



# May 2010 Shaker Heights Voter

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Shaker Leaguers,

First, congratulations to the proud and generous community of Shaker Heights for passing the school levy yesterday. And congratulations to our own Linda Lalley for running a terrific campaign.

This newsletter is coming to you just one day before our Annual Meeting, to be held Thursday, May 6, 7-9 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 3445 Warrensville Center Road. Parking is behind the church and the medical building next to it off Helen Road. You can also enter the lot from one of the driveways on each side of the front of the church on Warrensville. Our guest speaker will be Connie Schultz, the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer. She will take the floor at 7 and around 8 we will conduct our business meeting. We will also distribute our 2010 directory.

Following the annual reorganization of our board, our first county-wide responsibility will be to help schedule and coordinate Candidates Nights in the 11 new County Council districts. The Shaker League will lead efforts in our own District 9 and in nearby District 6. We plan to find partners to sponsor each Candidates Night. If you would like to help in this work, please let me know. We will have to decide soon whether we are going to gear our efforts toward the Sept. 7 primary, the Nov. 2 general election or both.

I want to remind you again to please SAVE THE DATE of Thursday, Aug. 26, for a countywide 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration honoring the League of Women Voters of the United States. We're planning a celebratory cruise on the Goodtime III.

As always, please let me know if you would like to get more involved in our work.

*Marcia Goldberg, President*  
[marcia.goldberg@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.goldberg@gmail.com) or 321-1840

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information?**

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**[shakerlwv.org](http://shakerlwv.org)**

***LWV-SHAKER HEIGHTS OFFICERS***

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Marcia Goldberg</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b>	<b>Jeanne Shatten, Susan Stechschulte</b>
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<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Holly Wang</b>
<b>ASSISTANT TREASURER</b>	<b>Dorothy Greenslade</b>

***ELECTED DIRECTORS***

**Patricia Burgess, Evie Krent, Lucille Mayne, Mary Mulligan, Julianna Johnston Senturia,  
Meryl Simon, Jan Wallace, Debbie White**

***APPOINTED DIRECTORS***

**Barbara Gomes Barlow, Barbara Guy, Kurt Miller, Anne Williams**

**Follow Developments in Cuyahoga County Government Reform:**

**Visit [Charter.CuyahogaCounty.us](http://Charter.CuyahogaCounty.us)**

**&**

**Follow Developments in Regionalism Efforts  
Supported by the Three Leagues in the County:  
*Join the LWV's Google Group on Regionalism***

**Email Barbara Guy, [bguy3718@yahoo.com](mailto:bguy3718@yahoo.com)**

**She will invite you into the group—then you can read updates and make comments**

**PROSE & POLITICS: THE LWV-SH BOOK GROUP**

**[Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan](#)  
by Greg Mortenson (author of [Three Cups of Tea](#))**

Date and location for this spring (or summer?) are yet to be determined.

Please email Julianna Senturia at [julianna@ameritech.net](mailto:julianna@ameritech.net) if you are interested in attending.

All Leaguers are welcome to any and all book group meetings.

**CALENDAR**

- May 6**      **Thursday, 7 p.m., LWV-SH Annual Meeting, Guest Speaker: Connie Schultz, Pulitzer Prize winning Plain Dealer columnist; Christ Episcopal Church, 3445 Warrensville Center Road.**
- May 14**      **Friday, 9:30 a.m., Cabinet meeting, Dorothy Greenslade's**
- May 28**      **Friday, 9:30 a.m., Board meeting, Main Library, 2nd Floor**
- Aug. 26**      **Thursday, LWVUS 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday cruise on the Goodtime III—save the date and watch for more information in this newsletter**

- **Board meetings are held on the 2nd floor of the Main Library and all LWVSH members are welcome.**

**League of Women Voters of Shaker Heights Annual Meeting****Thursday, May 6, 2010****Christ Episcopal Church  
3445 Warrensville Center Road****Check-in begins at 6:45 p.m.; call to order at 7 p.m.****Guest Speaker (at 7 p.m.): Connie Schultz,  
Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist  
for the Cleveland Plain Dealer**

**OBSERVER REPORTS****Community Life & Health Committee**

April 8, 2010

**Present:** Council Members Lynn Ruffner (chair), Al Foster, Nancy Moore; committee members Amy Fulford; Pam Quinn, Director of Community Life; Dr. Scott Frank, Director of Health; Vicki Blank, Marketing Communications manager

**Others Present:** Jeri Chaikin, CAO; Sandi Hurley, Nursing Director; Frank Novak, Director of Environmental Health; Avril Sargeant, MAPS Coordinator; Erik Johnson, Project Coordinator, Prevention Coalition

Ms. Ruffner called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. She announced that the mayor would not be able to attend due to another community meeting. Ms. Chaikin attended in his place.

Minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2010, were approved unanimously.

**Health Department Action Plan:** Dr. Scott presented the 2010 Action Plan. History of the department includes Mr. Novak, Director of Environmental Health since 1974. Ms. Hurley and Dr. Frank have held their positions since 1994. More recent additions include Erik Johnson, coordinator of the Prevention Coalition, and Ms. Sargeant, as MAPS Coordinator.

**The department is charged with the surveillance of and prevention of disease in the public and employees of Shaker Heights. They accomplish this through programs and plans in the following areas:**

**Adult and Childhood Immunizations:** Generates revenue. The department provided 330 required childhood immunizations; 280 immunizations; 500 tuberculosis skin tests; 240 childhood flu shots and FluMist administrations; and flu shots (seasonal and H1N1) in the Health Department, at the Community Building, and at the employee health fair and preparedness drill for the general public.

***Plan:* Maximize immunization rates and minimize lost school days for Shaker students in collaboration with the Shaker Schools.**

***Plan:* Contract for a fee with private schools in Shaker for TB & Hepatitis B shots.**

**Screening:** Over 1,280 blood pressure checks

***Plan:* Screen for acute and chronic illnesses**

***Plan:* Hold blood pressure clinics twice weekly**

**Disease Surveillance and Protection:** Supported by subsidy from Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Receives immediate messages from national, state and local infectious disease agencies. Assists other jurisdictions in disease outbreak investigations.

**Plan:** Continue reporting and follow-up disease reporting. Continue to use Ohio Disease Reporting System and Cuyahoga County reporting system to confidentially report and receive disease notices.

**Vital Statistics:** Issues death, fetal death, and birth certificates; burial permits and certified copies. Certified copy program generates revenue. ODH mandates registrar and deputy registrar.

**Plan:** two mandatory training sessions and on-site inspections

**Health Promotion/Outreach:** Collaborates with Community Life to coordinate Health Department activities with events for seniors. Collaborates with Shaker Life magazine for Health News page. Page includes health and Shaker Prevention Coalition features and is partially funded by Shaker Prevention Coalition and the Drug Free Community Grant.

**Plan:** Continue collaborations

**Bike Helmet Program:** Seasonal program (May thru September) fits and sells helmets at reasonable cost of \$10.

**Plan:** Continue this program

**Assure Public Health Preparedness for biological or chemical terrorism:** Shaker participates in the regional planning committees for Health and Nursing directors and is part of the Cuyahoga County Public Health Collaborative. The city used a grant of \$31,058 (08-09) to fund back-up personnel and interns to develop the city's pandemic flu plan, emergency response, educational and outreach programs, and mass vaccinations. The department has run three Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings for Shaker Heights volunteers as of the end of 2009.

**Plan:** The preparedness grant received for 2009-10 is \$141,829. This will be used to collaborate with the SHFD to recruit and train CERT members. The city ran a fourth training in March 2010 and will do a fifth in the fall in collaboration with Cleveland Heights.

**Plan:** Dr. Frank is participating in a workforce development grant from ODH for preparedness training.

**Plan:** Ms. Hurley will continue to participate in regional disease reporting, surveillance, and planning activities.

**Plan:** The annual Point of Distribution drill will be held in October 2010 at the Middle School. CERT members will participate.

**Plan:** Continue to seek federal and state funding for public emergency response programs.

**Pandemic flu planning and mass vaccination:** A new position was created, Public Health Project Coordinator.

**Youth Substance Abuse Prevention:** The goal is to reduce and prevent use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among Shaker youth. A competitive federal Drug Free Community Support Grant funds this program. It has and will bring in \$100,000 per year to support youth development and substance abuse prevention programs. The department uses the Youth Risk Be-

Mr. Piskac then presented the March 3 financial statements, all of which were approved. The budget modifications that he recommended were also approved, including the switch from United Health to Aetna for health care coverage and to Guardian for dental coverage, resulting in considerable savings. The board also authorized the fiscal officer to obtain bids for banking and credit card transactions. The Library, Mr. Piskac said, is receiving recommendations for reducing electricity consumption.

Presenting his director's report, Mr. Dickinson indicated that he had been to Columbus, where he met with both State Rep. Armond Budish and State Sen. Nina Turner. There has been some decline in circulation, including the circulation of videos, a trend noted in almost all area libraries. The board approved his request for an application for a gardening grant. The board also approved the use of a collection agency (which works only with libraries) to collect fines and unreturned materials. The board's records and finance policies were approved.

As part of its 2010 technology plan, the board approved planning for a new Library website, self-check equipment, upgraded bandwidth, and mobile phones for staff as a way of improving customer service. Finally, the board approved a 25 percent match grant request for a Library Service and Technology grant up to \$100,000. Mr. Dickinson noted that the Library has received a Youth Opportunities Employment Award.

The board accepted gifts totaling \$625, including \$150 from Heinen's for the ice cream social. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Evelyn Krent, 991-0802*

## **Shaker Heights Board of Education**

**April 13, 2010**

### **Lomond Elementary School**

The meeting was called to order by President Norman Bliss at 8:03 p.m. All board members except Pete Robertson (who was out of town on business) were present. There was no public comment on agenda items.

Minutes from the March board meeting were approved, 17 teachers were approved for tenure, and five resignations were accepted.

Before presenting the District Highlights, Dr. Freeman made a couple of comments in response to observations made by students at March's board meeting. The comments focused on consistency in performance and expectations among sections of the same course being taught by multiple teachers. In terms of performance, Dr. Freeman stated that testing is one measure. Many departments have designed common mid-terms and finals for their various course offerings. This process helps faculty align expectations as well as evaluate student achievement across class sections. Additionally, he noted that some classes may include students at the CP (College Prep) level and the Honors level. In these cases, there are, by definition, different expectations of student performance.

Shaker Highlights include Shaker students excelling in regional, state, and national competitions in history, writing, science, engineering, chess, mathematics, Model UN, and debate. In addition to the students' honors, the district won a *Mark of Excellence* Award for its e-newsletter and the state auditor again gave the district a *clean audit*, this time for the 2008-09 school year.

High School Guidance Department Chair Eileen Blattner gave a report on the *guidance* and *counseling* that takes place for students during their four years at Shaker. As Mrs. Blattner noted, the process is constantly being reviewed and revised by the department. (Observer's note: I was impressed by the thoughtful, targeted meetings that take place with students over their four years at the high school. Perhaps this is one reason that Shaker students are awarded so many scholarships. In 2008-09, Shaker students won \$760,817 in scholarships and this figure reflects *only* the scholarships for which students brought documentation to the guidance office.)

Treasurer Bryan Christman said that, as may be expected, real estate collections were slightly down. Mr. Christman also noted that the state auditor asked school districts to bid the auditing for this year in an attempt to reduce the state's workload.

General public comment included one resident who referred to articles in *U.S. News and World Report* regarding school improvement. He suggested that Shaker identify "non-readers" at the first grade level and structure an intervention.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Mary Mulligan, 283-5880

## **Neighborhood Revitalization Committee**

**April 14, 2010**

**Present:** Nancy Moore, chair; Council members Al Foster and Lynn Ruffner; citizen members Duane Thornton, Rochelle Kirby, Myra White and Brian Yusko; Robert O'Neal, ex officio; Earl Leiken, mayor; William Hanson, Director, Housing Inspection; James Ziegler, Director, Building Department; Kamla Lewis, Director, Neighborhood Revitalization; Lisa Gold-Scott, Assistant Law Director; Norman Bliss, President, Shaker Heights Board of Education; Vickie Blank, Communications Department

There were two major items of discussion at this meeting: (1) authorization to apply for grant funding for green initiatives and (2) renewal of the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Tax Abatement program

havior Survey (YRBS) every other year at SHHS and the Middle School as a tool in this program.

**Plan: Implement life skills training—a substance abuse prevention and personal development curriculum.**

**Plan: Increase capacity and outreach activities of the Student Health Advocates Reaching Peers program (SHARP) in the Senior High and Middle schools. The focus in the Middle School will be on the “Shakerocity” social inclusion project.**

**Plan: Promote change in social norms regarding alcohol, tobacco, and drug use. Work with South Shaker MyCom initiative. Continue to implement the Shaker Parent outreach program (MAPS) and the Shakerocity inclusion project. Develop other initiatives with the Community Life Department and other Shaker Prevention Partners.**

**Environment Health:** This division carries out the West Nile Virus prevention and raccoon and rabies prevention programs, and monitors smoke free Ohio and other aspects of health required by ODH. These activities include a focus on integrated pest management, website information and telephone information line for WNV. Baits are provided at no cost for raccoon rabies prevention. ODH provides a subsidy for the smoke free Ohio activities. The division also carries out food service, pool and nuisance inspections and food service licensing. It also investigates complaints from residents and other city departments and performs inspections for black mold as referred from UH for newborns.

*Plan:* To continue with above activities

**Employee Health:** The department monitors and supports employee health.

*Plan:* The department will continue to monitor, assess, and support employees’ health through annual physicals, pre-employment physicals, injury evaluation, illness complaints, blood tests, medication requests/administration, pre-employment drug screens and blood pressure checks.

**Plan: To continue the above activities and collaborate with Human Resources to promote employee health and thereby reduce costs to the city.**

**Jail Health:** The department monitors and supports jail health. Shaker EMS and both the Health and Nursing directors are involved in these efforts. They are available 24/7 for medical assessment and evaluation to ensure the health of jail inmates. Cost savings from the efforts to the city are substantial.

Dr. Frank also announced that on April 23, the State Director of Public Health would be visiting Shaker. A presentation will be made for him and a reception will follow.

Ms. Ruffner asked if the use of Blunts (cigarillos) was apparent in the city’s youth. Dr. Frank said it was, and that they were often used to mask the smoking of marijuana (by stuffing them with marijuana). Cigar smoking also leads to increased cigarette smoking. He added that it is irresponsible of cigarette companies to advertise blunts in such a way that allows the understanding of their potential use as marijuana masks.

He also reported that since 2002 (inception of the new prevention program), current and lifetime alcohol use had dropped at the Middle School, as had lifetime marijuana use. At the High School, lifetime and current alcohol use and binge drinking have decreased and are now below the national average. Lifetime use of

cigarettes is down by 38.7 percent; current use is down by 10 percent; and current cigar use is down by 19 percent. High School marijuana use is below the national average.

#### Department Updates

Ms. Quinn reported for Community Life as follows:

The pool is being readied for the summer season.

Preparations for replacement of the ice rink compressor will be done May 21-22.

They will be running preschool camp and other programs this summer.

Pool pass purchases have been trickling in. Postcards were sent out as reminders. The impact of the new Lifetime Fitness Center on Richmond Road is yet to be determined.

The department will be focusing on customer service. Guards will be prepared to respond to questions, review rules, and explain rationales with customers. There is a large pool of guard applicants.

Ms. Blank reported on Communication and Outreach.

Changes to Shaker Life focus on highlight ads on one individual and his/her profession.

They have added credit card payments for advertisers, which boosts payment rates.

There has been an increase in requests by area corporations for Shaker real estate materials for potential hires.

Will have a table at the Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce event.

Email lists are growing for both the mayor's page and the Communications & Outreach notices.

Through a collaborative program with MyCom, 30 Shaker youths will be hired this summer to work throughout the city. Some retailers have made a commitment to hire kids.

Ms. Ruffner adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

*Barbara Gomes Barlow, 321-9032*

### **Shaker Heights Library Board of Trustees**

**April 13, 2010**

**Present:** C. Anderson; J. Allen; D. Hutt; K. McGovern; K. Miller; J. Shatten; D. Whyte, chairman

**Also present:** L. Dickinson, executive director; K. Piskac, financial officer; A. Switzer, deputy director; L. Miller, branch manager

**Special guest:** David Uram, Library Courts Apartment project

Dr. Whyte called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of the March meeting were approved. She then introduced David Uram, who described the Library Courts Apartment project, the final approval for which was granted by the city on March 10. Mr. Uram is the owner, developer and general contractor for PIRHL, the Partnership for Income Restricted Housing Leadership, which is handling the project. The senior housing complex will contain 42 two-bedroom units and four one-bedroom units with monthly rents ranging from \$248 to \$688. A family of two earning at or below \$31,080 will qualify to live there. All appliances are included. The building will also have a fitness center and community room with full kitchen, a computer center, and library. The estimated construction completion date is July 2011.

### **Authorization to Apply for Grant Funding for Green Initiatives**

The Neighborhood Revitalization staff has requested authorization for blanket approval to apply for and accept grants not requiring city matches for green initiatives as they become available. This same authorization was granted in 2009, but none of the submitted requests last year were approved. Then, because of the loss of a staff member, other requests were put on hold.

Ms. Lewis explained that since staff is continually seeking potential funding opportunities and since application deadlines sometimes come up quickly, staff is requesting blanket approval to apply for and accept funds so that NR may respond to opportunities in a timely manner. The goal is to expand the number of highly energy efficient homes in Shaker Heights and to reduce energy costs to residents and the city. Some funded activities might be educational initiatives, rehab incentives, alternative energy projects (e.g., geothermal) and demonstration rehab projects.

The recommendation was passed for blanket approval to apply and accept funds for green projects. It will next go to the Finance Committee and City Council.

### **Renewal of CRA Tax Abatement Program**

Mr. Ziegler presented some background information, explaining that this program was enacted in 2006 to stimulate development of new homes and significant renovations of existing homes in certain areas of the city. However, a sunset provision was included that ended the program in December 2008 in order to allow the city time to analyze the results of the program.

Although the state established a minimum investment amount of \$2,500 for rehabilitation, Shaker Heights's ordinance required a minimum of \$80,000 in investment in existing homes in order to encourage transformative rehabilitations. For new construction to qualify, there had to be a minimum of \$200,000 in construction costs. The length of the tax abatement was for eight years for rehabs and five years for new construction. The maximum amount of abatement available for both new construction projects and rehabilitation was 75 percent of the value of the improvements that qualify under the program. These improvements are determined by the county auditor, who decides what amount of the investment actually increases the value of the home. The included improvements are: increasing the square footage of a dwelling, adding a shower, whole house air-conditioning, and total mechanical updating that lowers the effective age of the dwelling. Not included is remodeling a kitchen or bathroom or installing a new furnace or a new roof. The administrative components of the original program remain in place: creation of a Housing Officer and a Housing Council.

Although approximately six people have called to learn more about the CRA program, there has been only one home that submitted an application and received a limited tax exemption. According to Mr. Ziegler, most people are deterred by the minimum \$80,000 of rehabilitation and what qualifies as eligible improvements. Also, the current economic downturn has slowed construction activity. However, it is expected that developers will come forward now that the city has acquired several lots that can be purchased at a fair or below market price.

Mr. Ziegler recommended to the NR Committee and to Council that the CRA legislation be renewed so that the city may still offer tax incentives in the targeted areas as the economy improves. A new ordinance will be submitted by Council to the Ohio Department of Development for review and approval prior to accepting applications for abatement.

It was stressed that the program criteria would remain the same in terms of the minimum investment required even though smaller required amounts might attract more applicants. Mr. Ziegler repeated that the goal of the program is to spur *quality* rehabs and transformative changes in neighborhoods. He also recommended that in the future (after the county has transitioned to the new county executive and county council), the city should pursue discussions with the county auditor's office on how to include other renovations in order to make the program more enticing to rehabbers and investors.

At that point, a vote was taken on the recommendation to continue the CRA program, and the motion was passed.

Discussion followed regarding the marketing of the program. Ms. Lewis mentioned that the NR Department has the main responsibility for contacting contractors and that the Shaker Heights website contains information on relocation and building in the city. Vickie Blank of the Communications Department will also provide promotional material.

Mayor Leiken asked Ms. White about the state of home purchases in recent months. Ms. White responded that the \$8,000 tax incentive had had a powerful effect on first-time home buying, but it's hard to predict what will happen after the program ends on April 30. A study done in March showed that many people bought homes before their existing homes were sold, which showed confidence in the market.

Ms. Lewis pointed out that the number of single-family home sales was up 19 percent, and days on the market were fewer than in 2007.

No meeting was planned at this time for May.

*Nora Kancelbaum, 283-2562*

**Comments or Questions**

**about this newsletter?**

**Contact Meryl Simon**

**216-932-9252**

**[meryl.dan.simon@gmail.com](mailto:meryl.dan.simon@gmail.com)**

**Finance Committee****April 19, 2010**

Present: Council members Nancy Moore, Rob Zimmerman, James Brady and Earl Williams; citizen members Martin Kolb, Chris Hunter and Patricia Barz

Also present: Mayor Earl Leiken; Jeri Chaikin, CAO; Bill Murray, Thornton Park manager; Kevin Jacobs, Interim Fire Chief; Kamla Lewis, Director of Neighborhood Revitalization; Bill Gruber, Law Department

The meeting commenced at 7:34 a.m. The minutes of the regular meeting of March 15, 2010, were approved.

**Regular Agenda Items:**

- Approved spending \$15,000 (Capital Funds) for electrical installation to address problems with electrical surges, outages and other damage to the compressor system at Thornton Park.
  - Approved a contract with Big Tree, Inc., for \$22,915 for the 2010 Vacant Lot Landscaping project because of Big Tree's extensive experience and strong references. Twenty lots will be landscaped. Funding is provided by the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.
  - Approved an application for and acceptance of \$4,000 in grant funds for EMS equipment and training programs. The funds are from the Ohio Department of Public Safety.
  - Approved an application for and acceptance of \$50,000 of grant funds for the 2010 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
  - Approved a contract with Absolute Interiors, Inc. (the only bidder), for \$39,740 for the 2010 Housing Nuisance Abatement Program for six properties. The city has been doing nuisance abatement for over a decade. The work is paid for the city upfront and then the property owner is billed. The city can put a lien on the property if not paid. Ultimately, the cost can be recovered when the property is sold.
  - Approved an application for and acceptance of grant funds from various local and national foundations for green building initiatives. These are "long-shot" grants mostly tied to the Warrensville/Van Aken/Chagrin Transit Village project. There is no matching grant required.
  - Approved a grant with New World Systems Corp. for \$71,002 for the maintenance of the Police Department's public safety system (a \$1,000,000 system). The city has had some problems with both the approved vendor and with software upgrades. This is not uncommon for police departments throughout the state.
- Added to the Agenda:
- Approved a general contracting services contract with Blossom Homes LLC for the rehab of 17423 Winslow Road. Blossom has submitted the lowest bid and demonstrated the required qualifications to serve as general contractor.
  - Approved a contract with Trend Consulting Inc. for \$78,500 for Information Technology Services for HIDTA for the next year starting 4/1/2010. This is totally funded by the federal government.
  - Approved a three-year contract with LexisNexis for \$29,088 for online legal research by the Law Depart-

ment. Only a few companies provide this service. The Law Department has cut back on updating books for research. There was some discussion about trying to negotiate for lower costs from the vendor and the suggestion that we share costs with another city law department.

-Approved the issuance of \$575,000 of notes to refund the Various Purpose Note Maturity on 5/7/2010. The May 2009 notes were issued to continue financing related to four projects: renovating the former Moreland School building for library purposes, traffic signalization, waterline and street resurfacing, and Lee Rd. construction.

-Approved the issuance of \$2,050,000 of notes for the City's Street Resurfacing Program.

-Approved the amendment of Ordinance No. 09-140 (appropriation of capital funds) to increase 2010 General Street Resurfacing by an additional \$50,000. With the additional funds, ALL streets, including alternate streets, that need resurfacing will be completed. With the poor economy, bids have been low enough to expand the work.

-Approved a Labor Agreement between the City and the AFL-CIO Local 1363, for the Community Life Grounds/Facilities Maintenance Workers for years 2010 through 2011.

#### Discussion Agenda Items:

General Fund 2010 First Quarter Review – Based on the first quarter review, the city “is on course and within its 2010 budget.” However, Mayor Leiken talked about the need to take “extraordinary measures” to address the predicted long-term deficit, stating that the next challenge for the city is to increase revenues.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

*Jeanne Shatten, 371-5585*

### **Shaker Heights City Council**

**April 26, 2010**

**Present:** Mayor Earl Leiken; Council members James Brady, Al Foster, Brian Gleisser, Nancy Moore, Lynn Ruffner, Earl Williams and Rob Zimmerman

**Also present:** Jeri Chaikin, CAO; Margaret Cannon, Law Director; Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning; Robert Baker, Finance Director; D. Scott Lee, Police Chief; Kevin Jacobs, interim Fire Chief; Kamla Lewis, Director of Neighborhood Revitalization; Bill Murray, Thornton Park manager

The mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The minutes of the regular meeting of March 23, 2010, were approved, and Council passed a resolution supporting passage of State Issue 1 for renewal of the Ohio Third Frontier initiative. The issue is on the May 4 ballot.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

The following ordinances were approved unanimously, all on an emergency basis:

A \$43,135 consulting contract with Robert Charles Lesser & Co. of Bethesda, Md., for the drafting of a five-year economic development plan for Shaker Heights that will focus on growth of revenue and of the city's commercial, office and retail sectors. Shaker's Economic Development fund will cover the cost of the contract. Lesser was one of three firms that submitted proposals. All three were interviewed in March. Although Lesser's proposal was about \$10,000 higher than the other two, Lesser was selected because of its wide variety of experience and excellent references. The mayor said that the plan is needed because it has been 10 years since Shaker's Strategic Investment Plan was developed and "times have changed." Because of the recession, the city has had to bring down expenses; now that expenses have been stabilized, the administration wants to work on the revenue side by marketing the city to increase the number of Shaker residents and create an economic development plan to increase business presence and commercial revenue. City officials want Lesser to tell them who the city should be working with, how to market the city, how to work with current businesses, what sites to develop and how to deploy existing real estate assets and limited city resources.

Application for and acceptance of an Emergency Medical Services grant from the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety for training and equipment; the amount of the annual grant is not known, but last year's was \$4,000. ODPS bases the amount on a needs assessment; funds are raised through seat-belt fines. The city is not required to add matching funds.

Authorization of and acceptance of a \$50,000 grant from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant program in collaboration with the members of Eastcom Fire Dispatch (Shaker, Cleveland Heights and University Heights) to upgrade the Zetron Alert system used to verbally dispatch vehicles. Shaker would be the fiduciary agent for the grant; the \$40,000 grant must be matched with a total of \$10,000 from the three cities.

A personal services contract without competitive bidding with New World Systems Corp. for three years starting May 1, 2010, for maintenance of the city's public safety system. This is a renewal of a previous five-year agreement that has expired. It is renewable on a yearly basis; the three-year contract fee totals \$232,557 (\$77,350 the first year; \$84,205 the second and third year).

A one-year agreement with Trend Consulting Services for information technology services for the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in the amount of \$78,000. Trend Consulting has been providing IT services to HIDTA since 2005. Continuation of the contract ensures that there will be no disruption in the "excellent service" the firm has provided.

The participation of the city in a consortium with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District and various East Side municipalities for the purpose of requesting proposals for recycling processing services. The consortium will "maximize our buying power," according to Shaker's Public Works Dept., and could lead to revenue generation similar to that provided by the city's Paper Cooperative, which generates \$22,000 in annual income. Right now the city does not pay for recycling of other items, but it does not make any money either; its current contract ends on Dec. 31, 2010.

A labor agreement between the city and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local 1363, AFL-CIO, which had sought to represent the city's three grounds and facilities maintenance workers in the Community Life Dept. The parties came to an agreement on a two-year (2010-11) contract on March 31; it calls for raises in line with that of other unions representing city employees: no raise this year; 1 percent next year.

Electrical work at Thornton Park at a cost of \$15,000. A previous appropriation of \$500,000 for a new

ice compressor system has wound up costing about \$15,000 less than expected, and Community Life would like to upgrade the electrical system, which has been subject to outages.

The awarding of a \$22,915 contract for vacant lot landscaping to Big Trees, Inc., the second lowest bidder among 12 firms that submitted bids. Tru Green, the lowest bidder by about \$500, did not submit requested reference information and did not have experience with similar projects. The city estimates that about 20 lots will be landscaped this year.

The sale of \$575,000 of notes in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to pay one-year notes coming due in May. The notes cover remaining costs of four projects: the renovation of Moreland School into a library (costs for that are, however, a pass-through of Library bond funds), traffic signalization, waterline work and street resurfacing, and Lee Road construction. The notes will be offered along with those in the next ordinance.

The issuance and sale of \$2,050,000 of notes in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to pay for repaving roads. Mr. Baker said that because of today's low interest rates (just under 1 percent), it makes more financial sense to issue one-year notes than longer-term debt (10-year bond rate is at 3.3 percent).

Because of the low rate, more streets than previously planned can be added to the repair list this year. The streets to be resurfaced include Northwood, Cheshire, Kendall, South Park, Chalfant, Daleford, Dorchester, Avalon, Latimore, Daleford, Morley, Torrington, Eaton, Duffield, Shelly, Wrenford, Helen, Ashley, Hardwick, Westbury, Braemar and Traver.

A \$39,740 contract with Absolute Exteriors, Inc., for the 2010 Nuisance Abatement Program. This is a smaller amount than in previous years, and is with the same company that has received the contract the past four years. Absolute Exteriors was the sole bidder for the project. Houses whose exteriors will be worked on are 17933 Chagrin, 22700 Holmwood, 17026 Kenyon, 3666 Menlo, 3451 Milverton and 3722 Normandy. Costs will be added as debt to each property's tax bill.

A professional consulting services contract with Blossom Homes LLC of Valley View to rehabilitate 17423 Winslow Road in an amount not to exceed 20 percent of the total project budget (\$170,000). Cleveland Restoration Society was to have done this work, but told the city that it was unable to handle it.

Blanket approval for the application for and acceptance of grants for green building initiatives from various sources in 2010. This would involve only grants that do not require matching funds. The city's Neighborhood Revitalization Dept. hopes to find grant-funding for initiatives involving education, rehab incentives, alternate energy projects, etc.

A \$29,088 three-year personal services contract with LexisNexis for online legal research services. Ms. Cannon said that a contract costs less than a time-use agreement and that the city negotiated a better deal than originally offered by the company. The contract also eliminates much of the cost of book and update storage.

A right-of-way license and permit to AT&T Ohio so it can construct a new transmission facility along Milton Road just north of Fairmount.

A right-of-way license and permit to ATC Associates so it can install three underground monitoring wells in the roadway of Winslow Road. Equity Investment Group, which recently bought Shaker Town Center, hired ATC to perform environmental testing at the shopping center. ATC found some gasoline contamination in the soil; it probably stems from a gas tank belonging to Shaker Hardware that was abandoned in about 1983. The wells, to be monitored for about a year, will ensure that the contamination has not spread beyond the property. EIG is doing this work voluntarily, not because

of any regulations, but plans to take care of any problems if they are discovered.

A right-of-way license to Shaker Square Area Development Corp. to place a new business district sign on the north side of Larchmere Boulevard just west of the North Moreland/Kemper intersection.

A conditional use permit for a community garden at 2583 Cheshire Road, a privately owned vacant lot, which will be called the Larchmere Community Garden. The community has a five-year lease with the owner, who is a board member of the community garden.

Improvements to public lands at five locations in the city—this was passed as five different ordinances, but all establish playgrounds or parkland using a total of \$500,000 in Neighborhood Stabilization Funds filtered from the federal government through the county. Four will be completed by the fall: an expansion of Chelton Park; Menlo Tot Lot at 3741 Menlo Road; Ashby Play Lot on Ashby Road; and the walkway between Kenyon Road and the commercial area on the south side of Chagrin. The fifth, an orchard at the corner of Avalon and Kenyon, will take longer to complete and will require more planning.

Public comment on other items: A Douglas Road resident complained about bright street lights and the timing of traffic lights.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

*Marcia Goldberg, 321-1840*

### **Joint meeting: Landmark Commission and Architectural Board of Review**

**April 28, 2010**

Present: Landmark Commission members Brian Cook, Jan Devereaux, Kevin Dreyfuss, Megan Hays, Kathy Hexter and Ron Reed; ABR members Nancy Moore (chair and Council member), Bruce Jackson and Sandra Madison

Also present: Ann Klavora and Dan Feinstein, Planning Department staff

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Minutes of the March 31, 2010, joint meeting of the Landmark Commission and Architectural Board of Review were approved.

Certificate of Appropriateness: 19213 Winslow Road – approved. This property is located in the Winslow Road Historic District. The property owner is St. Dominic Church. Paul Gnuske, contractor, gave a presentation regarding the following proposed changes to the property: (a) convert an unused rear ground floor door to a window. The door is not original, and will be replaced with a previously approved window, which will line up with existing windows on the rear elevation and will be patched and painted to match existing siding; (b) remove the rear wood deck. Siding will be replaced and painted to match existing as necessary. The area underneath the deck will be replaced with pavement for a driveway extension or with a stone patio; (c) install two air conditioner condenser units in place of the deck; (d) install a self-contained HVAC unit in a third floor window. The unit will be flush-mounted with the exterior, will be painted brown to match the siding and will be a permanent installation.

Nancy Moore reviewed the Landmark Commission Design Guidelines. There is a precedent for changing windows to doors and vice versa. The Landmark Commission approved a casement windows to French doors alteration on April 22, 2009, for property at 3076 Kingsley. Mr. Gnuske answered numerous questions from both bodies and satisfied them that all changes would be in accordance with the Landmark Commission's Design Guidelines as well as those of the Architectural Board of Review. Both bodies approved the application for all changes.

Certificate of Appropriateness (as built): 17620 Winslow Road – denied. This property is located in the Winslow Road Historic District. The property owner is Leonardo Morgano. Mr. Morgano was present to discuss his application for review of the as-built conditions. He made the following changes without seeking review and approval by the Architectural Board of Review and the Landmark Commission: (a) existing six-panel door was replaced with a three-panel door that does not replicate the color or design of the original front door; (b) existing shutters were replaced and the size altered on the two first-floor windows; (c) existing painted wood trim was replaced or covered with white vinyl trim. The window casings on the front of the house do not replicate the original window casing design nor are they the same color.

Landmark Commission Design Guidelines were discussed in depth with Mr. Morgano. No precedent cases have been found. Mr. Morgano did not see how this property could be deemed to be historic. Ms. Moore explained to him how Winslow Road came to be historic. After a lengthy discussion and numerous questions from both bodies to Mr. Morgano, his application was denied and he was told that he must put the six-panel door back; change the proportion and length of the front shutters, and have the wood match the front door. The window casings are OK as long as the color is neutral.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

*Joyce Shaw, 921-6820*

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*Heinen's*  
for their  
continued support!**