



**Minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
At Garfield Heights Cuyahoga County Public Library**

In Attendance:

Ben Brown, City of Warrensville Heights
Melran Leach, City of East Cleveland
Councilwoman Nancy Moore, City of Shaker Heights
Councilwoman Anne Williams, City of Shaker Heights
Kamla Lewis, City of Shaker Heights
Allan Butler, City of Cleveland Heights
Kahlil Seren, Cuyahoga County
Janice Tubbs, City of Garfield Heights
Mayor Micheal Dylan Brennan, City of University Heights
Patrick Grogan-Myers, City of University Heights
Mayor Tim DeGeeter, City of Parma
Mayor Brad Sellers, City of Warrensville Heights
Jeane Holley, Cuyahoga County
Councilwoman Mary Dunbar, City of Cleveland Heights
Mayor Meghan George, City of Lakewood
Christopher Parmelee, City of Lakewood
Katie Hemlich, City of Lakewood
Mary Kay Costello, City of Fairview Park
Mayor Patrick J. Cooney, City of Fairview Park
Mayor Kirsten H. Gail, City of Euclid
Ken Montlack, NEO-FSC
Jennifer Kuzma, NEO-FSC
Mayor David E. Weiss, City of Shaker Heights
Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, City of Maple Heights

Mayor Sellers opened the meeting at 9:33 AM and thanked Garfield Heights for hosting the meeting at the Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Mayor Sellers introduced Chris Parmelee and Katie Helmich from Lakewood's Division of Housing and Building to give a demonstration of their Citizenserve system and to demonstrate how it is used on a day-to-day basis including registering contractors, issuing permits and doing inspection reports. Chris and Katie also took questions throughout the presentation.

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

Ken Montlack gave the report of the 2020 Nominating Committee. All First Suburbs mayors and city managers were given the opportunity to self-nominate to serve on the First Suburbs Executive Committee. First Suburbs By-Laws state that the Executive Committee is made up of a chair, vice chair, five committee members and a treasurer/fiscal agent. Nominations included:

Chair: Mayor Brad Sellers
Vice Chair: Mayor Stan Koci
Member: Mayor Annette Blackwell
Mayor Michael Byrne
Mayor Tim DeGeeter
Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail
Mayor Katie Gallagher
Fiscal Agent: Frank Gambosi, City of Bedford Finance Director

Mayor Weiss made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee Report and recommend the full slate for 2020 leadership. Mayor Brennan seconded the motion, and all members present were in favor of the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Sellers then called on Jennifer Kuzma to give the 2019 financial report which provided a three-year comparison of 2017 through 2019. After answering questions, Jennifer then moved in to the 2020 proposed budget approval. Jennifer presented the proposed 2020 budget alongside the 2019 approved. An additional \$8,000 was requested for funds to update the First Suburbs website and for the Freshwater Cleveland series in 2020. After some discussion, Mayor Blackwell made a motion to approve both the 2019 financial and the 2020 proposed budget as presented. Mayor DeGeeter seconded the motion, and all members present were in favor passing the motion unanimously.

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. Discussion on infill housing needs are at the top of the list of these discussions. Those discussions will continue in early 2020 to help shape the launch of this piece of the Housing Fund this year. Shaker Heights and University Heights then discussed new infill housing projects in their communities both with Knez.

Jennifer Kuzma and Ken Montlack gave a brief report on the First Suburbs Code Enforcement CLE event held in conjunction with CSU Marshall College of Law Alumni Association. This event was planned throughout 2019 by municipal judges representing numerous First Suburbs communities, himself, Jennifer and Shaker Heights Assistant Director of Law/Housing Attorney Lisa Gold-Scott. The sellout event was a great opportunity to learn about numerous topics from speakers including Judge Costello, Judge O'Leary, municipal prosecutors, attorneys and housing directors as well as housing research experts and non-profit leaders. First Suburbs will look to do future events in partnership with CMLAA.

Jennifer Kuzma then gave the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District Report which included presentation on numerous commercial PACE projects being discussed in 2020 in Cleveland, Fairview Park, Parma, Parma Heights, Lakewood, Independence, Newburgh Heights and Middleburgh Heights. Independence, Newburgh Heights and Middleburgh Heights would be new members of the Energy District should those projects proceed.

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. Once these external facing systems are completed and installed on the municipal websites, the group will then shift to develop internal systems that will help participating communities track infrastructure information. The external systems should be launched in first quarter of 2020 after some final edits. Jennifer has been in discussion with Cleveland Foundation to assist with funds to complete the internal systems giving the participating communities one year to develop their system using the expertise of County GIS staff.

The Housing Committee update including an announcement that this committee recently was joined by the Cleveland Federal Reserve's Ken Surratt to discuss modernization of CRA and how our communities could participate in the public comment period. The group will prioritize 2020 focus areas at their next meeting later this month.

Jennifer reported that the First Suburbs Development Council was recently joined by Deb Janek and Vince Adamus from GCP. Members present expressed concerns over the ability to reach users for mid-size redevelopment sites noting that leads through Jobs Ohio generally are far out of the range of what is available in First Suburbs communities. Jennifer and Vince will continue this discussion and come back to FSDC members with some potential ideas.

Now that the 2020 budget has been approved, Jennifer will work to get membership dues invoices out to the members later this month.

Under Other Business and Announcements, Paul Herdeg informed those present that the County Department of Development will be working on their Five-Year Consolidated Plan this year and will provide opportunities to give input.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM following a motion made by Mayor Weiss and seconded by Mayor DeGeeter.