



Approved 6/27/19

**City of Cleveland Heights  
Refuse & Recycling Task Force**

**5/30/19 Meeting Minutes  
Cleveland Heights City Hall – Council Chambers – 6:00 p.m.**

Ms. Constance Johnson greeted the members of the task force and the public, and asked if the task force members had an opportunity to review the minutes from the previous meeting, and if there was a motion to accept the minutes.

[Unknown/Unclear] made a motion to accept the minutes.

[Unknown/Unclear] seconded the motion.

Ms. Johnson asked for all of those in favor and the majority of the group voted yea, and there were not any nays.

Ms. Johnson addressed the group about staying focused on the objective outlined by council, and speaking out of turn.

Ms. Johnson addressed the public assuring them that their concerns will be heard, and asked that they write down any questions that they have during the meeting so they can be voiced during the public comments section.

Ms. Susan Efroymsen brought up the matter of public input, and asked whether it was the responsibility of the task force to hold public meetings, and if so, offered a method that could be employed to educate the public and allow public participants to vote.

Ms. Johnson spoke to the fact that it is her understanding that public meetings would be part of any City Council decision, and that the task force is making a recommendation to council itself.

Mr. John Blackwell said that we basically have three choices, knowing what condition the equipment is in, we can purchase trucks to continue with the current system, we can purchase equipment to perform a more automated system of collection, or we can sub-contract the work.

Mr. Joe Kickel informed the task force that historically Cleveland Heights is a city of meetings, and that typically any decision of that nature would be accompanied by public meetings.

Ms. Kelly Menaker asked about Ms. Diane Bickett's presentation seeking further clarification about some of the dollar figures that Ms. Bickett spoke about.

Mr. Kickel provided some clarification.

Mr. Jordan Davis mentioned that he would like to know more about any funding opportunities that Ms. Bickett might know of.

Ms. Johnson said that Ms. Tanisha Briley might be able to answer some questions about funding as well.

Ms. Carin Miller polled task force members about meeting availability and said that we should have enough members at each meeting for a quorum.

Mr. Davis asked if the task force previously defined how many members need to be present for a quorum.

Ms. Miller said six.

Mr. Blackwell asked about the schedule saying tentative for June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Miller asked who was making the arrangements for the Kimble visit.

Mr. Tony Torres responded that he was, and that he still had not heard back from them.

Ms. Miller asked about whether the task force would still meet if the Kimble Tour is cancelled.

Ms. Johnson said yes, and that the group would know more about the schedule as the date approaches.

Mr. Davis commented about how important it was to visit the Kimble facility, especially since the city has a contract with them.

Ms. Efroymsen echoed Mr. Davis' comments, adding that there might be potential for the city to do more business with them.

Mr. Blackwell commented that he has taken students there for a tour for the past couple of years, and he can't see why there's a problem.

Ms. Johnson commented that she does not believe there's a problem.

Mr. Torres clarified that there's no problem, and that he's just been playing phone tag with Mr. Don Johnson.

Mr. Blackwell commented about how a trip to Twinsburg takes time and that an hour and a half will not be enough.

Ms. Johnson acknowledged that this might take longer than normal, and that members might not be home in time for dinner.

Ms. Hope Wright asked Mr. Blackwell if the facility tour would take 2-3 hours.

Mr. Blackwell offered clarification.

Ms. Johnson informed the group that they were now going to start reviewing the current methods of collection.

Mr. Kickel presented a worksheet for identifying challenges and potential solutions to the current areas of collection, and group members started completing the worksheet identifying what the current collection method is, and what challenges are experienced in each area.

[Task Force Members completed the challenge worksheet. Members discussed Refuse Collection, Recycling, and Yard Waste. Recording from 29:47 – 1:28:15]

Ms. Johnson held the remaining items up for discussion for a meeting at a later date to allow public comments.

[Resident from Dellwood Road] asked if they would be able to attend the Kimble Material Recovery Facility Tour.

Mr. Torres said that he would ask.

[Resident from Crest Road] encouraged the task force members to think big and consider measures that can be done locally, like composting, or making diesel fuel from plastic bags.

[Resident from Crest Road] asked Mr. Torres how many employees are out at a time with injuries.

Mr. Torres said usually two to three per year.

[Resident from Tremont Road] asked what the significance is if Mr. Torres only has two employees injured per year, and how does that actually affect the department.

Ms. Johnson commented that two employees out of small number of employees that Mr. Torres has, and the types of injuries can really have an adverse impact on the operation.

[Resident from Shaker Heights speaking on behalf of her daughter on Oak Road] talked about the culture of recycling and the importance of education including mailings, and signs on garbage cans.

Ms. Johnson thanked the resident for the comments.

[Resident from Fairmount Blvd.] identified himself as legal representative for local 860 representing the workforce, talked about his experience with workforce reductions, and that they will oppose and protest any movements towards privatization.

[Cleveland Heights Resident] identified himself as a representative for the local 860, and is concerned about a possible reduction in the workforce.

Ms. Davida Russell asked if the employees could attend a meeting and present of list of challenges and possible solutions to their job.

Ms. Menaker asked resident who identified himself as a legal representative of the local 860 if the union would have an issue if the city were to switch to an automated system of collection.

[Cleveland Heights Resident] responded that in some instances where an operation has two men collecting garbage, automation reduces the number to one, but in Cleveland Heights' case, since one man is already collecting he did not see it as a problem. He is more concerned about privatizing.

[Resident Question] directed to Mr. Torres about what happens to recycling in the blue bags, who opens the bags, and where does it end up.

Mr. Torres said that the bags go to the Kimble Company in Twinsburg and they are opened and separated there.

[Resident Question] directed to Mr. Blackwell about the magnet at the Kimble facility that can separate plastic and aluminum.

Mr. Blackwell clarified that the magnet separates out steel cans.

Ms. Russell thanked Mr. Torres for the tour of the service garage facility that she and Ms. Wright took the previous week.

Ms. Russell made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Efroymsen seconded the motion.

Ms. Johnson asked for all those in favor; the majority of the group voted yea, and there were not any nays.

Ms. Johnson adjourned the meeting.