



**Minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
At Cassidy Theater in Parma Heights**

In Attendance:

Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan, City of University Heights
Ken Montlack, NEO-FSC
Candice Wood, CHN
Kate Carden, CHN
Kevin Nowak, CHN
Jeane Holley, Cuyahoga County
Michele Pomerantz, Cuyahoga County
Sally Martin, City of South Euclid
Ken Surratt, Federal Reserve Bank
Chalana Williams, First Federal of Lakewood
Noreen Kuban, City of Garfield Heights
Benjamin Brown, City of Warrensville Heights
Janice Tubbs, City of Garfield Heights
Councilwoman Anne Williams, City of Shaker Heights
Mayor David Weiss, City of Shaker Heights
Shawn Leininger, City of Fairview Park
Mayor Brad Sellers, City of Warrensville Heights
Scott Adams, City of Brook Park
Mary Leigh, City of Lakewood
Carletta Fellows, City of Warrensville Heights
Mayor Kirsten H. Gail, City of Euclid
Mayor Michael Byrne, City of Parma Heights
Joe Sebes, City of Parma Heights
Shelley Cullins, City of Parma
Don Graves, City of Parma
Alex Harnocz, City of Lakewood
Mayor Katie Gallagher, City of Brooklyn
Ashley King, City of Maple Heights
Andrew Bean, City of Cleveland
Laura Englehart, City of Shaker Heights
David Bell, City of Bedford Heights
Councilwoman Mary Dunbar, City of Cleveland Heights
Kahlil Seren, Cuyahoga County

Mayor Sellers opened the meeting at 9:17 AM and thanked Mayor Byrne for hosting the meeting at Parma Heights' Cassidy Theater.

CHN Housing Partners Executive Director Kevin Nowak then lead a presentation on

CHN's programs including financial counseling, affordable housing, HEAP and home repair education. Kevin explained the progress of the CDFI launch anticipated for Spring 2020 and the transition of programs and services with the recent merger with Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland. Kevin will share his Power Point presentation with Jennifer who will share it with First Suburbs members. Kevin and members of his staff will also attend upcoming First Suburbs Housing Committee meetings to present programs in greater detail.

Cuyahoga County Regional Collaboration Director Michele Pomerantz gave the County Update including information on Census 2020 preparation, the upcoming ULI Planning for Public Officials event, the County's first Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant awards, the County's Scam Squad holding events with communities and the October Cleveland Rising Summit.

The minutes of the May 2019 NEO-FSC meeting were then unanimously approved with a motion made by Mayor Byrne which was seconded by Mayor Gail.

Mayor Sellers gave the Executive Committee Report highlighting ongoing discussions with Gus Frangos to connect housing resources for First Suburbs cities with the County's Housing Fund launch in 2020. HB252 advocacy will be needed (awaiting request from Jim Rokakis for proper timing) to bring \$50M to Ohio's land banks to fund demolitions. Mayor Sellers also encouraged cities to file amicus briefs on the centralized tax collection concerns using the OML template Jennifer shared with the mayors.

Jennifer Kuzma then gave the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District Report which included some discussion on the residential PACE program and the recent AED board approval of two commercial PACE projects – a \$2.9M new construction housing project in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood and \$262,000 in PACE financing for rehab improvements of a Parma Heights office building.

Jennifer reported that the County GIS Pilot Program was moving forward. The group includes 13 First Suburbs communities who will work with County GIS to develop an application which will be used by residents to find details of their community including trash collection schedules, polling locations, elected representatives, utility providers and other details. The group is meeting on October 16 to review the first five systems which have been developed. That feedback will be incorporated into the design of the final municipal applications. The group will also explore an internal facing system once the externals are launched in first quarter of 2020. Jennifer also reported that First Suburbs made funds available to members to attend the GIS Symposium to continue to grow the communities' GIS education.

Jennifer reported the six communities of the Regionalized Code Enforcement Software Pilot continue to make good progress. Parma, University Heights and Cleveland Heights are more than half way through their implementation work and the City of Shaker Heights has just recently began their implementation. The group of six communities recently met with Citizenserve leadership to address a list of concerns. Nearly all of the issues are able to be improved upon and some will make up the major system update to be launched in 2020. Jennifer will work with County Fiscal staff to develop a path to get the County additional information on municipal permits. This effort continues to move forward with potential addition of four more communities in 2020.

Ken Montlack then gave the details of the upcoming December 7th CLE on code enforcement and housing issues. A number of First Suburbs municipal judges along with Ken, Lisa Gold-Scott from Shaker Heights and Jennifer Kuzma have been planning this event by selecting topics and speakers. Cleveland Marshall Law Alumni Association has partnered with First Suburbs to host this event as part of their monthly CLE series. Invitations will be made available soon.

Jennifer gave a brief report on the Housing Committee efforts including the June meeting with PPHA Director Priscilla Pointer Hicks, continued outreach with Mike Sweeney and Lisa Rocco on County tax collection efforts and the upcoming meeting with CMHA leadership on October 1.

Members of the First Suburbs Development Council celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Ohio American Planning Association by attending the combined Ohio APA and Zoning & Planning Workshop recently. Members will also attend the September 13th NOACA annual meeting. Both of these events have been scholarshipped to members by First Suburbs.

Under Other Business, there was discussion to look into better marketing efforts for First Suburbs in 2020. Jennifer will investigate options and come back to the Executive Committee with ideas.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 AM.