



**Minutes of the May 1, 2024 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
Shore Cultural Centre, Euclid**

In Attendance:

Joe Duffy, City of Maple Heights
Mayor Annette Blackwell, City of Maple Heights
Patrick Grogan-Myers, City of Euclid
Alyssa Johnson, Power A Clean Future Ohio
Nat Ziegler, Power A Clean Future Ohio
Howard E. Katz, CSU Law School
Mayor Tim DeGeeter, City of Parma
Geoff Englebrecht, City of University Heights
Victoria Berry, Cuyahoga County
Treasurer Brad Cromes, Cuyahoga County
Michael Sweeney, Cuyahoga County
Mayor David Weiss, City of Shaker Heights
Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, City of Euclid
Mayor Ron Van Kirk, City of Brooklyn
Ashley Holloway, City of South Euclid
Mayor Matthew Burke, City of Garfield Heights
Ben Brown, City of Warrensville Heights
Raymon Turner, City of Warrensville Heights
Brendan Zak, City of Shaker Heights
Kamla Lewis, Cuyahoga Land Bank
Christopher Alvarado, Cuyahoga County
Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan, City of University Heights
Mike Mallis, City of Bedford
Tom Ott, Cott Media
Councilwoman Gail Larson, City of Cleveland Heights
LaDedra Wilson, Elevate
Elena Stachew, Power a Clean Future Ohio
Edward Stockhausen, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
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Mayor DeGeeter opened the meeting at 9:10 AM, welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked Mayor Gail for hosting at the Shore Cultural Centre. Mayor Gail thanked members for coming to the City of Euclid, visiting the Shore Cultural Centre and spoke a bit about various uses within the building including rental kitchen space, community events and larger initiatives for the City of Euclid including Yuko Park and Phase III of the Waterfront Improvement Plan.

Mayor DeGeeter then passed the meeting to LaDedra Wilson to talk about Elevate's Local Infrastructure Hub Cohort. Following Ms. Wilson's presentation, Elena Stachew gave a brief update on Power A Clean Future Ohio and both presenters took questions from attendees.

Treasurer Cromes then presented a tax collection update explaining 2024's first half collection totaled over \$1.61B and that second half billing would be mailed out June 1 with a July 18th due date. Treasurer Cromes reported that the revaluation was about mid-process at this point in time. Treasurer Cromes spoke in detail about supporting SB186 and the Ohio County Treasurer Association's support for this bill. After much discussion, it was agreed that First Suburbs should also send a letter of support to members of the Ohio Senate Ways & Means Committee and Jennifer will begin work on that letter to be signed by all FSC mayors.

CNP's Edward Stockhausen shared details of the property tax relief bill he has been working on as it was introduced in SB244. Members were very interested in this proposed bill and Jennifer will share Ed's presentation and other resources he will provide.

Mayor DeGeeter then moved the meeting to the first order of business – approval of the February 2024 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 February 2024 NEO-FSC meeting were then unanimously approved.

In the First Suburbs Executive Committee Report, NEO-FSC Chair Mayor Tim DeGeeter reminded members that Jennifer will work on a support letter for SB186 and that the membership should be ready to support as the bill moves to the Ohio House. Mayor DeGeeter thanked First Suburbs members and partners for their testimony at the Cleveland Hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Housing. First Suburbs will rely on OML and Ohio Mayors Alliance for additional updates on this important committee.

In the First Suburbs Housing Committee Report, Jennifer reported on the Ohio Land Bank Conference where she, County Planning Commission's Patrick Hewitt and Cuyahoga Land Bank's Jennifer Vazquez Norman presented the Single-Family Zoning Analysis. Jennifer, Patrick, and South Euclid's Ashley Holloway also presented the SFZ Analysis at the Cleveland APA Planning & Zoning Workshop. Lastly, Jennifer reminded members of the opportunity to present at the upcoming June 12th CEU event with ACAR members to be held at the Warrensville Heights Branch of the CCPL.

In the First Suburbs Development Council Report, Jennifer shared that the First Suburbs Small Business Impact Study will be released this month as a part of National Small Business Month. Jennifer is working with Tom Ott to do a series of stories on the impact and importance of our small businesses and will also share the report with the County Executive, Department of Development and soon to be open County Office of Small Business.

In the Staff Report Jennifer shared the recently completed 2022-2023 audit of the NEO-FSC was completed by the Ohio Auditor of State's Office with no findings. 2024 membership dues invoices have been sent out and more than half of the members have paid their dues for the year. Jennifer also reported that information will be coming out soon to fundraise for the First Suburbs Ken Montlack Scholarship.

In Other Business, County Regional Collaboration Director Alvarado reminded members of the Safe Streets for All application submitted by County Planning Commission and upcoming Solar Co-Op Program expansion to include commercial buildings.

Jennifer reminded members that the next quarterly meeting of the NEO-FSC was scheduled for Wednesday, August 7 at 9 AM and would be held as a virtual meeting with legislative updates from Ohio Municipal League and Ohio Mayors Alliance. The meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.