



**Minutes of the May 14, 2025 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
MetroHealth Main Campus, Cleveland**

In Attendance:

Erin Morris, City of East Cleveland
Mayor Sandra Morgan, City of East Cleveland
Mayor Annette Blackwell, City of Maple Heights
Laura Englehart, City of Shaker Heights
Matthew Thomas, CCLRC
Mayor Michel Dylan Brennan, City of University Heights
Howard E. Katz, CSU College of Law
Council President Tony Cuda, City of Cleveland Heights
Jennifer Kuzma, NEO-FSC
Mayor Tim DeGeeter, City of Parma
Mayor Kahlil Seren, City of Cleveland Heights
Mayor David Weiss, City of Shaker Heights
City Manager Mike Mallis, City of Bedford
Mayor Matthew Burke, City of Garfield Heights
Jeri Wimsett, City of Garfield Heights
Romona Brazile, MetroHealth
Shalenah Williams, MetroHealth
Michelle Rose, Greater Cleveland Works

Mayor DeGeeter opened the meeting at 9:28 AM, welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked MetroHealth leadership for hosting and for the informational session prior to the start of the meeting. A welcome was given by MetroHealth Chief of Staff Tamiyka Rose on behalf of Dr. Alexander who was unable to attend.

Mayor DeGeeter then moved the meeting to the first order of business – approval of the February 2025 NEO-FSC meeting minutes. Mayor DeGeeter asked those present if any corrections or edits were needed for the minutes as they were presented. Hearing no edits needed, the minutes of the February 2025 NEO-FSC meeting were then unanimously approved.

Mayor DeGeeter then moved the meeting into an update from the First Suburbs Executive Committee. Those comments included preparation for an upcoming event with CSU Fellows and former First Suburbs Chairs Mayor Leiken and Mayor Summers. Mayor DeGeeter also suggested a presentation from GCRTA who now has two First Suburbs mayors hold seats on RTA's board of trustees – Mayor Gallo and Mayor Weiss.

In the First Suburbs Housing Committee Report, Jennifer reported on the grant funds made available by the County to help fund first year Citizenserve costs for new user

communities have helped ten communities to date. Funds remain for a few more users to come onboard. Jennifer reported that the April 2025 visit with members of the Citizenserve leadership team were a success and thanked Shaker Heights for hosting the all-day event at their Shaker Heights Main Library. The morning session was attended by over 50 individuals from communities already using Citizenserve and the afternoon session was held for communities considering the move to Citizenserve. Jennifer reported that members of the Housing Committee are excited to do a site visit to the Circle East for their May meeting. CCLRC's Matt Thomas reported that the state forfeiture sale is scheduled for Labor Day weekend with 475 properties currently on the sale list. He will provide Jennifer with a list of those properties that Jennifer will share with member communities. Communities can request properties to be removed from the list at that time.

In the First Suburbs Development Council Report, Jennifer reported that members have been working to develop a relaunch of the Muni SBI program that would pivot to allow the property owner to use the program to make investment in the property in the form of white boxing spaces and other needed interior improvements that will stay with the property. FSDC Board Chair Laura Englehart discussed how the former program was a huge success in Shaker Heights and she looks forward to the upcoming discussion with County leadership to talk about this need for First Suburbs commercial corridors and aged strip centers. Much of the group's recent discussion was centered around the County Department of Development's Five-Year Plan Update. Jennifer reminded members that listening sessions were scheduled via Mayors & Managers and members should attend to lend their voices to the sessions. Jennifer reported that the first NEO-AED PACE Webinar was held in March and she will work to host a second later this year. A recording of the event is available which includes presentations from Bricker Graydon and NOPEC. GCP has brought back their free energy audit program which is a great opportunity for First Suburbs small businesses to identify ways to cut energy expenses. Shawn DaVis will join FSDC at an upcoming meeting to discuss the details of the program.

In the Staff Report Jennifer reminded members that the relaunch of the First Suburbs Sustainability Committee was underway. Jennifer has engaged PCFO to provide technical leadership and County Department of Sustainability will also participate in the monthly meetings.

In Other Business, Council President Cuda suggested regional deer management for discussion at an upcoming meeting. He will connect Jennifer with Metroparks and ODNR representatives who could be helpful in this discussion. Mayor Degeeter thanked Council President Cuda for the good suggestion and asked Jennifer to also include Mayor Gallo in the presentation as her work in Parma Heights has encouraged many other west side communities to follow her efforts. Mayor Weiss stated that Shaker Heights has worked with neighboring communities in the past and could also speak to this as well.

Jennifer reminded members that the next quarterly meeting of the NEO-FSC was scheduled for Wednesday, August 6 at 9 AM and anyone interested in hosting should contact Jennifer directly. Mayor DeGeeter thanked MetroHealth for hosting today's meeting and adjourned the meeting at 10:51 AM.