

Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC)

Minutes

Tuesday 8/20/2024 2:00pm – 3:30pm at Cleveland Heights City Hall

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

The July minutes were approved as submitted, and will be posted on the City website.

No elections or process discussion occurred until more or all new appointees are present. Newly-appointed members Carly Beck, Mohammad Irfan, and Sean Terry have been announced. Mohammad Irfan attended and was welcomed with introductions.

Municipal composting – Catalina and Gail updated the committee with information on a document received from Rust Belt Riders with ideas on compost drop-off sites in CH. Catalina is crafting a comprehensive document about composting in Ohio, which will be shared with the committee once the outstanding data points are available. Catalina and Gail will review this and present a summary at the next meeting. Catalina has contacted Beachwood for results of its drop-off program, with results to come. John noted Shaker Heights is piloting compost drop-off at Lomond School. Andy emphasized how critical resident education will be in determining proper use of the drop-off sites. Andy explained how the city is working with grantors on recycling and compost to explore various funding options. The committee agreed that it wants the city to move forward with this as details and budget can be worked out.

- Catalina and Gail will present a review of RBR proposals and findings from other cities.
- John will send Shaker Lomond pilot info to Catalina
- Andy will continue to track possible grant funding
- Andy will provide tipping fees for CH to Catalina
- Gail will evaluate for 2025 budget process

Air quality and 2-stroke (2-cycle) engines, including gas-powered leaf blowers – John presented a discussion document (on CESC drive) recommending steps towards phasing out these engines in CH. Steps include inventorying city equipment, identifying replacement cycles, stopping city use during air quality alerts, and recommendations to residents and their contractors to stop use during air quality alerts. The committee discussed various points and agreed to move forward with evaluating communications changes and recommending the city convert to battery-powered equipment as appropriate.

- Andy will continue his work on inventorying city equipment and replacement cycles, including Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments
- Andy will talk with city communications and others about updating air quality alert emails

City Forestry operations and Tree Preservation – Bill presented an overview of Tree Commissions in cities and how these commissions help with urban tree management, tree canopy preservation and expansion, tree inventory, and tree species diversity, among other aspects of urban forestry. Andy shared his experience with the Stow Urban Forestry Commission. The committee agreed with Bill's recommendation to explore a Tree Commission in some form. Discussions will continue about how to structure this, including getting input from the new city forester. Gail will explore how one might be

formed as a working group, a sub-committee, or some other structure. Bill asked for recommendations on who might serve on this.

Andy will update the Committee on Melanie Nutter's stakeholder discussion held in August. The next CARP engagement session will be held on or around September 18th.

John distributed a new community inquiry on water quality and potential impacts from pet waste. This will go into the queue.

Catalina negotiated a new meeting time of 4:00pm to accommodate a request from a committee member – beginning with the September meeting.

The Committee agreed to meet next on September 17, 2024 at 4:00pm – 5:30pm in the Executive Conference Room in City Hall. **NOTE NEW MEETING TIME.** Catalina will coordinate with the city calendar.

Submitted by John Barber