

Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC)

Minutes

04/15/2025 2:00 – 3:30pm at Cleveland Heights City Hall

Attendees: Appointed CESC members John Barber, Carly Beck, Mohammad Irfan, Tami Masuoka, and Catalina Wagers, and Andy Boateng, Sustainability and Resiliency Coordinator. A quorum was present. Catalina Wagers led the meeting; John Barber took minutes. Bill Hanavan was absent from the meeting.

The minutes from March 18, 2025 were not approved pending requested revisions to reflect discussions regarding the accurate reporting of meeting minutes in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, to better inform our community stakeholders.

The committee discussed the receipt, acknowledgement, distribution, and answering of CESC Contact Form Submissions, in the interim before the city makes the requested changes to the processing software of incoming requests. The interim process will include the Secretary entering the submissions into the Google Drive for CESC under Community Input Contact Forms and Resident Input for all CESC members to review before meetings. The committee will strive to have review of these as a regular agenda item.

The grant application for Implementation Funding through the Climate Smart Communities Initiative was submitted by the deadline on behalf of the Trust for Public Land, the city, and Heights Tree People. Timing of the decision is unknown. Summer 2025. City-wide composting drop-off funding will be voted on in the April 21 Council meeting – with an expected update at the May CESC meeting.

The committee reviewed the purposes of its work as delineated in its enabling legislation. The committee discussed the need to adhere to the purpose of the committee as delineated by City Council and make the needed commitment to fulfilling them. It was mentioned during this discussion that, a commitment to the committee's purpose is pivotal to ensuring our success, guide the efforts of committee members and serve as a basis to assess our work annually. This was in response to a previous remark by a committee member to assign the committee to an oversight responsibility of the City's Climate Action and Resilience Plan. Also, a committee member had previously mentioned that she wanted to assign the role of implementing certain strategies outlined in the City's Climate Action and Resilience Plan to her organization. These remarks were deemed to be inconsistent with the committee's purpose, roles and responsibilities and border on a potential conflict of interest. It was agreed that committee members should commit to adhering to the committee's purpose which establishes the plumb line to guide the efforts of future committees on sustainability. Indeed, this is the sustainable way forward.

The committee reviewed its priorities in the 150 items listed in the CARP implementation document. The items presented as priorities are listed in the CESC drive under Committee Brainstorms, Priorities Working Document. Further discussion will take place at the May meeting with input from those who didn't present their priorities at this meeting, working towards an overall priority list.

The Committee agreed to meet next on May 20th from 2:00 – 3:30pm in the Executive Conference Room in City Hall. Catalina will coordinate with the city calendar.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.
Submitted by John Barber