



**Minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
Cleveland Heights Community Center**

In Attendance:

Joe Duffy, City of Maple Heights
Mayor Annette Blackwell, City of Maple Heights
Mayor Gigi Traore, Village of Newburgh Heights
Mayor Brad Sellers, City of Warrensville Heights
Mayor Matthew Burke, City of Garfield Heights
Kamla Lewis, Cuyahoga Land Bank
Mayor Stan Koci, City of Bedford
Jennifer Kuzma, NEO-FSC
Mayor David Weiss, City of Shaker Heights
Geoff Englebrecht, City of University Heights
Mayor Michael Brennan, City of University Heights
Callie Cripps, City of Euclid
Patrick Grogan-Myers, City of Euclid
Tom Ott, NEO-FSC Guest
Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, City of Euclid
Mayor Kahlil Seren, City of Cleveland Heights
Patrick Costigan, City of Cleveland Heights
Eric Zamft, City of Cleveland Heights
Brian Anderson, City of Cleveland Heights
Howard Katz, CSU
Marc Lefkowitz, City of Cleveland Heights
Valerie Katz, Cuyahoga County

Mayor Koci opened the meeting at 9:22 AM, welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked Mayor Seren for hosting at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. Mayor Seren thanked members for coming out to the Community Center and for the opportunity to present on the work Cleveland Heights has been doing on sustainability/climate change and air quality.

Mayor Koci then passed the meeting to the team from Cleveland Heights to present on Cleveland Heights Climate Action Plan and Resiliency Programs/Projects. Following the presentation discussion was held on the work completed in Cleveland Heights and how a working group of First Suburbs members should be considered to share the work being done across the membership and begin to advance regional efforts benefiting all members. Jennifer will reach out to members to begin the process of pulling this group together.

Mayor Koci then moved the meeting to the first order of business – approval of the February 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 February 2023 NEO-FSC meeting were then unanimously approved with a motion made by Mayor Sellers which was seconded by Mayor Blackwell.

In the First Suburbs Executive Committee Report, Mayor Koci thanked Mayor Burke for his participation as the newest member of the First Suburbs Executive Committee. Mayor Burke reported that he was enjoying the meetings and looked forward to learning from the other members of the committee.

In her report on the First Suburbs Housing Committee, Jennifer provided an update on the Single-Family Housing Zoning Code Initiative including a brief report on the March 3 meeting at the County Administration Building. Jennifer also announced media coverage on the project and a possible open house of a newly built infill property in South Euclid is being organized to demonstrate how code updates could have helped that build. Applications are also being prepared to present this work at the Ohio APA conference scheduled for September 2023 and various APA publications. Jennifer also reported that she has spent much time talking with Sara Parks Jackson and how First Suburbs can play a role in her success as the County's first director of housing and community development.

Jennifer reported that upcoming meetings of the First Suburbs Development Council will include presentations from Kim Kimlin on the upcoming Brownfield and Demo Programs announced by ODOD for 2024 and 2025. The County Department of Development is supporting a study on the economic and fiscal impact of small business in our member communities. It is anticipated that this research will be done June and will be included in the July Thought Leader Series focusing on small business in Crain's Cleveland Business. Jennifer also reported that the one-page piece in Crain's will include a "story" she will author and an ad. The ad will point readers to the First Suburbs website which will include posts on one available site/property in each member community. Jennifer is also working with Beachwood and Rocky River to bring those two communities in the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District with two commercial PACE financed projects. The audit of the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District for 2021-2022 was completed and Jennifer reported that no findings were made as a result of the audit.

During the Staff Report, Jennifer thanked members who have already made their 2023 membership dues payment. She will work to rebill those communities who have not made payment yet.

In Other Business, Mayor Blackwell asked if the membership would consider a \$500 sponsorship of the upcoming Tennis in The Land event. Those present were in favor and Jennifer will begin the process to get that done.

Jennifer reminded members that the next quarterly meeting of the NEO-FSC has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 2 at 9 AM. Anyone interested in hosting should contact

Jennifer. The meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.