



**Minutes of the June 2, 2005 meeting of the
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM
at the Euclid's Lakefront Community Center**

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

In Attendance:

Mayor Bill Cervenik, City of Euclid
Lou Tisler, FSDC
Jan Devereaux, Cleveland Restoration Society
Frank Pietravoia, City of Euclid
Mayor Dan Pocek, City of Bedford
Hugh Shannon, Government Service Coordination Manager, Cuyahoga County
Gerry Trafis, City of Maple Heights
Mayor Ed Kelley, City of Cleveland Heights
Mayor Saratha A. Goggins, City of East Cleveland
Dorothy Fike, League of Women Voters
Paul Beno, City of East Cleveland
Nancy Dietrich, Councilwoman, City of Cleveland Heights
Mayor Georgine Welo, City of South Euclid
Cal Caminati, City of South Euclid
Jeff Zorc, Cuyahoga County Department of Development
Nate Hoelzel, Cuyahoga County Department of Development
Tom Jordan, City of Lakewood
Powell Caesar, City of Parma
Mayor Tom George, City of Lakewood
Denis Dunn, Councilman, City of Lakewood
Brian Gleisser, Councilman, City of Shaker Heights
Tom Bier, Cleveland State University
Vince Adamus, City of Brook Park
Pat Carey, Greater Ohio
Kurt Steigerwald, National Market Measures/Euclid
Tom Theilman, City of Parma
Tom Ott, Plain Dealer
Brad Sellers, City of Warrensville Heights
County Treasurer Jim Rokakis
Jim Kastelic, Cleveland Metroparks

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In Attendance: (con't)

Rebecca Corrigan, City of Bedford
Noreen Kuban, City of Garfield Heights
Gladys M. Walcott, Council President, City of East Cleveland
Ken Montlack, Chair, NEOFSC
Jennifer Kuzma, NEOFSC

Welcome:

Ken Montlack, Chairman of the FSC, opened the meeting at 9:12 AM at the Lakefront Community Center. Ken thanked Mayor Cervenik and the City of Euclid for hosting the meeting. Mayor Cervenik spoke of the Lakefront Community Center which was opened last Fall and is used during the day for meetings and senior activities. In the evenings and on the weekends, the center rented to residents for parties, weddings and showers. Mayor Cervenik also briefly spoke about Euclid's biggest project, the new Harbor Town project located at East 242nd Street. K&B Development will hopefully break ground this summer and will then build 144 condos and townhouses in this development.

Approval of Minutes:

Ken Montlack requested a motion to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2005 FSC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as distributed was made by Mayor Pocek, seconded by Mayor Kelley, and adopted.

Avon/I-90 Letter Update:

Ken was contacted by the City of Cleveland's Planning Department in response to the letter which was sent back in February of this year regarding the NEOFSC's concern of the proposed Avon/I-90 interchange. Bob Brown phoned Ken and suggested collaboration between the Consortium and the City of Cleveland regarding a joint approach to NOACA on this topic. Mayor Jane Campbell obviously stood behind this. Some discussion of this was had at the last Governing Board meeting. One idea which was brought up included presenting projects to NOACA that have a regional impact for the First Suburbs. Member cities were asked to provide any potential projects that make sense for them and their neighboring communities. On Thursday, June 9th the Governing Board will meet with Ryan McKenzie of EcoCity Cleveland. Ryan is extremely experienced in the workings of local transportation needs and NOACA's project selection process. He will help to better educate our Board so that they can prepare a proposal for the member cities which would meet their needs. It is hoped that if we provide alternative projects, they may eventually get funded. Ken opened this meeting to any member who was interested in attending. Ryan was also interested in informing member cities of the details of the NOACA's June 10th "Livable Communities" event.

Education Funding Reform Proposal:

Former State Representative Bryan Flannery presented his proposal to those members present. The Educate Ohio Amendment fixes school funding and lowers property taxes by \$2.5 billion dollars. The suburbs will see the most reduction in these taxes. Flannery suggests that the average homeowner in Lakewood could anticipate a savings

between \$1,000 - \$4,000 annually in property tax costs under his plan. Endorsers of this plan from the northeast Ohio area include the cities of Lakewood and Brook Park. Flannery explained that he will need to obtain 323,000 valid signatures by August 10, 2005 to get this on the November 2005 state ballot. Anyone who is interested in helping him gather signatures can download the petition at www.educateohio.com. Bryan will need all petitions returned to his office by August 1 so that he can prepare them for the August 10th deadline. He can be reached for additional information on his cell phone at 216-533-5896. At the conclusion of Bryan's presentation, a motion to endorse the Educate Ohio Amendment was made by Mayor George and seconded by Mayor Pocek. All members present were in favor.

Ohio FSC Update:

Ken Montlack provided those present with the most recent version of the Ohio First Suburbs Consortium Agenda and Position Statement. After some discussion on these pieces, a few minor changes and additions were recommended by member cities. Those changes were given to Ken and will be made on the documents. The Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton groups will also be reviewing these pieces and will provide their thoughts for any changes or additions. The four consortia will meet via conference call on June 9th at 9:30 AM to get a final draft on the Agenda and Position Statement and to begin the planning for a Fall Forum.

Application of East Cleveland for FSC Membership:

Ken welcomed East Cleveland Mayor Sarantha Goggins to the meeting and explained that the City of East Cleveland wishes to join the NEOFSC. Mayor Goggins stated that East Cleveland identifies with the needs of first ring cities, shares the same beliefs of the fifteen existing First Suburbs Consortium member cities. Mayor Goggins agreed that she desired to officially join the organization and stated that she understands the Agreement to establish the FSC COG, the By Laws and the dues structure of the organization, and that, upon joining the FSC, East Cleveland would abide by decisions made pursuant to the FSC governance instruments. FSC member cities voted on the application of East Cleveland for FSC membership. Ken asked for a motion to accept the application of East Cleveland for FSC membership. A motion to approve the application of East Cleveland Heights for FSC membership was made by Mayor Pocek, seconded by Mayor Kelley, and accepted. Yes votes were cast by the following cities: Bedford, Brook Park, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Garfield Heights, Lakewood, Maple Heights, Parma, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and Warrensville Heights. Bedford Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Fairview Park and University Heights were absent at this time and therefore did not vote on the application for membership. Ken welcomed East Cleveland to the group.

Commissioner Hagan's Foreclosure Process Meeting Update:

Ken asked Mayor Welo to provide an update on this process to those who were present. Mayor Welo stated that the meeting with Commissioner Hagan on May 24 was extremely successful. The overwhelming meeting attendance included ten member mayors, Judge McMonagle and Magistrate Bucha. Commissioner Hagan set a 90 day review period where this issue will be examined in greater detail. One group will study

foreclosure prevention and a second group will look at the actual foreclosure process to identify time and financial weaknesses that can be addressed and improved upon to better streamline the process. Mayor Welo also recommended that the state legislature be educated about the problems that zero down home loans are causing in our cities. Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis stated that he has plans to ask for a letter of support from the NEOFSC to endorse a plan which will allow the courts to administratively foreclose on tax foreclosed vacant and abandoned properties. He also pointed out the importance of educating new homebuyers on the dangers of the new loans which target buyers who are not ready to be buyers.

Report on Presentation to AIA National Conference:

Chair Montlack asked Mayor Pocek to review the presentation he gave to the AIA's National Conference on behalf of the NEOFSC. Mayor Pocek spoke at the American Institute of Architects National Convention in Las Vegas as a panel member that focused its discussion community development, specifically development in inner ring suburbs. He spoke of the NEOFSC's history and accomplishments in the area of development.

Congresswoman Tubbs-Jones' Housing Choice Voucher Program Meetings

Update:

Ken Montlack asked Mayor Kelley to update members on his workings with the Congresswoman on the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The initial meeting with the Congresswoman was called by a number of east side FSC mayors so they could voice their concerns about the Housing Choice Voucher Program and the large volume of certificate holders in concentrated areas of FSC cities. Other areas of concern included criminal behavior, loud music, general ruddiness, garbage issues and the effect on the school systems. This meeting led to a follow-up meeting with CMHA Director George Phillips and mayors. Three working committees were created and have been meeting around various topics. The first group is looking at appropriate rental rates for rental units and matching up city inspections to CMHA inspection requirements. A second group is putting together an education piece which would include a tenant training program which would explain city rules and regulations to new tenants and provide them with an opportunity to learn about what services the city and the schools offer residents. The final committee includes an enforcement component which will open up the lines of communication between city police departments and CMHA. Memorandums of Understanding are being written up to cement the good relationships and the positive steps that are being taken toward progress between the cities and CMHA.

Nominating Committee Report:

Councilwoman Nancy Dietrich provided the details of a meeting attended by herself, Councilman Denis Dunn and Jennifer Kuzma to discuss the 2005 nominations. Councilwoman Dietrich proposed the following nominations:

FSC Chair:	Ken Montlack
FSC Vice Chair:	Mayor Eileen Patton
FSC Treasurer:	Tom Malone

FSC Executive Committee: Ken Montlack, Mayor Georgine Welo, Mayor Marcia Fudge, Mayor Tom Longo, Mayor Dan Pocek
FSC Governing Board: Mayor Bill Cervenik, Mayor Judy Rawson, Mayor Beryl Rothschild, Mayor Tom Longo and Mayor Tom George

Recognizing that the Strategic Planning Committee had not yet completed its work, it was decided by the Nominating Committee that it would again nominate those individuals to the Executive Committee and Governing Board from the previous year's slate to remain in their positions until the Strategic Planning process is completed. Ken Montlack asked members if there were any additional nominations in any of the above mentioned categories. There being none, Ken then asked for a motion to close the nominations in all categories. Motion made by Mayor Kelley and seconded by Brad Sellers to close the nominations and to elect each and all of the nominees as presented. All members present accepted the slate as presented with no opposed votes.

County Brownfields Development Fund Update:

Nate Hoelzel from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development gave an update on the County Brownfields Development Fund. Although the EPA declined the \$3 million grant application for brownfields clean-up, the DOD did receive \$400,000 more for the assessment program. The assessment grant allows the DOD to do environmental investigations of brownfield properties throughout the county. Nate explained that he administers those funds and is currently reviewing 28 applications for those funds. Only four of those 28 applications were from First Suburbs communities. Nate encouraged the FSC members present to apply for these funds which will cover the cost to hire a consultant (county-selected) to do the Phase I and Phase II work. Nate encouraged all members to call him to discuss any potential ideas. Nate then discussed the Brownfield Redevelopment Fund. Funds for this program are nearly expired, and are expected to be completely gone by the end of this year. Nate asked the membership to speak with the County Commissioners to refund this project. The DOD is writing a Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund for the East Bank project in downtown Cleveland. The DOD is also helping with the Clean Ohio Assistance Fund application. Nate also mentioned that on June 21st, the National Brownfields Association's Ohio Chapter Annual Meeting will be held at Browns Stadium. The event fee is \$65 for members and \$95 for non-members. Nate introduced to the group Jeff Zorc who is the DOD's Storefront Program Manager. Jeff mentioned that the funds for this year's program have been completely used.

First Suburbs Development Council Report:

Lou Tisler, Executive Director of the First Suburbs Development Council, updated members and others present on the accomplishments and workings of his organization. For those cities who were interested in proceeding with CoStar, a meeting with the sales representative is scheduled for the second week of June to move those cities forward with this company.

October 24th is the National Vacant Properties Conference in Columbus. Invitations will

be mailed out in the next few days and member-cities should keep an eye open for this piece to come to their offices.

The Strategic Planning process is completed. The Development Council Board will hopefully approve the plan at their June 8th meeting. A seven page summary is attached to Lou's report.

The Regional Purchasing Network is nearing completion of its pilot phase. A meeting of the mayors will be called to update and provide additional details of the project.

Lou also mentioned to member-cities that he can easily reactivate any property listings that no longer appear on the website. Contact Lou directly and let him know which properties he should return to the site.

The National Association of Industrial and Office Properties have put together a regional development collaborative. These are private sector realtors and brokers looking from a commercial standpoint at collaboration.

Lou also informed those present that Mayor Rothschild has asked the Development Council to work with the member-cities' chamber of commerce. This is also a recommendation out of the FSDC Strategic Plan. Lou will pull together a meeting of these organizations and explore the possibilities of working closer together.

Cleveland Restoration Society Heritage Home Program Update:

Ken introduced Kathleen Crowther and Sara Hobbs of the Cleveland Restoration Society who were at the meeting to update member cities on their Heritage Home Program. Kathleen explained that the Restoration Society wants to be a partner with the member cities to offer the Heritage Home Program to their residents to restore housing stock. The packet of information which was passed on to those present provided before and after photos of projects the CRS has completed in FSC member cities.

Staff Report:

Jennifer Kuzma informed members present that the 2005 NEOFSC dues invoices would be sent out in the month of June.

Chair's Report:

Chairman Ken Montlack asked David Beach, Tom Bier, Art Brooks and Kathleen Ruane to serve as unelected advisors to the Governing Board.

Ken also congratulated Hugh Shannon on his new appointment as Cuyahoga County Government Services Coordination Manager to advance regionalism.

Ken also extended his gratitude to present at the April 12th event in Columbus.

Other Business/Announcements:

Mayor Welo made a recommendation that the next meeting of the NEOFSC start at 8:30 AM . Ken agreed and the September 1, 2005 meeting will be scheduled to start at 8:30 AM. Mayor Goggins volunteered to host this meeting. (The meeting location will be determined closer to the actual meeting date.)

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

The next meeting of the FSC was scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2005 at 8:30 AM. Meeting location will be announced closer to the meeting date. The next meeting of the Governing Board will be Thursday, June 9th at 9:30 AM at Cleveland Heights City Hall.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.