



**Minutes of the December 5, 2007 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
at Bedford Heights City Hall**

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

In Attendance:

Jennifer Spencer
Jan Devereaux, Cleveland Restoration Society
Mayor Dan Pocek, City of Bedford
Bonnie Teeuwen, Director, D-12, Ohio Department of Transportation
Gordon Levar, Councilman, City of Wickliffe
Tom Bier, CSU
Noreen Kuban, Garfield Heights
Paul Oyaski, Cuyahoga County Department of Development
Mayor Bill Cervenik, City of Euclid
Marty Divito, City of Bedford Heights
Mayor Fletcher Berger, City of Bedford Heights
Dennis Kennedy, City of Brooklyn
Scenario B. Adebessin, Fifth Third Bank
Ariane Kirkpatrick, City of Warrensville Heights
Cal Caminati, Jr. City of South Euclid
Mayor Debora Mallin, City of Bedford Heights
Mayor Beryl Rothschild, City of University Heights
Luke Frazier, FSDC
Mayor Georgine Welo, FSC Chair
Jennifer Kuzma, FSC
Ken Montlack, FSC Vice-Chair

Welcome: FSC Chair Mayor Georgine Welo called the meeting to order at 9:26 AM. She welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and thanked the City of Bedford Heights for hosting. Mayor Fletcher Berger thanked Mayor Welo for the opportunity to attend the meeting and stated that he looked forward to working with the group in the upcoming year.

Approval of Minutes: Chair Welo then made a motion to accept the minutes of September 26, 2007 meeting as presented. Mayor Cervenik seconded the motion. No opposing votes were cast and the minutes were adopted as presented.

NEO-FSC Executive Committee Report: Chair Welo asked Vice Chair Ken Montlack to discuss the details of the December 4 meeting with Governor Strickland, Lt. Governor Lee Fisher and staff of the Ohio Department of Development. Ken reminded the group that this meeting came out of the work of the First Suburbs Executive Committee's (Mayor Fudge, Mayor Longo and Mayor Pocek) initial meeting with Lt. Governor Lee Fisher, Anne Hill and Marvin Hayes back in the Fall to engage the Governor's Office in our attempts to obtain State funding for redevelopment as it is the most critical issue facing the member communities. At that time, the state officials agreed and voiced opinions suggesting they understood the need for a redevelopment fund and that they are currently going through a strategic planning process to prioritize ours and many other concerns facing the state. Lt. Governor Fisher then committed to a meeting and since then numerous conference call meetings have occurred with the Dayton and Cincinnati consortia and Marvin Hayes of the State Department of Development Office. The other consortia are in agreement with the Northeast Ohio group and feel that a per capita distribution of state funds should be presented to the Lt. Governor as a pilot project.

At the December 4 meeting, FSC Chair Mayor Georgine Welo presented the OFSC Proposal for a Redevelopment Fund. Executive Committee members echoed the concerns they made in the Fall meeting and asked for a written response to proposal as presented. Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones joined the meeting via conference call and gave her support for the proposal and that she is ready to work with the OFSC and is looking forward to achieving progress together. After hearing from staff of the ODOD, Lt. Governor Fisher then gave his comments on the proposal. The Lt. Governor stated that a match of funds would be critical and that a program could be developed with both grants and loans. He also added that the OFSC should broaden its membership base and that such a plan would need support from urban, exurban and rural communities. Lt. Governor Fisher asked that we keep an open mind and suggested that there are many ways to arrive at the same solution. He then committed to quarterly meetings in 2008 with the OFSC to continue this discussion.

First Suburbs Development Council Report: FSDC Executive Director Luke Frazier reported on his presentation to the National League of Cities in their annual conference held in New Orleans in October. Members of the NLC were pleased with the first steps of NAFSO to share information on their programs and successes and failures they have experienced as inner ring organizations. Luke then informed FSC members that the 2008 FSDC Executive Committee would consist of the following members: Shelley Cullins, Board President; Brad Sellers, Board Vice-President and Marty Divito, Board Treasurer-Secretary. Luke thanked the outgoing Executive Committee for their two years of dedication to the organization. 2006-2007 Board President Noreen Kuban wished the incoming group well and stated that she looked forward to working with the new Executive Committee. Luke then wrapped up his presentation by looking ahead to the new year and briefly discussed the planned programs including the marketing and identity campaign and the Storefront and Vacant Housing Programs funded by the Cuyahoga County Department of Development.

Chair's Report: Mayor Welo began her report by discussing the FSC Annual Meeting and suggested a change in format. Members should email their suggestions directly to Mayor Welo. Discussion then turned to 2008 planning including continued work by the FSC Executive Committee and continued work on foreclosures. An FSC Mayors; Assembly will be held in early January to address a number of topic effecting our communities including increasing healthcare costs and the possibility of leveraging our assets as we move ahead. Mayor Welo then thanked a number of individuals for their contributions to the organization success in 2007 including our Economic Development Directors, Fifth Third Bank, Mayor Mallin, Tom Bier, Paul Herdeg, Treasurer Jim Rokakis and County Prosecutor Bill Mason.

Staff Report: Jennifer Kuzma informed members that membership dues had been received from all but three communities. Those communities will receive additional invoices.

Other Business, Announcements and Next Meeting: Mayor Rothschild encouraged more mayors to be active in the organization in 2008. Mayor Welo echoed the statement saying that the valuable accomplishments of the organization have occurred when the mayors worked together. The first meeting of 2008 will the FSC Annual Meeting. Details will follow.

Adjourn: The meeting officially adjourned at 10:35 AM.