectors have been out in the community performing inspections slightly ahead of schedule. A final report will be completed with this data that will guide the housing efforts of the participating communities. Jennifer is working to identify funding opportunities to assist with getting the remaining of the five cities from the initial report conducted in 2018 through the 2024 re-inspection update. First Suburbs is providing administration of the project on behalf of the cities of Euclid, South Euclid and Cleveland Heights and can provide the same for Garfield Heights, Warrensville Heights and Maple Heights should they decide to do the 2024 update. Once completed, the first three communities will share their findings with the full First Suburbs membership.

Jennifer reported in the First Suburbs Development Council report that she participated in a recent Ohio Department of Transportation Listening Session as part of the ODOT Strategic Transportation and Development Analysis being conducted now through the end of 2024. Providing input on mobility and growth transportation needs throughout the State was the goal of the session. Jennifer also reported that FSDC will be hosting a meeting with KSU Professor Shawn Rohlin who conducted the First Suburbs Small Business Impact research in late-2023. Following that presentation the economic development directors will talk about how to best use the research to gain more small business assistance programs for First Suburbs communities.

In her Staff Report, Jennifer reminded members that she would be sending out 2024 membership dues invoices shortly and that the 2022-2023 audit of First Suburbs would be conducted by the State Auditor's Office.

In Other Business/Announcements, Mayor Van Kirk mentioned that he would be hosting a Homebuying Seminar in Brooklyn sponsored by the Urban League and Dr. Berry mentioned the next Great Estate Event will be held in Garfield Heights on February 8.

Jennifer reminded members that the next quarterly meeting of the NEO-FSC was scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 9 AM. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.