

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

### **Minutes**

10/21/2025 4:00pm – 5:30pm at Cleveland Heights City Hall

Attendees: Appointed CESC members John Barber, Carly Beck, Tami Masouka, Sean Terry, and Catalina Wagers. Absent members: None. Mark Lefkowitz, City Communications and Councilperson Gail Larson. A quorum was present. Catalina Wagers led the meeting; John Barber took minutes.

The minutes from the August meeting were approved. No meeting was held in September.

The Committee welcomed Marc Lefkowitz from Public Relations as the new representative from the administration.

### **CESC Contact Form Submissions**

The committee reviewed outstanding submissions from the CESC Contact Form.

- . Kathy Petrey – John reported confirmation of Kudzu (Pueraria) presence at Coventry Peace Forest. Specimen collected and reported. John met on site with Kathy, no further action required until spring.
- i. Mike Knoblauch – shared his thoughts on the urgency of banning leaf blowers, 2-stroke and battery-powered, as infringements on property rights, as well as sources of noise and air pollution. Catalina will respond
- ii. Abby Evans – the Committee recommended referring Abby to Public Works, and to provide input into Parks and Recreation Master Plan, on the subject of more trash receptacles.
- iii. Gabriel Savage – the Committee recommended referring him to Forester Trapp for action.

### **CESC Initiatives**

- The Committee asked for more specific feedback on the new composting initiative. Mark will gather statistics and report back. Money will be budgeted for two drop off stations for 2026. Sean asked for further information on how the city might acquire and use composting output.
- Marc reported that the commercial recycling program, initially only cardboard and paper, will be rolled out soon in four locations. He asked for ideas on publicizing.
- John and Marc will discuss air quality alert communications.

### **Discussion topics follow up:**

- Gail reported CESC vacancies will be addressed in next Administration Comm meeting.
- Sean reported we did not win Climate Smart Communities Initiative grant. He indicated interest in applying for more grants for tree canopy maintenance and expansion.
- Catalina will forward the CESC Inclusion as Stakeholders Plan to Tony per Gail's recommendation.
- Marc reported that transferring CESC files to city servers is a priority.
- Light Pollution (C. Brace) - the Committee has had no further updates on streetlight bulb replacement color, but will look for updates from Leopardo and FE.
- Gail will check with Craig Cobb on what's required for CESC members to continue service beyond initial term expiration of 12/31.
- CESC will produce an annual report again, as required by its originating legislation.
- The Committee discussed various ideas for the 2026 budget.

- The Committee discussion 2026 impact opportunities, including 2-stroke engine phaseout, Tree Commission formation, Single use plastic reduction in CH restaurants, and outdoor LED light color temperature restrictions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

The next meeting will be November 18th at 4:00.

Submitted by John Barber