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Shaker Heights Voter

Sept. – Oct. 2005

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

For corrections, please contact the editor.

NOW ON LINE!
UPDATED WEBSITE!
VISIT: [HTTP://SHAKERLWV.NHLINK.NET](http://SHAKERLWV.NHLINK.NET)

We are very pleased to announce the revitalization of our website! Newly updated with general league information and links, the site also includes the Voter's Guide 2005. We will post current observer reports to provide up to date information on the activities of the governmental bodies we observe. The full text of the Voter will be posted on line after it is mailed to our members. Special thanks go to Kurt Miller and Marcia Goldberg for their invaluable and ongoing assistance with the website. Please contact me if you have any comments, suggestions or interest in working on the website. Anne Williams
annewill@aol.com 751-7911

IMPORTANT DATES DON'T MISS OUT

CANDIDATES NIGHT

Thurs. Oct 27, 2005
Shaker Heights Middle School
7:00 – 10:00 PM

FOURTH FRIDAY OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY OCT 28, 2005
An informal gathering over wine and cheese
Socialize with other members (and bring prospective members)
Anne Williams 2902 Manchester Road
7:00 – 11:00 PM Drop in any time

RECREATION STUDY PROGRESS REPORT

The recreation study committee has spent the last eighteen months exploring the concept of recreation in Shaker Heights and is now readying to present its findings to the general membership.

The committee's work fell, primarily into three categories: looking at recreation in Shaker—its facilities and programs, conducting interviews to gain a historical perspective on Shaker's recreation programs, and looking at recreation programs in other communities to "contrast and compare."

The process of League study, which has been guided by the League publication *The Road From Study to Action: A Guide To Local Program*, will now shift its focus. A consensus meeting will be scheduled in early November. At that meeting, all League members are invited to hear the findings of the study committee and give input to help formulate a recreation advocacy position for the Shaker League. Although it is likely that changes to our advocacy position will be suggested, it is not a requirement of the process. A consensus meeting aims to incorporate *all* opinions, both minority and majority, and assign weight to each. A summary will then be presented to the League's Board. And from that summary, the study committee will finalize a proposed "new" recreation position.

The timeline for upcoming recreation events is as follows:

---October board meeting: presentation of questions to be used at consensus meeting

---early November: consensus meeting (probably scheduled for an evening)

---Nov/Dec: committee finalizes consensus meeting report

---January board meeting: "new" recreation position presented to board

---May annual meeting: membership votes on recreation position

To prepare for the consensus meeting, members may wish to review the current League position on recreation. The easiest way to find the current recreation position is to consult the LWVSH Handbook and Directory A section entitled Local League Programs appears toward the front of the directory.

Please contact any of the committee members with your questions and suggestions. Members of the committee are Patty Clair, Pat Cone, Lisa Fletcher, Cynthia Green, Sarah Hirsch, Kurt Miller, Ellen Roberts, Tina Tallman, and Jennifer Wright.
Patty Roberts, 752-3480
Recreation Study Chair

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING October 10, 2005

Present: E. Benning; D. Bergholz, chair; K. McGovern; E. Parsons; D. Whyte

Absent: M. Karon, T. Schorgl

Also present: L. Dickinson, executive director; I. Pulver, asst. library director; D. Piskac, clerk-treasurer; S. Schiller, manager of Main; L. Miller, manager of Bertram Woods; Kathy Fehrenbach, senior children's librarian; Susan Scheps, youth services supervisor

Chairman Bergholz called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Following the approval of the minutes of September 12, Mr. Piskac presented the financial statements of September 30, pointing out that both the year-to-date revenue (\$4,633,749) and the year-to-date expenses (\$4,155,803) are basically "flat". The financial statements as well as the OPERS amendment dealing with after tax contributions were approved.

Mr. Piskac reported that one week's fines (9/18-9/24), amounting to \$4,105 has been contributed to Louisiana Library Association Disaster Relief.

S. Scheps and K. Fehrenbach presented a detailed view of the Library's services for children, from birth to 12, for teens, programs conducted at the libraries, pre-school outreach, programs for caregivers, inter-generational discussions, as well as the summer reading program (this year: "Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds"), which reached 1,886 children. The program

serves children in three public school districts plus private and parochial schools.

Upon recommendation of Mr. Dickinson, the Board voted to amend the fines structure in line with that of other Clevenet libraries. Beginning January 1, 2006, overdue fines for videos and DVD's will remain \$1 a day, but fines for "everything else" will go from 5 cents to 10 cents a day. The Board also voted to continue the insurance coverage for former director Edrice Ivory (for which she herself pays), for another 11 months until she turns 60.

The Director presented graphs indicating usage of the self-checkouts at the Main Library, which showed Monday to be the biggest day, Sunday the busiest per hour, and the late afternoon the busiest time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Evelyn Krent

991-0802

JOINT COMMUNITY LIFE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE AND CITY PLANNING COMMISSION Thursday, October 6, 2005

Community Life & Health Committee members present: Councilperson Laura Holmes, Chair; Council members: Earl Williams, Jr. and Brian Parker; Citizen members: F. Wright and H. Crowther; Pam Quinn, Community Life Director.

Planning Commission members present: Mayor Judy Rawson, Councilman Brian Parker; Citizen members: D. Bergholz, D. Hartt, and K. Madison.

Other Attendees: Frank Novak, Director of Environmental Health; Jerri Chaikin, Chief Adm. Officer; Councilperson Nancy Moore; R. Zimmerman, Citizen; William Gruber, Asst. Dir. of Law; Dan Feinstein and A. Pylkas, Sr. Planners; Joyce Braverman, Planning Director.

Chairperson Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., stating that the purpose of the joint meeting was to select the consultant for the Thornton Park Master Plan. Planning Director Braverman then summarized the progress to date, beginning with the appropriation by City Council earlier this year of approximately \$1.25 million to create a park plan and to repair and improve the Thornton Park Pool. The goal is to design a new pool that will last for 50 years and serve as the centerpiece of the Park. Also, outdoor amenities are to be suggested and a plan proposed for access, parking and buffering of the park.

An RFP was sent to 29 firms from which six proposals were received and three firms interviewed. The selection committee members, Pam Quinn, Joyce Braverman, and City Engineer Martin Reese, were unanimous in the recommendation to hire the consultant team led by Braun & Steidl Architects, Inc., for

\$157,500. The committee concluded that this team is the most qualified, being well organized and open to determining the correct solution for Shaker. The group has extensive community park/recreation center planning and design experience. For example, the aquatics firm has renovated and designed pools all over the country and has rehabilitated thousands of older pools.

During the discussion that followed, Dr. Holmes stated that the engineering study completed earlier is to be the launching pad for the renovation. There was a unanimous vote to authorize the hiring of the consultant team led by Braun & Steidl.

Two public meetings are to be held. One meeting is to occur after the pool options have been developed. The second will take place to review and comment on park plan proposals. The final phase is engineering.

The joint meeting concluded at 7:30 p.m.

Lucille Mayne 491-9161

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS AND CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, October 6, 2005 Present: J. Braverman-Dir. Planning & Dev.; D. Feinstein-Planner; W. Gruber-Asst. Dir. of Law; J. Rawson, Mayor; Councilman B. Parker; Citizen members D. Bergholz, D. Hartt, and K. Madison.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the first order of business being a public hearing on the request of the owner of a home on Byron Road for a variance to the location and setback requirements for an air conditioning condenser unit. Code requires a minimum of a 25-foot-wide side yard to accommodate such equipment, but the proposal is to locate it in a side yard measuring only 11 ½ feet. Given that the unit would be across from the garage of the neighbor who has no objection to the placement and that there are obstacles to alternative locations, the proposal was approved. Mr. Hartt reminded the applicant that the unit must meet noise ordinance restrictions.

The next item on the agenda was a request for a variance to fence location regulations for a property at the corner of South Park Boulevard and Coventry Road. The proposed 4-foot tall black aluminum ornamental and wood split rail fence would exceed the 3-foot height specified in the Code for a corner side yard and would extend beyond the setback line of the house on the adjacent lot. Given that the fence would be located behind an existing hedge and natural vegetation along the Coventry Road sidewalk, the variance

was granted subject to Planning Staff approval of landscaping.

A variance to fence location regulations by the tenant of a home on Lomond Boulevard was then considered. Proposed is a 6-foot tall open picket fence in the rear yard, extending up the driveway to the side door with a gate across the driveway. There would be approximately five feet to the neighbor's house instead of the required ten, but the neighbor approved of the proposal. The tenant stated his willingness to remove the fence should he vacate the property, and the variance was approved.

The final variance granted was to loading-space regulations, a proposal to eliminate loading-space from the Avalon Station which had been required as part of the site plan review of the project. That space is now needed for building maintenance structures and landscaping. The loading for the building (primarily furniture moving vans) is proposed to utilize the parking lane on Van Aken Blvd. during non-rush hours. The variance was granted.

City Planning Commission (CPC)

The last item on the agenda was a site plan review for a new single-family, four-bedroom home to be located on a now-vacant lot on Westbury Road. The Architectural Review Board has given preliminary approval of the design, which includes a first-floor master bedroom suite and a two-car detached garage. A detailed landscape plan was included, and, after commenting favorably, the CPC approved the site plan.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Lucille Mayne – 491-9161

SHAKER HEIGHTS SCHOOL BOARD

August 9, 2005, Administration Building
Mr. Joseph G. Kubit, Assistant Treasurer, was substituting for the vacationing Mr. Bryan C. Christman, Treasurer.

Members present: S. Kaufman – Pres., F.D. Feeling, M. Johnson, F. Levenson, C. Ribar; M. Freeman – Superintendent

President Kaufman presided.

Minutes of the July 13, 2005, regular meeting and the July 20, 2005 special meeting were unanimously approved. The July 20 minutes included a resolution to increase Mark Freeman's compensation by 3.25% of base salary and of Bryan Christman by 4.25% of base salary, effective July 1, 2005.

The Superintendent's Report

A. Personnel

The report contained various Personnel items including appointments, substitutes, curriculum writing and

instructional planning, supplemental contracts, leaves of absence, changes of rate, tuition reimbursements, and special assignments. They were all unanimously approved.

B. Business

1. The Board unanimously approved an annual agreement for services with the Greater Cleveland RTA that gives students discounts on transportation.

2. The Board unanimously approved the \$33,676 purchase of a 27 passenger school bus that takes fewer riders but uses less fuel. It will be used for short routes and field trips.

Board Policy Approval

The Board also approved the deletion of a tenure policy made obsolete by a State law that requires the possession of a master's degree by the second renewal of a teacher's professional license.

School Climate & High School Priorities

In response to a series of Sun Press articles about inappropriate behavior by students at the High School, Mark Freeman reviewed school guidelines. He noted that the principal of the High School accelerated the schedule of his annual letter to parents/guardians regarding the opening of school, and included behavioral expectations for students along with a copy of the District's Code of Conduct. The Principal's letter outlined the following behavioral priorities for the 2005-2006 school year:

- Students are expected to behave respectfully toward one another and toward all adults in the school.
- No toleration of language in school that would be unacceptable in the workplace.
- Asked parents to stress the importance of dressing appropriately for school to help focus kids on learning, not appearance.
- Cell phones, CD players, MP3 players, and other entertainment devices are to be turned off and out of sight during school hours. Violation of rules will result in taking of device.
- Bad behavior usually occurs outside of class. Teachers and other staff members will be more visible in the hallways during passing times and will more closely monitor common spaces where misbehavior can occur.
- Crowded areas can give rise to behavioral problems and safety issues. For this reason, the internal flow in the building will be examined and adjusted.

In addition to the Principal's letter, Mr. Freeman noted that:

- Installation of video cameras over the past few years have helped identify miscreants and deterred misconduct. He will examine the de-

sirability of adding more video cameras;

- Staff members will continue to focus on professional development work designed to encourage self-directed behavior and reduce disciplinary referrals;
- A heightened adult presence in hallways during passing times will also help ensure appropriate hallway conduct;
- Carefully designed small-group meetings with all students began last year. In these meetings an assistant principal and a counselor reviewed expectations with respect to behavior and academics. Unlike large assemblies, this approach reinforced accountability and gave students opportunities to ask questions. Progress has been shown by discipline data revealing that the High School had significantly fewer incidents in 2004-05 than in the previous year;
- The District is proud of students' academic accomplishments, co-curricular participation, and community involvement. Last year, High School students had outstanding results in academic activities such as the Junior Engineering and Technological Society and Advanced Placement exams, as well as musical competitions, athletics, and other co-curricular activities. The High School recently met the qualifications necessary for an Excellent rating (the highest awarded) from the State of Ohio. This performance indicates that Shaker's teachers and students successfully met the challenge of the difficult new Ohio Graduation Test; and
- Parents and residents are invited to visit the High School to see what is happening. Tour Your Schools Day, on October 10, when all the schools will be open to the community. Visitors are also welcome on other school days if they use the front entrance and check in on arrival.

President Kauffman responded to these remarks by praising the schools, noting that discipline is an ongoing challenge. He observed that it was a complicated issue requiring thoughtful, multi-tiered, reasoned action that balances discipline with respect for the students' freedom of expression. He expressed that the Board expects decisive action by Superintendent Freeman, and that the Board does not condone bad behavior and is relying on Mr. Freeman and the faculty to deal with the problem. Ms. Levenson noted that she would like to see the Superintendent be proactive, not reactive. Responding to a query from the audience, Mr. Freeman said that disciplinary measure run the gamut from a "stern look" to

run the gamut from a “stern look” to expulsion. He noted that the discipline must be tempered by a respect for the “culture of youth.”

Superintendent Freeman’s Statement on the State’s New Budget and its impact on the schools.

Superintendent Freeman’s statement is reprinted here verbatim:

The State of Ohio has once again failed its children. As Bryan Christman points out in his current Treasurer’s Report in [The School Review](#), the State’s new budget has eliminated important sources of revenue for schools without any provision for permanently replacing the funds. The State has cut special education funds, which are already woefully inadequate to support the provision of mandated services. And the State has not rectified, but has actually worsened, the “phantom revenue” problem, resulting in even more revenue losses.

At the Federal level, the story is much the same. The State and Federal governments profess to be providing tax relief and cutting spending. What they don’t acknowledge is that they are merely pushing responsibilities down from the Federal and State levels to local school districts, counties, and municipalities. The State and Federal governments may choose not to fund their mandates, but local school districts may not choose to ignore them.

The end result is this: Despite four Ohio Supreme Court rulings mandating a reduction in schools’ reliance on property taxes, this state budget in fact increases it.

Mr. Christman has projected that the total loss to the Shaker Heights schools will exceed \$4 million annually.

The Board of Education had already announced its intention to seek an operating levy in 2006. That will still be necessary, but I do not believe it is realistic or prudent ask for enough millage to maintain the status quo in light of the state reductions.

Accordingly, we will have to reduce expenses further, a very difficult task since we have over the past several years taken aggressive steps to cut non-instructional spending. There is not much of a margin left.

The only upside to the state budget is that we have enough time, if we start now, to make the necessary adjustments in an orderly way that maintains stability and quality for children. We have already adopted many cost-saving practices and developed processes for identifying further potential savings.

While it is impossible to make reductions of this magnitude without affecting services to children, we will do everything possible to protect our core instructional programs.

At the same time, the Board and senior staff will

continue to be relentless in efforts to change the disastrous course the Ohio General Assembly has set for our state’s public schools.

Mr. Kauffman responded that the Governor and the State legislature have miserably failed kids and that the Federal government is looking away. The District is in a fiscal pressure cooker that will require very prudent management of resources. The Board will work to achieve cost efficiencies in services, goods and staff. It will carefully manage funds and continue to seek sources of non-tax revenue. However, the Federal government must recognize the situation that they created and restore funding. He said that the “situation is intolerable. Families, residents and the school district must all engage in changes.” However, Kauffman noted that the bottom line must be that the core product of an excellent Shaker education must not be compromised. Levenson echoed this thought and said that if school excellence is not maintained then Shaker would be “killing the goose that laid the golden egg.” She noted that “time is on our side and we can adjust in an orderly way. We are not in an emergency state at present and can act prudently and carefully to maintain quality.” A member of the audience suggested making investments in cost avoidance like heating the schools with geo-thermal energy as is being done at the Hannah Perkins Building, or drilling for oil as is being done at Hawken School. The Board expressed lukewarm interest in investigating these avenues.

Treasurer’s Report

Property Taxes:

Real Estate Taxes- actual revenues are \$530,000 below budget for the fiscal year, which primarily consists of the shortfall from the second half of calendar 2004 collections of \$610,000.

Personal Property Taxes-Actual revenues are about \$127,000 below budget.

Total Taxes-Even though real estate and personal property tax collections have fallen below expectations for the year, the homestead and rollback total for the year exceeded the budget by \$438,000, thereby resulting in total property tax collections falling short by only \$219,000 (.36%) of the budgeted property tax revenues of \$60.3 million.

State Sources-State Foundation program receipts are \$599,418 or 4.4% more than those of one year ago, and \$744,000 or 5.5% better than budget. Of this variance, \$632,000 is due to a higher funded ADM count than projected.

Total revenue for the year exceeded the budgeted amount of \$77.3 million by \$671,000, or 0.9%.

Total Expenditures-On a cash basis, total expenses were \$4,072,742 or 5.6% more than the YTD expenditure level for the prior fiscal year. The cash basis budget to actual variance is an unfavorable

budget to actual variance is an unfavorable \$362,484. This variance is a timing difference in payments of expenses, and is offset by the equivalent decrease in outstanding encumbrances. Consequently, as planned, the District successfully lived within its Five-Year Forecast "Spending Caps" budget.

The unencumbered fund balance (cash less encumbrances) at June 30, 2005 was \$11.3 million, for an increase of \$1.2 million over the prior year. The balance is \$0.7 million higher than projected for the year, due to the overall higher than budgeted revenues.

Prescription Drug Consortium Settlement and Improved Discounts:

The District received \$17,900 in settlement of audit results from its pharmacy benefit manager. In addition, the District will benefit from increased discounts on retail and mail order generic drugs.

\$72,500 Tax Valuation Settlement Payment Received:

The District settled a tax valuation case that included a direct payment from the taxpayer of \$72,500. The District received and recorded the payment in the General Fund in June 2005.

CAFS (Medicaid Reimbursement) Program Status:

A settlement was reached in June between the Plaintiffs (including the Shaker District) and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS).

There will be new plans. However, the rates will be less than those currently paid. Accordingly, it is expected that the District's reimbursements under the interim plan will be lower than in prior years.

Statement S Combined Financial Report:

The District filed the required annual report with the Ohio Department of Education, commonly referred to as the "4502 Report". The entire report is on file for public inspection in the Treasurer's office.

School Tax Levy Election Results:

Only 37.3%, or 19 of the 51 Ohio school district funding issues, passed on the August 2nd ballot. None of the Cuyahoga County 4 issues passed.

Annual Financial Audit:

The Auditor of State's office is currently planning, and will soon begin, the annual financial audit.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will take place at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at Lomond Elementary School.

Dora Rose, 378-9457

JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND PUBLIC
WORKS AND SAFETY MEETING
August 22, 2005

Present: J. Rawson, Mayor, J. Chaikin, CAO; M. Cannon, Law Director; Council Members: L. Holmes,

K. Kovach, N. Moore, B. Parker E. Leiken, E. Williams; Public Works members: R. Zimmerman, R. Colburn. Arriving Late: B. Gleisser
Also Present: Directors Braverman, Grodin, Lewis, Chief Barnes, and Chief Ugrinic.

Mayor Rawson called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Council chambers were filled with residents and a TV camera. The agenda reflected a presentation by First Energy before regular business of Council took place. Mr. Leiken began the meeting with an overview of the past 2 years of dialog between the City and the Cleveland Illuminating Company/First Energy. Letters from the City to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) raising issues of underinvestment by First Energy (FE) in infrastructure problems, system performance problems and increasing , extensive problems citizens have experienced which heightened this past summer. Restaurants were closed; a nursing home was evacuated, posing health problems in Shaker Heights. Mr. Leiken noted that these issues rest on the lack of investment in the system by FE. Mr. Leiken invited Chuck Jones, Sr. VP of FE to describe how FE would address these issues. Mr. Jones described the service FE provides in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, noting that the Shaker electric grid originates at a substation in Northfield, Ohio. He described the outages in Shaker Heights with a graphic representation of each household with the frequency and hours without service. All neighborhoods experience a problem with the greatest concentration of problems in Fernway, Thornton, Lomond, Mercer and a heavy concentration in Malvern. Mr. Jones commented that the facilities in Shaker have not been reconstructed since the 1950's and outlined a plan by FE to replace the #6 copper wire with a braided aluminum wire with a steel core which is more rigid. The implementation plan began in May 2005 and FE will continue through the poor service areas until the entire city wiring has been changed. The work is in the rear yards and will progress to the street poles. This will strengthen the mechanical system to prevent outage and power stoppage in the city. First Energy will also change response time and plans to open a 'swift response' center in Shaker, possible at Zalud, on Chagrin Road. They hope to complete the project as "quickly as physically possible over the next several years." There is also a plan to re-route electric feed from other directions if an area in close proximity is affected. Mr. Gleisser asked that the plan for replacement and a current report on upgrade be listed on the City website. Dr. Holmes asked if FE would reimburse business for lost supplies. Mr. Jones would entertain business reimbursement if the loss was secondary to neglect by FE.

He also stated the upgrade plan has been budgeted and planned for in subsequent years. Mr. Jones stated it is in this year and subsequent year's budget plan in FE. Mr. Zimmerman remarked that non-storm outages seemed to drive FE's responses. Mr. Jones responded that \$130 million has been earmarked to address this system-wide problem with priority given to inferior areas. The money will continue in subsequent years. Mayor Rawson read a letter from Alan Schriber, Chairman of PUCO. Mr. Schriber's letter is posted on: www.shakeronline.com, in which he describes his review of the proposed changes FE intends to complete in Shaker.

The public was invited to question Mr. Jones, observing their discontent with current service, response time and poor communication by FE. One resident asked that negligence charges be filed against FE. Another asked that more personnel be marshaled for the project in Shaker. Another resident suggested the City and residents place their bills in escrow accounts until the problems are solved. Mr. Jones remarked that PUCO governs rules regarding payment and could not comment. Mr. Leiken summarized concerns and noted that the city should wait and see the results of FE's efforts. He sees this as a beginning of the end. The FE contact number was given for those experiencing power outages. The joint meeting of Council and Safety/Public Works adjourned at 8:20pm. The regular Council meeting began at 8:30 pm with all Council members and Mayor present. Minutes were approved from the July 25, 2005 meeting. No one from the public commented on agenda items.

An ordinance was passed and enacted as an emergency to terminate the development agreement between the city and Rysar properties and require Rysar to deed back a lot on Lindholm to the City. Rysar and the city entered into an agreement in July, 2003 construct infill housing in 2 phases. Rysar has completed 2 homes on 3 conveyed lots instead of 7. One of the completed homes has sold. The undeveloped home will convey back to the City as per the development agreement. According to a memo to Council from Dir. Lewis, Rysar cannot complete building the remaining homes in a timely manner. City staff from the Law, Neighborhood Revitalization and Building Department recommended termination of the agreement citing lack of timeliness in completion and noting 4 other investors are interested in completing the project and performing infill development on City owned lots. The proposal from the city departments suggested that adding an incentive to perform the best in 2006 to have the opportunity to construct on 6 other infill lots in the future. Mrs. Moore asked for possible disincentives of builders causing poor performance. Mrs. Cannon noted that natural disincentives are dif-

ferent and that better incentives and disincentives (for poor performance) are needed. Dr. Holmes questioned whether this was a failure of the infill housing project and whether the City should engage in infill development until further assessment can be completed. Dir. Lewis responded that the goal was to pull developers in, having more privately owned developers building higher standard homes than 'spec homes.' Mayor Rawson remarked that the standards here are higher. Mr. Gleisser felt the bureaucracy is a structural disincentive. He "wants the process sped up." Mrs. Cannon described a shift in the focus of Rysar. The houses became too expensive for the project. She explained that Rysar suggested it costs too much to build homes in Shaker Heights. Mayor Rawson commented that the City enforced standards and Rysar could not meet those standards. The City will issue new Requests for Proposals (RFP) for infill housing in Fall, 2005 identifying 3 builders to build on 6 empty lots in 2006.

An ordinance was passed authorizing the City to join the Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office (as Founding Members) in an effort to work with 14-First Suburb Development Council communities in joint procurement of goods/services and road improvements. Savings for founding members could be an annual 8-10% savings in capital budgets. Dr. Holmes suggested that health care costs be included as shared expenses. The Pilot Project Executive Summary and by-Laws were available for review.

An ordinance was passed to assess costs of removing nuisances (lawn mowing) from properties in imminent danger of foreclosure. The \$7,000 will be assessed before ownership of the properties change. There were 39 properties identified with costs per property ranging from \$105- \$820.

An ordinance was passed to appropriate \$26,630 to purchase MARC radio equipment and two-year subscription service. A grant was awarded to the City through Ohio Department of Public Safety division. An ordinance was passed appropriating monies for training courses for 'Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness.' An ordinance also passed to allocate \$400,000 in additional street program funding. The change reduces the amount allocated for resurfacing Ludlow Road and reduces the amount allocated for "unspecified street resurfacing." (The streets have not yet been identified). There is also an increase in allocation for additional streets. According to a city memo, both the reduction and increase are based upon results of actual bids for the projects.

Liquor Permits were renewed by Chandler and Rudd and The Italian Café. Both properties were approved after correction of violations/problems.

Public comment was directed toward problem with

lawn maintenance/mowing. A resident questioned whether an electromagnetic pulse would affect transmitters of the emergency radio system in Shaker Heights. He also questioned what backup system was available if those transistor radios failed.

The meeting adjourned sometime after 9pm.

Helen Sheehan 752-6831

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING September 12, 2005

Present: E. Benning; D. Bergholz, chair; M. Karon; K. McGovern; E. Parsons; D. Whyte
Absent: T. Schorgl

Also present: L. Dickinson, executive director; I. Pulver, asst. director; D. Piskac, clerk-treasurer; S. Schiller, manager of Main; L. Miller, manager of Bertram Woods

Chairman Bergholz called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the Main Library. The minutes of the meeting of June 13 were approved as were the financial statements of June, July, and August. Mr. Piskac pointed out that the departure of Office Max will represent in 2006 a loss of \$11,000 in personal property taxes unless another business takes its place.

The Board voted unanimously to donate all fines for the week of Sept. 18-24 to the Louisiana Library Relief Fund. (It is estimated that this amount will be about \$3600.)

In his Director's Report, Mr. Dickinson described the meetings that occurred over the summer among the independent libraries. The word "consolidation" is no longer used; instead there is discussion about the benefits of various areas of cooperation, much of which occurs already. There is interest in exploring cooperation in the area of maintenance and the possible cost savings that may ensue.

Regarding meeting room use, Mr. Dickinson indicated that the Library has ample time to accommodate requests for space; currently only about one third of the available time is used. According to recent statistics, he added, the Shaker Library is one of the busiest and best supported in the nation. It is among the top 1% in terms of per capita funding and in the top 1% in terms of the portion of the library budget dedicated to purchasing material per capita as well as in the number of materials checked out annually per capita.

Mr. Dickinson will be meeting with both the City and the Schools concerning financial issues. Bids for the new roof were received, and the low bid of \$382,700 (under the original estimate) for a

new REAL slate roof, with the concurrence of the School Board, was approved. The Board also approved the recommended "flexible spending account" plan which will allow employees the option of pre-tax payroll deduction for some insurance premiums, unreimbursed medical expenses, and child/dependent care expenses.

Several gifts totaling \$440 were accepted with appreciation and designated to the appropriate funds.

A resolution of commendation for John Harchar for his twenty years of service was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Evelyn Krent, 991-0802

CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS
TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL

Special Meeting: August 25, 2005,

City Council Chambers

Attendees: Joe Micciulla, County Auditor's Office; Jennifer Kangas, County Auditor's Office; Patrick Campbell, Director of Economic Development; Pat MacNamara; Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning; David Puffer, Shaker Heights Board of Education; Dennis Burnside, citizen member; Earl Williams; and Margaret Cannon, Law Directory.
Greg Flaesgarten, Director of Tax, Office Max.

Meeting was called to order at 8:35am by Mr. Micciulla.

Mr. Micciulla requested last year's minutes approved. Motion passed.

Mr. Campbell reviewed the agenda. There are two items on it: Annual update on Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) – 2 in Shaker; and Review of tax abatement/enterprise zone agreement with Office Max.

TIF Reports

Ms. Braverman reported the following:

Sussex Courts TIF:

Original Property Valuation: \$658,000

Projected TIF Valuation: \$16,000,000

Current Built-Out Property Valuation: \$17,600,000

This project was on-time and within budget. Work is now complete. There are 46 units and only 3 remain to be sold. The TIF proceeds were used for utility, infrastructure, and road and streetscape work. There were additional proceeds that are being used at the Shaker Towne Center TIF project.

Shaker Towne Center TIF

Residential:

Original Valuation: \$2,200,000

Projected TIF Valuation: #35,300,000

Firehouse:

Original Valuation: \$189,740

Projected TIF Valuation: \$5,055,169

Current Built-Out Property Valuation: \$4,841,947

The project is on time for infrastructure improvements to Chagrin Boulevard and improvements to the residential site. The completion of Center Street is delayed. The project is also slightly over budget. Shortages are made up from the Sussex Courts TIF fund.

The project is about one year off schedule for groundbreaking for the residential project due to a variety of issues related to the floodplain and soil issues.

The firehouse project is on-time and within budget.

Mr. Micciulla explained that it takes the State 2 years to process and approve the transfer of funds from one TIF to another.

Mr. Williams moved to continue the TIF projects and finances. Motion passed.

Enterprise Zone Agreement for Office Max:

There is an abatement agreement on real property and personal property with Office Max. The goal of this committee is to recommend to the City of Shaker Heights if the agreement should be continued, amended or terminated.

Mr. Flaesgarten, of Office Max, answered questions regarding the history of Office Max. In 12/03, Boise/Cascade acquired Office Max (and subsequently changed its own name to Office Max). The original abatement agreement was for 475 full-time employees and an increase of 100 people was required in 1995. The announcement for Office Max to relocate to Chicago, IL was made on 8/15/05. On 8/17 Office Max's IT group determined there are 618 full-time and part-time employees.

Examination of the SectionC: Enterprise Zone (EZ) Agreement/Project Status Report documents for 2003 and 2004 prompted questions and comments. There is a decrease of personal property: 2003-\$68,744,000 and 2004-\$26,858,000.

Mr. Campbell was told by Office Max that the decrease was due to a drop in the value of personal property. Further clarification of the decrease was found necessary.

The committee moved and passed the request for the following information: independent verification of all information on the 2003 and 2004 EZ Agreement Status Reports. This would include a list of name, employee number, hours and full-time or part-time status of all Office Max employees.

Mr. Micciulla requested tax returns for the past 5 years.

Mr. Williams moved that Office Max supply the names of the responsible parties preparing the re-

sponse to the above request, be supplied to Ms. Cannon, Law Director.

Motion passed. The preparers of the EZ Agreement Status Reports will also need to be identified and possibly appear at the next meeting of this committee.

Mr. Flaesgarten agreed to contact the committee on 9/2/05 to give a date the information will be supplied.

A motion was made to continue the EZ Agreement temporarily, pending the receipt of the requested information. (60 days) Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35am

Jean Koznarek

**DON'T FORGET
TO VOTE!**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2005
POLLS ARE OPEN
6:30 AM TO
7:30 PM**

IT'S A NEW YEAR

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Call Kathy Jones at 295-0681 if you have any questions or haven't received your renewal form.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN THE LEAGUE?

bring them to:

LWVSH Candidates Night Thur. Oct. 27, 7 - 10 PM

At Shaker Heights Middle School

And

Fourth Friday Open House Friday Oct. 29

Anne Williams 2902 Manchester Road

7 - 11:00 PM drop in any time.

LWV - SH

2902 Manchester Road

Shaker Heights OH 44122