



**Minutes of the September 1, 2006 meeting of the  
NORTHEAST OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM  
at The Brooklyn Senior and Community Center**

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**In Attendance:**

Noreen Kuban, City of Garfield Heights  
Luke Frazier, FSCDC  
Rebecca Corrigan, City of Bedford  
Jim Sonnhalter, City of Euclid  
Councilwoman Nancy Dietrich, City of Cleveland Heights  
Jayme Lucas, City of Shaker Heights (non-voting)  
Tom Pokorny, Common Pleas Court  
John Sheldon, North Star Title Services  
Helen K. Smith, HKS Consultants  
Paul Herdeg, Cuyahoga County Dept. of Development  
Pat Carey, Greater Ohio  
Jason Lehrer, NOAH  
Gerry Trafis, City of Maple Heights  
Pat Smock, County Commissioner Jimmy Demora's Office  
Noelle Celeste, Health & Human Services Campaign  
Tom Schorgl, Community Partnership for Arts and Culture  
Donna Thompson, City of Brooklyn  
Councilwoman Nickie Antonio, City of Lakewood  
Vince Adamus, City of Brook Park  
Vince Caraffi, Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
Mayor Ken Patton, City of Brooklyn  
Mayor Tom Longo, City of Garfield Heights  
Tom Bier, Cleveland State University  
Kathleen Ruane, City of Cleveland Heights/FSC  
Marty Divito, City of Maple Heights  
Brad Sellers, City of University Heights  
Ken Montlack, FSC  
State Senator Eric Fingerhut  
Bruce Nimrich, Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office  
Tom Ott, Plain Dealer

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**Welcome:**

Ken Montlack, Chair of the NEOFSC, opened the meeting at 8:50 AM at the Brooklyn Senior and Community Center. Mayor Ken Patton welcomed those in attendance and expressed his enthusiasm as representative of the newest member of the FSC.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Ken Montlack requested a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2006 FSC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as distributed was made by Noreen Kuban, seconded by Rebecca Corrigan, and adopted.

**Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Foreclosure Report:**

Tom Pokorny, Court Administrator, reported on the Court's efforts and progress in dealing with the foreclosure backlog, including: hiring new magistrates, additional clerical support staff and other staff in the Sheriff's Department and Clerk of Court's office; staff training; improved reporting of case filing information; and resolving increased numbers of foreclosure cases each month, with more challenges remaining. Mr. Pokorny also reported that the Judges have adopted procedural orders to reduce delays in disposition of cases and provide property management information to cities, upon Sheriff's sale. Ken Montlack also reported that the County Commissioners have authorized and funded the Prosecutor's hiring of a Predatory/Fraudulent Loans Investigator to work with Assistant Prosecutor Michael Jackson on an enhanced effort to combat predatory lending practices. Ken reviewed two meetings with the Court Administrator and Steve Bukha, Chief Magistrate, Mayor Welo being in attendance at one such meeting, and noted the substantial progress made by the Court on these matters.

**Development Council Update:**

Noreen Kuban, President of the FSCDC Board, briefly updated Board activities and introduced Luke Frazier, recently hired by the FSCDC as its Executive Director. Mr. Frazier stated that he was in the process of visiting each FSCDC member-municipality and dialoguing with the respective officials and staff. Ken reported that foundation grants for the FSCDC have been approved.

**Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Issues:**

Mayor Tom Longo reviewed his communication with the FSC regarding various Juvenile Court procedures and actions. He stated that, as a follow-up to the August 10, 2006 meeting hosted by Garfield Heights, between the FSC and Juvenile Court officials and staff, a FSC-Court Task Force has been established, with the following FSC members: Mayor Deborah Mallin, Euclid P. D. Detective Al Bush, Cleveland Heights P. D. Chief Martin Lentz, Bedford City Manager Bob Reid and Mayor Longo. The first Task Force meeting will be on Thurs., Sept. 14, 2006. The issues to be addressed by the Task Force include: non-acceptance by the Detention Center of youths arrested for serious offenses, changes in criteria and procedures needed to serve warrants and process youths taken into custody pursuant to warrants, providing correct and timely case information to the police departments and crime victims and addressing perceptions that delinquency adjudications carry no consequences.

### **Planning for Ohio FSC Conference:**

Ken updated the members as to planning for the Ohio FSC Conference, scheduled for Wed., Nov. 15, 2006 in Columbus. The Conference will focus on specific actions needed by the new Governor and General Assembly in the 2007-2008 term. Issues of concern to the First Suburbs organizations in the Cincinnati, Dayton and Cleveland areas include: State legislation to facilitate municipal acquisition of foreclosed, vacant and abandoned properties, eminent domain and other home rule challenges, "Fix it First", changes in ODOT priorities and state support for no-poaching, local redevelopment funding and revenue sharing. FSC representatives committed to working on these issues through a statewide coalition are asked to participate.

### **County Redevelopment Fund:**

Attendees discussed the floundering attempts to create a publicly financed redevelopment fund. Ken asked the member-municipalities to consider whether our mayors and managers should be united in supporting the redevelopment plan proposed by County Development Director, Paul Oyaski.

### **General Election County Ballot Issues:**

State senator Eric Fingerhut and Tom Shorgl spoke on behalf of the Arts and Cultural Issue. They reviewed the objective criteria and procedures to be used for distribution of cigarette tax funds, if the issue passes. Senator Fingerhut commented that support for the arts is, in itself, important to redevelopment and that, if the Issue passes, other County funds will be freed up for local redevelopment. Noelle Celeste spoke on behalf of the Health and Human Services Levy Issue, explaining the partial property tax replacement and increase proposed. She emphasized the dire need for such funds. At the conclusion of presentations, Noreen Kuban moved and Councilwoman Nancy Dietrich seconded a motion for FSC endorsement of both Issues. All voting representatives voted in the affirmative, except Vince Adamus, who abstained on behalf of Brook Park.

### **Chair's Report:**

Ken thanked Cleveland Heights Police Chief Martin Lentz and Housing Manager Rick Wagner for conducting a training session with police and housing staff from the First Suburbs communities in regard to the Memorandum of Understanding with CMHA.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

### **Next Meeting:**

The date, time and place for the next NEOFSC meeting will be announced.