

Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC)

Minutes

Tuesday 10/15/2024 12:30pm – 2:00pm at Cleveland Heights City Hall

Attendees: Appointed CESC members John Barber, Carly Beck, William Hanavan, Mohammad Irfan, Tami Masuoka, and Catalina Wagers, and Andy Boateng, Sustainability and Resiliency Coordinator, Kemp Jaycox, Melanie Nutter, and Councilperson Gail Larson. A quorum was present. Catalina Wagers led the meeting, John Barber took minutes. Sean Terry was absent.

The September 17 minutes were approved as submitted, and will be posted on the city website.

The Committee elected Catalina Wagers as Chair, and John Barber as Scribe. John Barber noted that per communications from Clerk of Council Addie Balester all current appointed committee members' terms expire on 12/31/2025.

CARP Progress and Upcoming Meeting: Andy noted that at this time there was no identified date for the CARP rollout to the public as work continues on the plan.

Air quality and 2-stroke (2-cycle) engines, including gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLB)

- Andy is reviewing city 2-stroke engine inventories and replacement cycles in preparation for budget discussions. Gail will be looking for details during budget presentations, acknowledging that there may not be that level of detail in print, but to be brought up in discussions.
- Andy said that the communications department will be working on updating Air Quality Alert (AQA) language recommending cessation of use of GPLB during Air Quality Alerts. He said city departments are reviewing possible changes to operations as this happens. (Mohammad recommended publicizing AQA's through distributed signs around the city as well as the city dashboard.)
- Andy expects to have updates on both these initiatives at the November meeting.

City Forestry operations and Tree Preservation – Gail discussed alternatives for forming a sub-group to explore a city tree commission with the Law Director. Director Hanna said the committee's enabling legislation did not permit subcommittees (under any name), and thus the best course of action is to discuss this as a full committee. Bill will begin preparations for this for a future meeting.

Municipal composting – Catalina and Gail gave a presentation on municipal composting in Cleveland Heights, using the document [“The Case for Composting in Cleveland Heights”](#). This document is in the CESC Google Drive folder under Documents & Materials. A lively discussion followed. Gail proposed two drop off locations in CH, alternatives were discussed. Education for residents is a critical keystone to success with education provided potentially by the city, by RBR, and/or by the County Solid Waste Division. Muhammad recommended three keystones – eventual commercially viable, education, and strong marketing. He presented his rationale for this in a document to be stored on the CESC Google Drive folder Documents and Materials. Gail noted that Rust Belt Riders are interested in CH leaves for RBR operations. Gail will look to introduce the topic and funding to Council during budget discussions.

Catalina asked that the committee schedule strategic planning following the rollout of the CARP. Andy will be providing details on the CARP rollout schedule shortly. He agreed to have a session with CARP prior to the rollout. Mohammad provided feedback on the CARP presentations suggesting identifying key performance indicators (KPI's), an emphasis on climate justice, and including updates to city building and housing codes resulting from the CARP recommendations. The draft plan will have an administration review prior to public engagement.

Councilman Craig Cobb asked that a representative from each council committee attend the 10/28 Administrative Services Committee meeting to provide feedback on council committee operations. Catalina cannot attend, John volunteered to attend.

The Committee agreed to meet next on November 19, 2024 at 12:30 – 2:00 pm in the Executive Conference Room in City Hall. **NOTE MEETING TIME.** Catalina will coordinate with the city calendar.

Submitted by John Barber