

## **Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC)**

### **Minutes**

03/18/2025 2:00 – 3:45 pm at Cleveland Heights City Hall

#### **Call to Order:**

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

Guests: Laura Blanock, Kaela Sweeney, Paula Embury

- The February 18, 2025 minutes were approved and will be posted on the city website.
- The 2024 CESC Annual Report was approved and will be posted on the city website. As required by our enabling legislation, the Annual Report will be sent to the City Council and the Mayor.
- Discussion regarding the development of a process to manage residents' contact forms submissions was **postponed until May**.

#### **Updates:**

- Resident Paula Embury gave a presentation on the topic of Caring for Trees in Cleveland Heights. Outcomes:
  - Paula and Bill Hanavan will reach out to Cleveland Heights Forester to go over the findings and suggestions proposed in the presentation, and possibly establish a collaboration roadmap for residents to aid the city in the care of city trees.
  - Paula shared a link to her presentation, which will be saved in CESC's shared folder. It will be an useful tool to be used in the development of the Tree Master Plan
- Mohammad Irfan gave a presentation intended to educate the committee on the topic of the Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty. Based on the facts presented, the committee agreed to focus on implementation of "actionable" strategies highlighted in the CARP vs. the treaty, which is more of a "symbolic" stand.
- CARP's next steps will focus on the alignment of three priorities by sector for the committee to focus on and aid in their implementation. April's agenda will be solely dedicated to this discussion.
- Purpose of CESC discussion followed with a review of the tenets of the enabling legislation.

#### **CESC's Initiatives:**

- The City's Revised Air Quality Warning Communication will be issued in time for the upcoming alerts. It features sections on health advisory, protective measures including "Wait to mow your lawn - Consider mowing lawns after advisory expires", expected improvement and how to stay informed (real time updates), etc.

- Sean Terry introduced the Climate Smart Communities Initiative grant. He along with Coordinator Boateng will try to complete the application by its due date of March 21. Updates will be provided in April.
- "Coordinator Boateng informed the committee that the proposed draft presented by CESC is not adequate to generate the needed traction on waste diversion in the community. The City's vision regarding waste diversion at our buildings and facilities should be backed by a legislation which mandates recycling and beyond that provides resources which create awareness and incentivize participation. These include a short training (preferably less than 3 minutes), guidelines, information on where to locate recycling bins and how to report material recycled at an event. The City does not believe that simply creating a flyer on this will yield the returns that we expect to see especially as this is in line with applicable strategies (as referenced in the Climate Action and Resilience Plan) to reduce waste-related emissions in the city. It is worth noting that this is consistent with best practices in the industry and from other communities as well. The draft resolution mandating recycling at events held at our buildings and facilities has been sent to the Law Department for review prior to going before City Council. The city anticipates that this will be approved, adopted and implemented by May, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

Submitted by Catalina Wagers on behalf of Bill Hanavan