



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

**7/25/19 Meeting Minutes
Cleveland Heights City Hall – Council Chambers – 6:00 p.m.**

Ms. Carin Miller called the meeting to order and asked if anyone wanted to approve the minutes from June 27th.

Mr. Jordan Davis made a motion to approve.

Ms. Hope Wright seconded the motion.

Ms. Miller asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to approve the minutes from July 11th.

[Unknown/Unclear] Made a motion to approve

[Unknown/Unclear] Seconded the motion

Mr. John Blackwell commented about how he has been away and is a bit frustrated about how the minutes tend to be vague.

Ms. Collette Clinkscale commented that Mr. Joe Kickel actually does the minutes and maybe we can revisit that when he returns.

Ms. Susan Clement commented that the meetings are recorded.

Ms. Susan Efroymsen asked about the projected budget that the City Manager had presented, and asked if the projected budget included the anticipated increase in recycling costs, and that it is important to keep in mind that these numbers are subject to change.

Ms. Clement commented that we are going to have those costs either way

Ms. Efroymsen responded that she agreed but wanted to note that the combined cost of automation and increased recycling costs could be cost prohibitive.

Ms. Miller said that she didn't think that we were at that point yet.

Ms. Miller asked about the minutes on behalf of Mr. Blackwell.

Mr. Joe Kickel responded that the reason they are summarized is because there is an actual recording on the website.

Mr. Davis asked about the revenues from Kimble, and what the city charges Case Western Reserve University.

Mr. Tony Torres responded that they pay us about \$45/ton for refuse and nothing for recycling.

Mr. Davis presented his draft glossary of terms.

Ms. Miller thanked Mr. Davis.

Ms. Miller brought up the meeting schedule.

Ms. Cathi Lehn suggested that a meeting be set aside to discuss education.

Mr. Davis said that he thought that it would be a good final meeting.

Mr. Kickel brought up the schedule and trying to identify some target goals.

Ms. Miller asked for clarification about the task force recommendation.

Ms. Clinkscale commented that she would expect that it would be a detailed recommendation.

Mr. Davis asked how detailed.

Ms. Clinkscale talked about the funding for the recommendation.

Mr. Kickel discussed the lack of revenue to fund additional capital improvements.

Mr. Blackwell brought up meeting frequency and the possibility of increasing it.

Ms. Miller brought up the need for two more possible meetings.

Mr. Kickel discussed proposed meeting topics with the schedule.

Ms. Clinkscale brought up whether or not the task force should engage the residents.

Ms. Wright brought up moving the education meeting up in the schedule before the final recommendation.

Mr. Davis asked for clarification about moving the meeting.

Mr. Davis asked to change the wording to education and compliance.

Ms. Miller moved the meeting to the challenges and solutions worksheets.

Mr. Torres talked about the containers (dumpsters) that the city services. 52 for commercial, and 75 for apartments.

Ms. Wright asked about how many apartments.

Mr. Torres said that the city services 120 out of 211 apartments and the others place their bags on the tree lawn.

Mr. Kickel asked Mr. Torres to point out some of the challenges.

Mr. Torres said that equipment is the biggest challenge, and employees getting injured.

Ms. Clinkscale brought up large apartment buildings, and how the city services some buildings with upwards of 20 suites, and how the city should set guidelines for apartment buildings.

Ms. Clinkscale said that if an apartment owner cancels pick-up for a building, the owner has to show proof of being under contract with a private hauler.

Ms. Lehn asked for clarification about recycling dumpsters and where they're placed.

Ms. Clinkscale brought up a complaint that she has received from the Noble Road area about residents placing their private garbage in city cans.

Ms. Lehn asked about the placement of city cans.

Mr. Kickel added that apartments that set their trash on the tree lawn are unsightly.

Ms. Clement asked how city trash cans would be emptied with automation.

Ms. Torres said the same.

Mr. Kickel said that servicing apartment buildings is one of the biggest challenges.

Ms. Clinkscale said it's usually buildings of four units or less.

Ms. Clinkscale said bulk collection of apartments is a problem.

Ms. Davida Russell asked if the city is collecting bulk for apartments.

Mr. Torres said yes, if they are paying landfill fees.

Mr. Davis asked if the city bills for buildings that set out bulk who are not paying.

Mr. Torres said yes, he notifies housing and they bill them.

Mr. Davis asked how much is actually collected.

Ms. Kelly Menaker asked about apartments with automation especially those with more than four units.

Mr. Torres said we would probably discontinue it.

Mr. Davis said that he would hate to lose the recycling that can be collected from apartment buildings.

Ms. Wright asked if the city can pass an ordinance requiring buildings with more than four units would have to have a private hauler, and be required to recycle.

Mr. Davis was interested in having universal compliance.

Mr. Torres said that he does collect recycling from units that they do not service.

Ms. Clement said that there is a cost though due to the wear and tear it places on our vehicles.

Ms. Miller moved the discussion to the solutions.

Ms. Miller brought up high rate of injuries.

Mr. Kickel said consider moving to automation.

Ms. Clinkscale said automation and training.

Ms. Efroymsen said that there will probably be a lot of repeat solutions.

Ms. Miller brought up environmental.

Ms. Menaker said I think we were talking about runoff.

Ms. Miller said yes, including loose trash, and commented that carts would be the solution.

Ms. Clinkscale said education and carts.

Ms. Miller said age of the fleet.

Ms. Wright said new trucks.

Ms. Efroymsen said new trucks or automation.

Mr. Davis commented about the maintenance costs for public works, and asked about the two front loaders that could be retrofitted for automation.

Mr. Torres commented about another truck that they put \$70,000 into last year that could also be retrofitted, but noted that you still need to have back-up vehicles.

Mr. Davis said upgrading the fleet not only new trucks.

Ms. Clinkscale said that we would still need to have some back-up vehicles.

Ms. Clinkscale said that we can't take vehicles out of service right now due to the lack of operational vehicles.

Ms. Russell asked if Mr. Torres has dedicated men for servicing vehicles.

Ms. Clinkscale said that we have a vehicle maintenance department.

Ms. Miller asked are we comfortable with upgrade trucks as needed including replacing trucks.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if we replace everything now are we going to have the same issue in ten years.

Mr. Torres agreed.

Ms. Clinkscale said you would buy them all now and put a replacement schedule in place to start replacing at different intervals.

Ms. Wright said with proper maintenance and a proper crew it would be easier to do over a longer period of time.

Mr. Kickel said with some source of dedicated revenue, you can start to put together a capital replacement plan for the refuse trucks.

Ms. Miller brought up early trash put-out.

Mr. Davis said education and compliance.

Ms. Miller said plastic bags for waste.

Ms. Clement said that there is a solution, reduce the use of plastic bags.

Ms. Efroymsen said carts and education.

Ms. Miller said hi rate of wear and tear, we've covered that.

Ms. Miller said vehicles limited to a single use.

Mr. Torres said you'd pretty much use what you have now.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if moving to carts would help or not.

Mr. Torres said that moving to carts would reduce the number of trucks needed.

Mr. Blackwell asked if we move away from plastic bags would you be throwing food in the bins.

Ms. Clement said maybe you could use paper bags.

Ms. Miller said that would seem as a homeowner responsibility.

Ms. Menaker said that she recalls Mr. Beno from Lakewood saying that he wished that they bought more dual purpose trucks.

Mr. Kickel offered some clarification regarding the difference between the two trucks.

Mr. Kickel commented about the plastic bags.

Ms. Efroymsen said that it would be the homeowner's option if we move to carts.

Ms. Miller brought up late stops.

Ms. Miller said education, compliance, and enforcement.

Ms. Miller moved on to recycling and keeping employees on the truck.

Mr. Torres said there's one guy picking up 900 homes a day.

Ms. Miller said automation would solve that.

Ms. Lehn said that there is a challenge with the carts being tipped over.

Ms. Miller brought up plastic bags, and the only solution that she is aware of is utilizing carts.

Mr. Davis said that it should be noted in the challenge column that the sorting facilities will not be accepting bags anymore.

Ms. Miller brought up increased tipping fees.

Mr. Davis said the solution is charging fees, stopping recycling, and educating to improve the quality of material in the recycling stream.

Ms. Efroymsen recommended using the word "suspending" recycling.

Mr. Davis commented that he would want to continue recycling even at a cost.

Mr. Blackwell commented about the amount of recycling plastic in the recycling stream.

Ms. Miller asked to focus on the current challenges.

Ms. Wright commented about drop off areas.

Ms. Efroymsen agreed that you can suspend curbside but switch to drop-off.

Ms. Lehn talked about recycling ambassadors.

Ms. Russell asked Mr. Kickel to note that the carts would be used as a solution to the blue plastic bags.

Ms. Lehn brought up recycling ambassadors who would sort through the recycling before it goes to the transfer station or Kimble.

Ms. Miller commented on some repeat solutions with regards to recycling.

Ms. Efroymsen brought up using stickers and magnets for the educational component, and a hotline.

Ms. Miller brought up the single stream recycling challenge, and that we cannot probably solve that.

Ms. Lehn brought up sorting into multiple streams and then combining it to create a cleaner stream of recycling.

Ms. Efroymsen brought up the idea of the city advocating for some of the desired recycling outcomes.

Mr. Kickel moved to yardwaste

Ms. Wright said that it is all about education.

Ms. Clement asked Mr. Torres who is accepting yard waste that the city generates.

Mr. Torres said that contaminated loads go to the landfill.

Ms. Clement asked about how much is contaminated.

Mr. Torres said about 20 percent.

Ms. Miller said that this is an education problem.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if the claw could pick up loose brush.

Ms. Wright asked if the city has a chipper, and if the city could have a brush chipping day.

Ms. Clement said that Shaker Heights allows residents to place loose brush.

Mr. Torres said that he believes that the Shaker Heights street department picks the brush up with a dump truck and a payloader.

Ms. Miller moved to the public comment portion of the meeting.

Ms. Wolin from Dellwood Road asked about the cost difference between recycling and landfilling and is it true that the cost recycling will be higher than the cost of landfilling.

Ms. Miller said yes that's what we're hearing.

Ms. Budin from Shaker Road brought a recycling magnet from about 15 years ago to ask if there is a more recent magnet.

Ms. Miller said not that she is aware of, but she cuts out the update from the focus magnet and places it on her fridge.

Ms. Efroymsen brought up the idea of distributing a frame that the focus updates can be cut out and placed in.

Mr. Davis brought a sample card from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

[Unknown Resident] commented about the idea of suspending recycling, and possibly having a drop off center.

Ms. Efroymsen talked about possible student volunteers.

Ms. Evans from Crest Road asked about city garbage cans on the sidewalks in business districts.

Ms. Evans asked about picking up behind businesses.

Ms. Miller offered clarification about collecting recycling behind businesses.

Mr. Budin on Shaker Road asked about plastic recycling, and the recycling of number 5 plastic.

Mr. Blackwell offered some clarification about the different plastics.

[Unknown Resident] brought up yogurt containers and how there are certain companies that do want number 5 plastics.

Ms. Miller brought up a program that whole foods had, but they were getting a lot of contamination.

Resident on Bolton road commented about how residents in the community are very passionate about recycling, and who care about recycling.

Mr. Budin on Shaker Road commented about recycling drop-off and that it is a bad idea.

Ms. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Efroymsen commented that she was going to share a letter regarding hazardous waste disposal.

Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Efroymsen seconded the motion.

Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting.

