



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

**8/22/19 Meeting Minutes
Cleveland Heights City Hall – Council Chambers – 6:00 p.m.**

Ms. Carin Miller notified the task force that Ms. Constance Johnson could not be in attendance.

Ms. Miller called the meeting to order.

Ms. Miller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from July 25th.

Ms. Susan Clement made a motion to approve the minutes.

Ms. Cathi Lehn seconded the motion.

Ms. Miller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 8th.

Ms. Hope Wright made a motion to approve the minutes.

Ms. Kelley Menaker seconded the motion.

Ms. Miller confirmed the meeting dates for September 5th, and September 19th.

Mr. Jordan Davis asked if the group should add more meeting dates.

Mr. Joe Kickel brought up that Ms. Collette Clinkscale was going to talk about the refuse ordinance as a part of the old business.

Mr. Davis asked for clarification about the refuse fee and the homestead exemption.

Ms. Collette Clinkscale provided clarification about the fee being \$11.50 per month per household, and \$3.00 per month for homestead exemption which is 65 years of age or older or permanently disabled.

Ms. Clinkscale said that if a resident is on homestead exemption for their sewer bill they are automatically on the homestead exemption for the landfill fee.

Ms. Clement asked for clarification about the homestead exemption based on the county criteria.

Ms. Clinkscale said that it's based on age and income, and that she believes that the income requirement for Cleveland Heights is \$32,000 per household per year.

Ms. Clinkscale discussed Cleveland Heights Chapter 935 and the fees associated with the collection of bulk items and special pick-ups.

Ms. Clinkscale stressed that both staff and residents need to be trained/educated respectively about the fees, and how she feels that the fees need to be adjusted.

Ms. Miller asked if the city is charging the fees.

Ms. Clinkscale said in most cases no, the regular driver is probably picking it up.

Ms. Clinkscale did confirm that in some instances residents do come in and pay.

Mr. John Blackwell asked how the special collection fees are billed.

Ms. Clinkscale said that the dispatcher notifies the resident, and they typically come into city hall to pay at the cashier window.

Ms. Davida Russell questioned whether residents are paying in advance.

Ms. Clinkscale said yes we do have people who pay in advance.

Ms. Russell asked if the city could have a system where people have to pay in advance and show a receipt to have the items collected.

Ms. Clinkscale said that's what I would like.

Ms. Wright talked about what items need to be called in ahead of time, because people will put items out on the tree lawn and call them in, and someone might come by and pick it up.

Ms. Clinkscale agreed that those are all considerations.

Ms. Lehn recommended an update to the fees, and asked what strash is.

Mr. Tony Torres said that those were the garbage bags the city used to sell.

Ms. Clement asked about how many tons comprised of the pictures that were discussed in the previous meeting.

Mr. Torres said that they would've had to weigh it, but he guessed it was about 2000 lbs.

Ms. Clement confirmed that they were charged more than \$60.

Mr. Torres said yes.

Ms. Clinkscale said that's why she would like to revise the fees.

Ms. Wright asked Mr. Torres if there's a way to require that repeat offenders (i.e. rental units) can be required to have dumpster bags.

Ms. Clinkscale said that she thinks that they should be required to get a dumpster.

Ms. Susan Efroymsen asked if the city could have some sort of escalating fine for large stops that are put out.

Mr. Kickel said that the city should not be in the business of delivering containers, especially with regards to liability for private property.

Ms. Clinkscale asked Mr. Torres what his experience was with that.

Mr. Torres said that the city does not pull onto people's private property for that reason.

Ms. Wright said that most people will not complain if there are strict rules in place.

Ms. Clinkscale commented about the bagsters.

Mr. Torres said that they have had some residents that leave the dumpster bags on the tree lawn, and he has had to remove them.

Mr. Davis commented that billing and enforcement needs to be revised.

Mr. Blackwell asked if Ms. Clinkscale could modify the list of fees per Chapter 935.

Ms. Miller asked if the taskforce needs to revise the fee schedule, or can they just recommend that the fees be revised.

Ms. Efroymsen commented that many residents appreciate the services that the city offers.

Ms. Clinkscale said that she will put together a proposal for the refuse fees.

Mr. Davis commented that a rate increase is already on the table.

Ms. Miller moved the meeting to the solutions worksheet.

Mr. Kickel said that the majority of the last meeting discussed bulk stops.

Mr. Kickel talked about the frequency of bulk collection and the method of bulk collection, and the idea of once a month collection, or drop-off.

Ms. Miller agreed that it should be added to the solutions.

Ms. Efroymsen commented about once a month bulk collection, and what do you do with items the other three weeks.

Mr. Kickel said that you can call for a special pick-up.

Ms. Miller said if you call on a non-scheduled day you would be charged, but if you put it out on the bulk collection week you would not be charged. That's the way she has seen other communities do it.

Ms. Miller suggested a free-cycle option, to bring to a central location to re-use or re-purpose.

Ms. Miller recommended that as an option a couple of times a year.

Ms. Efroymsen said that she has been involved in one of those before and it was called a swap-n-shop.

Ms. Lehn said that there needs to be an enforcement option.

Ms. Wright suggested dropping off stuff in bins at a central location.

Ms. Miller commented that she had seen drop off dumpsters in Hilton Head

Ms. Clinkscale commented that space might be an issue for that.

Mr. Blackwell commented about the policy in Middleton, Wisconsin where he had just visited.

Mr. Kickel commented that most items such as appliances are usually scavenged off of the tree-lawn.

Mr. Blackwell commented about materials that were delivered to the re-use center in Middleton.

Mr. Davis commented about the policy in Middleton is similar to that of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

Ms. Miller commented about the Solid Waste District website, and how it is a valuable resource.

Ms. Clement commented that a central drop-off location would be a good idea.

Mr. Kickel asked if they could move to apartments and container service.

Ms. Wright commented that the group talked about the city not servicing apartments.

Mr. Davis asked if there is a charge.

Mr. Torres said 11.50 per month.

Mr. Kickel suggested restricting service to buildings of 4 units or less.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if the same trucks are the ones servicing apartments.

Mr. Torres said that apartments generate a lot of revenue.

Ms. Clinkscale said that we would have to look at it, because she does not believe that it is worth the cost.

Mr. Davis asked about some of the different container sizes.

Mr. Torres offered clarification about the types of trucks.

Ms. Lehn asked about servicing apartments for recycling.

Mr. Torres said right now we don't charge for recycling, but if costs start to increase for recycling the city will have to start charging a fee.

Mr. Davis asked if the current recycling contract permits changes to the costs for recycling.

Mr. Kickel said that he has not seen the contract.

Mr. Davis asked if the task force could see the contract.

Ms. Clinkscale moved the meeting to the discussion about the refuse budget.

Ms. Clinkscale presented the task force with a 6 year budget performance report.

Ms. Clinkscale described the refuse and recycling budget and the different line items.

Ms. Clinkscale talked about some of the different revenue items.

Ms. Clinkscale talked about some of the different expense items.

Ms. Clinkscale also talked about the materials/tools/supplies for the vehicle maintenance division.

Mr. Davis commented that the numbers were very pertinent to the task force's work.

Ms. Wright commented that a portion of the vehicle maintenance cost increase was a result of the police vehicles coming under the public works vehicle maintenance.

Ms. Miller thanked Ms. Clinkscale.

Ms. Efroymsen asked that if new vehicles were purchased would we expect that the repair costs would decrease.

Ms. Miller moved the meeting to the discussion of private waste hauler contracts.

Mr. Kickel presented a copy of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's contracts and practices worksheet.

Mr. Kickel talked about the new 2019 City of Westlake contract and how they are paying \$80 per ton for recycle processing.

Mr. Kickel said that Cleveland Heights in 2015 the collected 1/5th of the refuse tonnage in recycling.

Mr. Kickel talked about some of the other contracts.

Ms. Miller talked about the remaining meetings and the possibility of specific assignments to research.

Ms. Miller excused herself early and asked Mr. Davis to conclude the meeting.

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

Mr. Davis introduced Ms. Kathy Smachlo who commented on having someone to head up education programs for recycling.

Ms. Smachlo commented on possible recycling ambassadors or employees at recycling drop off centers keeping the stream of materials clean.

[Unknown Resident] commented about a possible supplemental report with task force recommendations other than those that the task force has been charged with.

Mr. Davis talked about the meeting schedule and the remaining agenda items.

Mr. Davis commented that he does not believe that the task force has enough meetings to achieve their goal.

Mr. Blackwell suggested the option of adding additional meetings on a weekly basis perhaps.

Mr. Davis asked what the general consensus was.

Ms. Efroymsen suggested that Labor Day weekend might not be a good weekend.

Mr. Davis suggested adding two more meetings which would leave three meetings for the month of September.

Mr. Davis commented that he believes that the education aspect is important and should be a part of the final meeting.

Ms. Menaker commented that if a private company were to come in, they would handle the educational aspect of any new program.

Ms. Clinkscale suggested that a decision should be made before the group can decide on the educational aspect.

Mr. Davis asked if the group can take a moment to review a draft decision tree.

Mr. Davis commented that he has a lot of questions from each meeting.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if there is a comprehensive list of any questions that the task force has.

Mr. Kickel suggested sending questions to the group email that he sends out and he can make time in the old business portion of the agenda to address questions from the task force members.

Ms. Menaker asked if she can give a thumbs-up for the draft decision tree via email.

Mr. Kickel said that he will send out a revised schedule.

Ms. Clement asked if the city could have a representative from a private hauler community come in to talk about their experience.

Mr. Davis commented that it might require an additional meeting.

Mr. Blackwell asked when the Kimble recycling contract actually expires.

Mr. Davis commented that the task force members should go over the spreadsheet and compare some of the costs for other communities.

Ms. Clinkscale commented on the cost for disposal based on the estimated usage of .93 tons per unit per year.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if someone could extrapolate the cost for Cleveland Heights based on the spreadsheet.

Mr. Davis commented that a price from a hauler would be even better.

Mr. Kickel commented that the hauler would not typically give a price since the service would have to be competitively bid.

Ms. Efroymsen made motion to adjourn.

Ms. Menaker seconded the motion.

Mr. Davis adjourned the meeting.