



**Minutes of the February 14, 2019 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
At Corporate College East**

In Attendance:

Jerome Duval, City of Warrensville Heights
Karen Howse, City of Warrensville Heights
Kelli Wilson, City of Warrensville Heights
Allison Moore, City of Warrensville Heights
Greg Huth, Cuyahoga County
Michele Pomerantz, Cuyahoga County
Mayor Kirsten H. Gail, City of Euclid
Raymon Turner, City of Warrensville Heights
Michael Love, City of South Euclid
Sally Martin, City of South Euclid
Mayor Georgine Welo, City of South Euclid
Ben Brown, City of Warrensville Heights
Alexa Gullie, City of Warrensville Heights
Anne Scharf, City of Warrensville Heights
Mayor Katie Gallagher, City of Brooklyn
Mayor Stan Koci, City of Bedford
Tom Bier, CSU
Ken Montlack, NEO-FSC
Mike Sweeney, Cuyahoga County
Mel Leach, City of East Cleveland
Allan Butler, City of Cleveland Heights
Marty Divito, City of Bedford Heights
Ashley King, City of Maple Heights
Shelley Cullins, City of Parma
Erin Lally, City of Parma Heights
Howard Thompson, GCP
Councilwoman Wendy Grant, City of Bedford Heights
Mayor David E. Weiss, City of Shaker Heights
Mayor Mike Procuk, Village of Brooklyn Heights
Carletta Fellows, City of Warrensville Heights
Michael Collier, Representative Marcia Fudge's Office
Clifton Williams, Representative Marcia Fudge's Office
Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan, City of University Heights
Kahlil Seren, Cuyahoga County Council
Jeane Holley, Cuyahoga County
Mayor Annette Blackwell, City of Maple Heights
Keshia Chambers, OHM Advisors
Shawn Leininger, City of Fairview Park

Mayor Brad Sellers, City of Warrensville Heights
Jennifer Kuzma, NEO-FSC

Mayor Sellers opened the meeting at 9:09 AM and welcomed the group to Corporate College East in Warrensville Heights.

Cuyahoga County Tax Administrator Michael Sweeney thanked First Suburbs communities for their assistance with reach out to Cuyahoga County's tax delinquent residents. The return of the "Fishbowl Project" has resulted in the return of over \$11M in outstanding taxes brought in in 2018 on 1,866 parcels county-wide. Through the assistance of partner communities and their outreach to residents, over \$1.2M was brought in 2018. Mike stated that he will continue to attend the First Suburbs Housing Committee meetings and looks forward to continuing this work in 2019.

Kahlil Seren, Cuyahoga County Council Research & Policy Analyst, then lead the discussion on the County Housing Fund. Proposed by County Council in January 2019, the County Housing Plan will provide over \$30M in funds available for rehabilitation through programs administered by the County's Department of Development and the County Land Bank. County Council is expected to pass County Ordinance 02019-0001 at its third reading at their February 26th meeting. Jennifer will share a link to the amended legislation which includes some minor enhancements to the legislation from its first reading.

The minutes of the October 2018 NEO-FSC meeting were then unanimously approved with a motion made by Mayor Blackwell which was seconded by Mayor Brennan.

Ken Montlack gave the report of the 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 Brennan
Mayor Michael Byrne
Mayor Tim DeGeeter
Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail
Mayor Katie Gallagher
Mayor Georgine Welo

Fiscal Agent: Frank Gambosi, City of Bedford Finance Director

The highest ranking official from each member community was given a ballot to complete and return to Jennifer who would tally the votes during the meeting. Members had one vote for the categories of chair, vice chair and fiscal agent and five votes to fill the five committee seats.

Following the tally of votes, Jennifer announced the 2019 Executive Committee leadership:

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

Discussion then turned to the 2018 financial report. Jennifer provided the 2018 financial report to members present and highlighted spending and carryover of funds. Members present unanimously approved the report as presented with a motion made by Mayor Gail and seconded by Mayor Brennan.

The 2019 FSC budget was then up for approval. Jennifer reported that the Executive Committee preliminarily approved the budget in December so the organization could begin 2019. Full approval of all FSC members is requested today. Jennifer shared a document which put the 2019 budget against the 2018 budget for comparison. After answering a few questions, Mayor Gail made a motion to approve the 2019 budget and Mayor Brennan seconded the motion. All members present unanimously approved the budget as presented.

Warrensville Heights' Jerome Duval gave an updated presentation on Opportunity Zones. With a number of First Suburbs communities home to Opportunity Zones, it is important to stay educated on this important economic development tool. Jerome took some questions from the group and made himself available to any of the Opportunity Zone cities who would like to learn more.

Mayor Sellers gave the Executive Committee Report highlighting the Executive Committee's meeting with County Executive Armond Budish in December. Our First Suburbs mayors were also invited to attend an update meeting with the First Ring Superintendents group on their efforts to change the State takeover of districts scoring three consecutive failing grades on State report cards. The February Executive Committee meeting will include discussion with both Ken Surratt and Gus Frangos on the County's Housing Plan and funding of the Plan.

Jennifer reported that the County GIS Pilot Program was moving forward. The group will meet next on February 21 at 9:30 AM at Maple Heights Public Library to see how cities are currently using GIS and how GIS Administrator Tom Fisher and his staff envision this program.

An update on the Regionalized Code Enforcement Software Pilot included the announcement that the system is currently being used in Lakewood and South Euclid was next on the agenda. Parma continues to work through their implementation and University Heights and Cleveland Heights are in the beginning stages of their implementation. Shaker Heights is using this time to streamline processes through Six Sigma trainings scheduled for later in February and March. Once this work is completed, they will host their kick off meeting to begin implementation. Jennifer reported that funds are available for the six pilot communities to purchase their field tech and Lakewood and South Euclid have both already done so. The cities of East Cleveland and Warrensville Heights are also talking with Citizenserve to explore their options. South Euclid's Sally Martin reported that the system was used for their recent rental registration and contract

registration with great success.

The First Suburbs Housing Committee has also had conversation with Gus Frangos and Ken Surratt about the County Housing Plan and funding opportunities of the Plan. The group will also prepare for meetings this year with Parma Public Housing and CMHA to review the memorandums of understanding and how that document is working to meet both the communities' and agencies' needs.

Jennifer reported that the FSDC elected new leadership for 2019 and thanked Mike Love for his leadership in past years. This group will continue to focus on increasing the use of the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District to do more energy efficiency projects in our member communities in 2019. There is also an interest to learn more about placemaking strategies and how those can be implemented locally.

Now that the 2019 budget has been approved, Jennifer will send out 2019 membership dues invoices to member communities. The approved 2018 financial report will also be used to complete needed filings for the Consortium.

The next meeting of the NEO-FSC is tentatively schedule for May 9 and will be held at the Brooklyn Senior Center. More details to come as we get closer to this date.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM.