



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

**8/8/19 Meeting Minutes  
Cleveland Heights City Hall – Council Chambers – 6:00 p.m.**

Ms. Constance Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Ms. Johnson asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the previous meeting.

Ms. Johnson asked if there was a motion to table approval of the 7/25/19 minutes until the next meeting.

Mr. John Blackwell made a motion to table.

Mr. Jordan Davis seconded the motion.

Ms. Johnson asked if there was any old business.

Ms. Johnson thanked Mr. Davis for the glossary of terms, and asked the task force to start to focus on specific issues, and possibly assign individual research for the members.

Ms. Susan Clement talked about how the city of Toledo recycles.

Ms. Cathi Lehn talked about the guidelines for recycling and how they are set by the Material Recovery Facilities, and how regions outside of Cuyahoga County might have different standards, but it probably would not be applicable to Cuyahoga County and the local region.

Mr. Blackwell talked about the market here only wants numbers 1 and 2, and that there are some differences in the materials within the various numbers that can lead to materials not being recycled at all, and possibly down-cycled.

Ms. Lehn commented that the numbers are references to the types of resins and are intended for the recyclers not the consumers, and that's why recycling in Cuyahoga County is limited to the shape of the container.

Ms. Clement commented that she was just curious why other areas in Ohio still use the numbers as guidance for their recycling, and she would hate to see material going to the landfill.

Ms. Lehn commented that probably a great deal of it goes to the landfill.

Ms. Collette Clinkscale commented that she thought that the individual assignments were a good idea, and that she wanted to take some time to compare the budget over multiple years.

Ms. Lehn asked if the scope of the task force includes all types of waste in the waste stream (i.e. e-waste, tires, household hazardous, etc.).

Ms. Johnson said that she did not believe that the task force had to make decisions all the way down to that level.

Ms. Johnson encouraged the task force to utilize technology in finding answers to some of their questions, and to communicate.

Mr. Blackwell commented that he was not present at the meeting where new equipment was discussed and how it would be paid for, and that he believed that it was up to the task force to make a recommendation, and how it can make a recommendation, have all of the options been discussed.

Ms. Johnson said that it was discussed at the budget presentation with the City Manager.

Mr. Blackwell said that he listened to it, but noted that there is section in the scope about public vs. private haulers and how the task force has not touched on the private haulers.

Ms. Johnson commented that she agreed and that the only discussion that she can recall was comments by union representation there as members of the public objecting to any such matters.

Mr. Blackwell agreed and noted that refuse collection should be the responsibility of the populous.

Ms. Kelly Menaker commented that Ms. Diane Bickett from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste district compiles that information, and discussed it when she presented to the task force, and that the typical rate was between \$14.69 and \$18.10 per month.

Ms. Clinkscale said that our current charge is \$11.50 per month (\$3.00 for homestead exemption), but would have to look at what the rate would have to be to cover the costs and any possible adjustments to the future rate.

Mr. Davis commented that when it comes to costs the task force is being charged as a visionary group, and that they should address costs if any ideas or concerns come up, the task force should address them.

Mr. Davis commented that the task force should look at what it wants to do, and then look at how to cover the costs, and not let costs drive its decision making.

Ms. Johnson commented that she was not discounting anything, and that all options will be considered.

Mr. Davis said that the items of privatization and automation are two elephants in the room that need to be addressed, and a group consensus needs to be made in order to proceed with the decision making.

Ms. Susan Efroymsen talked about fees and if any of the costs are shared between the city and homeowner, or would it be expected of the homeowner to pay the full cost.

Ms. Efroymsen also talked about individual communities requiring the residents to contract their own hauling service individually.

Ms. Clinkscale offered clarification about individual haulers and that is mostly in rural areas.

Ms. Johnson suggested that the group should start writing some of the questions down to present when discussing solutions.

Ms. Efroymsen talked about eliminating non-practical solutions early on.

Ms. Johnson agreed, and noted that certain options might eliminate themselves automatically through the analysis process, and confirmed Ms. Clement's idea that items need to be broken down into smaller areas for research and analysis.

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any more questions regarding old business.

Ms. Lehn complemented Mr. Tony Torres for all of the help that he gave her for a presentation that she gave to a local business owner.

Ms. Johnson made a comment about a coworker that gave her a bottle of water, and as she entered into city hall she noticed that there were no recycle bins.

Mr. Blackwell said that we have to stop using plastic bottles.

Ms. Johnson moved the meeting to the solutions worksheet.

Mr. Joe Kickel brought up the idea of building a decision making flow chart to map out the decision making process.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if correspondence via email would be considered a violation of Ohio Sunshine Laws.

Mr. Kickel said that any conversations can be published on the website.

Ms. Johnson said that she is suggesting that people share information via email, but not make any decisions via email.

Ms. Johnson asked where the task force left off with the solutions worksheet.

Mr. Kickel said that the group left off on yard waste, and that education and compliance was a major solution.

Mr. Davis asked about one of the challenges.

Mr. Kickel said that Ms. Efroymsen had identified a challenge with placing yard waste material out (i.e. bundling and tying, cutting, etc.).

Ms. Efroymsen commented about a storm coming through and not having a teenage son to cut and bundle the material.

Mr. Kickel said that storms are usually a unique situation where the Forestry Department and Street Maintenance Department will drive through the city and pick-up large branches on the tree lawn.

Ms. Hope Wright commented that the issue is not tying bundles but it's about people putting material that is not appropriate in the kraft bags.

Mr. Kickel commented that the city did publish a graphic in one of the bi-weekly newsletters in past years.

Ms. Wright commented that it needs to be reinforced throughout the season.

Ms. Johnson asked for ideas on how to accomplish it.

Ms. Wright said that public outreach and volunteers are necessary.

Ms. Wright commented about when the city made the switch to Cleveland Water there were public meetings with information about the process, and this should be necessary for refuse and recycling.

Ms. Efroymsen commented that she thinks education needs to be addressed from different angles of approach.

Ms. Efroymsen suggested some sort of recycling poster similar to minimum wage or bwc postings for apartment buildings.

Ms. Wright commented about making recycling mandatory in apartments.

Ms. Wright suggested a mandatory sticker that realtors can put into cabinets.

Ms. Johnson suggested that the group was getting off topic and that a whole meeting should be dedicated to education.

Mr. Davis commented that the group was behind on the agenda.

Mr. Davis asked if there is a solution to high rate of injuries with yard waste.

Mr. Kickel commented that education and enforcement would reduce it due to overweight bags being placed out.

Ms. Clinkscale commented that training as well would be a solution.

Mr. Davis asked if there was an equipment aspect to the injuries.

Ms. Johnson commented that if she recalls it was about people improperly placing material and even putting chemicals on the trash to deter rodents and the operators getting injured by lifting or getting splashed by hazardous materials.

Mr. Kickel commented that the biggest issue seems to be education and compliance due to contamination of the recycling stream.

Mr. Blackwell asked what leads to the most injuries.

Mr. Torres said that the weight of the bags is the biggest, but often times operators step out of the truck into a hole in the tree lawn and often times twist or injure their ankles.

Mr. Kickel asked what the job description for an operator lists the lifting limit at.

Mr. Torres said that he believes that it is 90 pounds.

Mr. Blackwell asked if they can limit the weight of the bag.

Mr. Kickel commented that often times the operator may be lifting multiple bags and usually grabs a bag that is overweight but does not realize it until it's too late.

Ms. Efroymsen commented that if the type of material that can be placed in a bag is limited then wouldn't the weight automatically be limited.

Ms. Wright asked if the operator will collect the bag if it is not folded down, example a bag filled with sticks.

Ms. Johnson asked if this is just a case of residents neglecting the rules, and is there a way to gently direct people to following the required rules.

Mr. Johnson moved the conversation to bulk.

Ms. Efroymsen commented that in her experience bulk is a limited to a single occurrence, and not an everyday thing.

Ms. Clement commented about Toledo and that you had to call ahead and schedule a bulk collection.

Ms. Wright asked about using dumpster bags, and that it should be mandatory.

Mr. Kickel commented that bulk is a problem, and not an occasional thing, and if a there is a move-out then the owner in his opinion should have to hire someone to haul it with either a roll-off container or hauling service, and most cities do not collect bulk.

Mr. Kickel commented that most communities require residents to drop bulk off.

Ms. Wright asked if that was an ordinance issue.

Mr. Kickel said yes we were going to discuss the ordinance.

Ms. Clinkscale that she sees this problem all of the time with landlords and move-outs

Ms. Clinkscale commented about educating the landlords when they renew their occupancy permits.

Ms. Johnson asked about the bags.

Ms. Wright described the dumpster bags and process of purchasing them at Home Depot, and then calling to schedule a pick-up.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if there is a way to distinguish between a resident getting a new couch and placing the old one out for collection which is a favor to the resident versus a move-out which is burdensome to the city.

Ms. Johnson asked if the ordinance should have a weight or size limit.

Ms. Efroymsen commented about the benefit of picking items from the tree-lawn and the benefits for persons being able to reuse items.

Mr. Blackwell asked about how much trash is picked from the tree lawns.

Ms. Menaker asked Mr. Torres about the picture of the move-out that Mr. Kickel pulled up, and asked if the problem is from houses and not from 20 unit plus apartments.

Mr. Torres commented that the pictures were from a rental house that had a move-out, and that they filled the tree-lawn with bulk for two weeks straight.

Ms. Clement asked if it was picked up with no charge.

Mr. Torres commented that he did charge for it.

Ms. Clinkscale said that he sends a bill, but there are issues related to collection on the bills.

Ms. Clinkscale commented that she had inquired with our housing department about the billing, and that this was the second time this year that this had happened.

Ms. Clinkscale said that she looked the property owner up in the county database and the property owner has 12 homes that they own in Cleveland Heights, and imagine this happening 12 times a year.

Ms. Menaker asked how often it occurs where people don't pay

Ms. Clinkscale said that if they don't pay it is assessed to their property tax bill.

Ms. Clement asked how much Mr. Torres charged for the pick-up.

Mr. Torres said \$700

Ms. Wright commented that the property owners should be required to get a dumpster.

Mr. Blackwell asked if there is a way to view the ordinance.

Ms. Johnson moved the meeting to the public comments section.

[Unknown resident] commented about the dumpster bags and how they cost \$30-\$40 and then you call Waste Management once it is filled and they come pick it up the next day and it costs about \$140 to pick it up. Resident also commented about 1-800 GOT JUNK.

[Unknown resident] commented about when he had a rental property he had to apply for an occupancy permit each year, and that the property owner should not be able to renew their occupancy permit until any unpaid refuse fees are paid.

Ms. Clinkscale commented about the occupancy permit and how she liked that idea, for both sewer and unpaid refuse fees.

Ms. Johnson adjourned the meeting.



