

Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC)

Minutes

Thursday 5/23/2024 7:00pm – 8:20 pm at Cleveland Heights City Hall

Attendees: Appointed CESC members John Barber, William Hanavan, Tami Masuoka, and Catalina Wagers. Andy Boateng, Sustainability and Resiliency Coordinator, Councilperson Gail Larson, and resident Kemp Jaycox. A quorum was present. Catalina Wagers led the meeting, John Barber took minutes.

Councilperson Larson thanked the members for serving, and read the charge to the Committee from its enabling legislation. “The purpose of this Committee shall be to: (i) advise the Mayor and Council on recommendations with regard to improving the environmental sustainability of City programs, services, equipment and facilities; (ii) increasing the awareness of issues of environmental sustainability with the residents and businesses located in the City, and, (iii) encouraging increased environmentally conscious activities by the residents and businesses located in the City. The CESC shall also serve as an advocate for environmental justice and promote through education and outreach best use practices for sustainable living, business, and economic development.”

Catalina coordinated attendee introductions. She asked for suggestions for meeting cadence and pacing. The group agreed on monthly meetings, will elect a leader (co-Chairperson) and secretary next meeting, and will hold the meetings during business hours at City Hall. Given that the Committee enabling legislation specifically states that the Committee falls under Open Meeting requirements. The Committee will welcome a review of what those requirements are. John will ask Law Director Hanna for a brief overview to the Committee at the next meeting. Agendas and minutes will be posted to the City’s Website.

Catalina asked for Committee email addresses for internal Committee communications. She will compile and circulate. She will also explore a CESC email for incoming emails, working with the Council Clerk.

The Committee then discussed various strategies for prioritizing its efforts. John suggested that we leverage Andy’s 8 focus areas from his CARP session on May 8th – having Andy lead efforts on Energy Use and Transportation with the Committee involved as desired. The Committee would then lead efforts on the other six focus areas (Materials and Waste, Natural Areas and Land Use, Food Systems, Waste and wastewater, Air Quality and Public Health, and Climate Equity), coordinating with Andy. All with the understanding that the focus areas are not discrete or all-encompassing.

The Committee may see incoming requests from:

1. Council and Administration requests (including Andy)
2. Committee member priorities
3. Input from residents

John noted that there will be urgent issues arising requiring Committee review and recommendations, giving some examples.

The Committee agreed to meet next on June 18 at 2:00pm in the Executive Conference Room in City Hall. Catalina will coordinate with the city calendar.

Submitted by John Barber