



Tim Kovach

1. Why do you wish to serve on the Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees?:

As a lifelong Cleveland resident and a resident of Ohio City since 2013, I have seen both this city and this neighborhood undergo a considerable amount of change. Fortunately, over the past few years, Ohio City appears to have achieved a more sustainable, positive development trajectory, with new resident moving into the area, businesses and residential developments cropping up regularly, and infrastructure enhancements that seek to reconfigure the balance between drivers and vulnerable road users. By serving on the Ohio City, Inc. Board of Trustees, I hope to play a more active role in this process, particularly now that my family has formally planted our roots in the area by purchasing a home. I believe I can bring a valuable skillset and perspective to this renewal of our neighborhood by ensuring Ohio City, Inc. works to build an area that is fully welcoming and supportive for people of all backgrounds. I aspire to see this become a neighborhood where people feel comfortable walking down safe, well-lit streets teeming with a diverse array of neighbors and visitors every day of the year.

2. Please describe your experience in the areas checked in Part 2. Include any special achievements and/or any experiences that you feel would enhance the organization. :

I have made environmental sustainability and alternative transportation central to my personal and professional life. As an Air Quality Planner with NOACA, I work each day to ensure that Clevelanders have access to clean air and a sustainable, multimodal transportation system. I have volunteered with Bike Cleveland, Clevelanders for Public Transit (CPT), and the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club to foster greater support for and awareness of these issues locally, and I am proud to have helped develop both Bike Cleveland's Active Transportation Vision and CPT's Fair Fares report, which have outlined concrete policies to enhance alternative transportation in Cleveland. In 2016, I brought together Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services, Bike Cleveland, and Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op (OCBC) to create the Cleveland Refugee Bike Project, an effort to provide safe bikes and skills training to refugees. Through ioby and the Cleveland Climate Action Fund, I raised more than \$13,500 to fully fund this project for at least 50 refugee participants. We earned considerable positive media coverage, appearing in The Plain Dealer, Cleveland Scene, Freshwater Cleveland, and WCPN's "Sound of Ideas," among other outlets. I believe my policy experience in transportation and sustainability, along with my fundraising experience and connections within these communities, would be valuable assets for OCI.

3. Describe your involvement in Ohio City neighborhood organizations or Ohio City Incorporated sponsored committees, projects, or block clubs. :

As noted above, I have actively partnered with Bike Cleveland and OCBC, both of which are in Ohio City, to enhance access to active transportation over the past few years. I also worked on the NOACA staff team that reviewed and recommended CMAQ funding for the Lorain Avenue cycle track through. Additionally, my wife and I volunteered at and maintained a plot at Kentucky Garden from 2014-2017.

4. Describe your involvement in non-Ohio City neighborhood

organizations/activities. : As I mentioned in question 2, I am the co-founder of the Cleveland Refugee Bike Project. I have also worked on projects for Bike Cleveland and CPT and served on the Executive Committee, Communication Committee, and Transportation Committee for the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club.