



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

**10/10/19 Meeting Minutes
Cleveland Heights City Hall – City Council Chambers – 6:00 p.m.**

Ms. Constance Johnson called the meeting to order

Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Miller for preparing the agenda.

Ms. Johnson asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from 9/26/19, and asked if there were no questions could a motion to approve the minutes be presented.

Mr. John Blackwell made a motion to approve the minutes.

Ms. Kelly Menaker seconded the motion.

Ms. Johnson asked if anyone opposed.

Ms. Johnson asked if the two trucks that were not operational were on the list for replacement.

Mr. Joe Kickel pulled up the list of trucks, and commented that they were two of the “Evo” trucks.

Mr. Kickel described the vehicles that were scheduled to be replaced based on the age and estimated useful life.

Ms. Johnson asked about trucks that were purchased from other municipalities.

Ms. Johnson commented about the map presented by Cuyahoga County and how the densely populated cities seem to utilize in house collection.

Ms. Johnson asked for clarification about one city that was previously listed as in house that is now listed as private.

Mr. Kickel said that the list provided by Ms. Diane Bickett was a more updated version of the list.

Mr. Blackwell presented his review of the budget section.

Mr. Kickel commented about Chagrin Falls recycling processing fee and how it is based on market conditions, and he showed the schedule that is used to calculate the recycling fee.

Ms. Collette Clinkscale commented about a meeting that she attended where Kimble had asked the consortium to amend the recycling contract.

Mr. Davis asked if all of the communities' contracts will expire at the same time.

Ms. Clinkscale said yes.

Mr. Davis asked if the schedule and net cost is variable based on market conditions and the level of contamination.

Mr. Kickel said yes, I believe it's mostly based on the market.

Mr. Blackwell commented that we want to ensure that actual recyclables are going into the recycling stream.

Mr. Davis asked if we clean up our stream, and we increase mixed glass, but it costs money are we going to pay for it.

Mr. Kickel said yes.

Mr. Davis clarified his comment.

Mr. Blackwell commented about the price for recycled plastic versus the price for virgin materials.

Mr. Kickel commented that the city has the ability to bend to the changes in the market.

Mr. Davis asked for clarification about the current budget.

Mr. Kickel explained.

Mr. Davis commented that it is important that our costs are competitive.

Ms. Cathi Lehn commented that current costs and projected costs per household should be included in the recommendation.

Mr. Davis commented that the fee would need to be increased, and were capital costs included in the fee.

Mr. Kickel commented that a general recommendation should be that the city should conduct a fee study.

Ms. Clinkscale commented that a firm that specializes in fee studies would analyze all of that.

Ms. Susan Efroymson commented about the fees and how the city would be playing catch up with the fee.

Mr. Kickel commented that a thorough fee study would include increases.

Ms. Johnson commented that the group is focusing on the fee.

Ms. Efroymson commented that it's important that the city has funds for the future.

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any further questions about finances, and that we'll probably be getting back to it.

Mr. Blackwell suggested that if anyone had any questions that they send them to him.

Ms. Johnson asked Ms. Clinkscale about how many employees are in the public works department.

Ms. Johnson moved the meeting to Mr. Davis' section on recycling.

Mr. Davis discussed his recycling recommendations.

Ms. Johnson commented that she believes the city should continue recycling and education is important.

Mr. Blackwell said that education is important, especially to ensure that we're recycling the right material, desired material.

Ms. Efroymson commented that she is bothered by the word enforcement, and recycling is not mandatory.

Ms. Lehn commented that the group needs to come to a recommendation and then provide the necessary support.

Ms. Johnson provided a clarified recommendation statement.

Ms. Menaker commented that she doesn't believe the city can place a fine structure for people who don't recycle properly, but it should be a recommendation.

Ms. Johnson suggested the word resident accountability.

Mr. Kickel commented about the city of Cleveland having a fine structure but no way to enforce it.

Ms. Efroymson commented about being concerned about being punitive with people who try to recycle, and that it should be a positive thing not a negative thing.

Ms. Johnson agreed.

Ms. Lehn asked if the group should recommend that residents can opt out or opt in to recycling.

Ms. Johnson commented that she doesn't want recycling to be mandated, but would like to find the right language.

Ms. Miller commented that recycling is not mandatory currently, and if people don't want to recycle they shouldn't be forced to do so because it will cause more problems.

Ms. Efroymson was concerned about residents opting in or out and being shamed by neighbors.

Ms. Susan Clement commented that many of these concerns were in her education recommendations.

Mr. Davis said that many people opt out every week by not putting recycling out.

Ms. Johnson asked for some assistance and clarification about wording the recommendation.

Mr. Kickel offered some recommendations.

Ms. Efroymson commented about recycling ambassadors from the highschool.

Mr. Davis suggested some recommended wording that the city should include a cart to every household.

Ms. Efroymson commented that she was in favor of opting out.

Mr. Davis voiced his opinion that about whether or not you could opt out.

Ms. Menaker offered her recommendation.

Ms. Johnson asked if the task force could vote to have a pro-active recycling program.

Mr. Davis asked about education in the recommendation.

Ms. Johnson commented that the task force recommends an active and proactive recycling program.

Ms. Johnson did a role call

Ms. Efroymson yay

Ms. Miller yay

Ms. Clement yay

Mr. Blackwell yay

Ms. Menaker yay

Mr. Davis yay

Ms. Clement yay

Ms. Johnson yay

Ms. Johnson commented that the task force recommends continuing curbside recycling.

Ms. Efroymson yay

Ms. Miller yay

Ms. Lehn yay

Mr. Blackwell yay

Ms. Menaker yay

Mr. Davis yay

Ms. Clement yay

Ms. Johnson yay

Ms. Johnson commented that the task force recommends that the city implement an early education program to encourage the reduction in the use of packaging and the how and what and why of recycling.

Ms. Efroymson yay

Ms. Miller yay

Ms. Lehn yay

Mr. Blackwell yay

Ms. Menaker yay

Mr. Davis yay

Ms. Clement asked for some clarification.

Ms. Johnson explained.

Ms. Clement said yay

Ms. Johnson commented that the task force recommends that the city of Cleveland Heights explore options for increasing resident accountability for recycling.

Ms. Efroymson yay

Ms. Miller asked for clarification.

Ms. Clement said that she likes the work compliance, and explained her reasoning.

Ms. Lehn asked about the education piece, because she had not seen it.

Mr. Kickel commented that he recommends the term successful participation.

Ms. Johnson said that she likes that term.

Ms. Johnson polled Ms. Miller

Ms. Miller yay

Ms. Lehn yay

Mr. Blackwell yay

Ms. Menaker yay

Mr. Davis yay

Ms. Clement yay

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any more questions about recycling.

Ms. Johnson called a brief five minute break.

Ms. Johnson asked Ms. Lehn to discuss her recommendation for apartments and commercial service.

Ms. Lehn presented her recommendation for the apartments and commercial services.

Mr. Davis asked if the city could make money from servicing apartments.

Ms. Clinkscale commented that it is something that could be investigated.

Ms. Miller commented that she thought there was a reason for limiting service to apartments with four units or less.

Ms. Clinkscale said that there's a logistical reason, but she would like to have it studied.

Ms. Miller asked what the task force should recommend.

Mr. Blackwell asked if the city could actually make money servicing apartments or would it cause more problems.

Mr. Davis commented that a recommendation for an analysis into expanding service would be a good recommendation.

Ms. Lehn discussed commercial recycling service, and that the recommendation is to discontinue commercial recycling service.

Mr. Kickel commented that one issue with recycling dumpsters is that they become a dumping ground.

Ms. Lehn asked if the task force was okay with the recommendation to discontinue commercial recycling service.

Mr. Davis commented that he thought the city is trying to reduce material from going to the landfill and encourage recycling.

Ms. Johnson commented about the possibility of incentivizing businesses for recycling.

Ms. Miller said that maybe the city can offer a reduced or competitive rate to that of a private hauler.

Ms. Johnson commented that maybe the recommendation can include language the rate analysis should include the costs for offering commercial recycling services to businesses.

Ms. Miller suggested that the task force recommends that the city discontinue commercial recycling service free of charge.

Mr. Davis said that he can't vote for that.

Ms. Miller said if the city is charging residents why wouldn't they charge the businesses.

Mr. Blackwell said that he is worried about discouraging businesses.

Ms. Johnson asked if the businesses could partner with the city.

Mr. Davis commented that he would hate to see recyclables going to the landfill.

Ms. Clement commented that she would worry about recycling dumpsters becoming a dumping ground.

Ms. Johnson commented that contamination with recycling is an issue and the city needs to encourage successful participation.

Ms. Lehn commented that businesses might pay more attention to the recycling dumpster if they are paying for it.

Ms. Johnson commented that the task force recommends that the city accept Ms. Lehn's recommendation for apartment service with the additional recommendation that the city explore the feasibility of providing service to larger apartments if it can be done profitably.

Ms. Miller yay

Ms. Lehn yay

Mr. Blackwell yay

Ms. Menaker yay

Mr. Davis yay

Ms. Clement yay

Ms. Johnson yay

Ms. Johnson commented that the task force recommends that the city discontinue commercial recycling service for free, but should explore the possibility of providing this service at a cost.

Ms. Miller suggested the first sentence of Ms. Lehn's recommendation for commercial recycling service with the addition of exploring the possibility of offering the service at a cost.

Mr. Kickel offered some language of recommending discontinue free of charge service to commercial properties and explore the option of offering services at a cost, and what the cost should be.

Ms. Johnson polled the task force.

Ms. Miller yay

Ms. Lehn yay

Mr. Blackwell yay

Ms. Menaker yay

Mr. Davis yay

Ms. Clement nay

Ms. Johnson yay

Ms. Miller commented that the task force needs to discuss meeting options.

Ms. Lehn discussed her recommendation for special collections and that the fee should increase based on the results of the fee study.

Mr. Davis commented that he thought there was a problem with collecting fees.

Ms. Lehn clarified that she was referring to special collections for seniors and those with disabilities.

Ms. Miller commented that Ms. Lehn's recommendation is that there should be no change to special collections other than the fees based on the fee study.

Ms. Clinkscale recommended no changes in service, but the fee should be analyzed.

Ms. Johnson asked if the task force is comfortable with voting for Ms. Lehn's special collection recommendations with the additional recommendation of analyzing the fees.

Ms. Miller yay

Ms. Lehn yay

Mr. Blackwell yay

Ms. Menaker yay

Mr. Davis yay

Ms. Clement yay

Ms. Johnson yay

Ms. Miller brought up ordinances and funding opportunities and whether or not that was assigned to anyone.

Ms. Johnson said that she took that, and that it would be a sort of high level recommendation.

Ms. Miller said the only remaining items are bulk and education.

Ms. Johnson said that she was working on yard waste, and that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Lehn said that she will not be able to attend the next meeting on the 24th of October.

Ms. Johnson said that the task force can address how many additional meetings they'll need at the next meeting.

Ms. Menaker said that she might not be able to attend on the 24th.

Mr. Davis commented that he has received lots of correspondence from residents with recommendations, and that he is going to compile the correspondence into a document that can be added to the recommendation.

Ms. Johnson asked for motion to adjourn.

Ms. Miller made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion.

