



Approved 7/25/19

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

**6/27/19 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.

Ms. Carin Miller made a motion to accept the minutes from May 30<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Susan Clement seconded the motion.

Ms. Johnson thanked Mr. Jordan Davis for his summary from the field visit to the Kimble materials recovery facility.

Ms. Johnson talked about creating a glossary of terms related to refuse and recycling.

Ms. Johnson talked about covering the remaining items from the May 30<sup>th</sup> meeting for the next meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Joe Kickel informed Ms. Johnson that the City Manager will be presenting at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, and Ms. Johnson said that the task force would address those items on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Kelly Menaker asked for clarification about how Kimble is actually affected by the current recycling market.

Mr. Davis provided some clarification.

Ms. Clement asked Mr. Davis if there was a middle person between Kimble and the end user of recycled materials.

Ms. Miller said that they are not recyclers, but only sorting facilities.

Ms. Susan Efroymson asked if there is any significance between the first step and any other steps in between the last step.

Ms. Clement said that she thought there was another step.

Ms. Johnson tried to clarify that these other steps may not really affect the decision that the task force needs to make.

Ms. Menaker asked of Kimble is the only MRF that we could deal with.

Ms. Miller and Mr. Tony Torres offered some other facilities in Northern Ohio.

Ms. Johnson made a statement about the purpose statement of the task force.

Ms. Menaker asked a question about whether the city can privatize some of its services and keep others in house.

Ms. Johnson introduced Mr. Joe Beno, Director of Public Works for the City of Lakewood, Ohio.

Mr. Beno gave a presentation about the City of Lakewood's conversion from back yard collection to curbside automated collection. [Recording from 00:17:15 to 1:03:36]

Ms. Efroymson asked if she could ask a couple of compare and contrast questions to Mr. Torres about special pick-ups, parked cars on the street, and changes to routes if the city were to switch to automation.

Mr. Torres answered Ms. Efroymson's questions.

Ms. Johnson moved the meeting to public questions.

Mr. Dean Sieck from Bolton Road asked Mr. Beno about the refuse and recycling carts, and whether Lakewood noticed an increase in recycling with the use of the carts.

Mr. Beno responded yes, but recycling has changed from what it was five years ago, and often times there are items being placed in the recycling cart that should not be there.

Mr. Allan Wilkinson from Yellowstone Road asked Mr. Beno questions about whether there are any areas with small tree lawns.

Mr. Beno said yes, but there are not that many but they deal with them.

Mr. Wilkinson asked if Mr. Beno has seen any change in how they collect yardwaste.

Mr. Beno said that they changed their process since they used to collect loose, bagged, and canned yardwaste, and now they only collect bags.

Mr. Wilkinson asked if issues of cost related to workers compensation changed with respect to yard waste.

Mr. Beno said that they did see a reduction in the number of injuries.

Mr. Wilkinson asked for recycling does the city of Lakewood use a transparent or translucent can similar to the blue bags.

Mr. Beno said that he has not seen anything like that.

Ms. Sandy Malone from Fenley road asked a question to Mr. Beno their resident education program, the frequency of their education, and do they utilize the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's tool kit.

Mr. Beno said they send a flyer out once a year, and that they utilize the resources from Cuyahoga Recycles, as well as updating the city's website.

Ms. Nikki Evans from Crest Road asked Mr. Beno about yard waste, the policy about tying branches, and does the city of Lakewood get any mulch back for free from the yard waste facilities.

Mr. Beno said no, they do not get any mulch back, and that their tied brush policy was the same as the city of Cleveland Heights. Mr. Beno said that they do have a pile of woodchips from their forestry department available to the residents.

[Unknown Resident] asked a question about yard waste contamination, and the size of the automated collection carts, and is snow an issue.

Mr. Beno said that contamination is not that big of an issue, but they do get some, he also said that in some winter months residents may not put their carts out every week. He said that snow can sometimes be an issue but it's not that bad.

Mr. Mallory Jackson from Rushleigh Road asked how long Lakewood has been using their automated system.

Mr. Beno said they started trash in 2009 and recycling in 2011, 12, and 13

Mr. Jackson asked if there was a reduction in the workforce.

Mr. Beno said there was a reduction, and that typically every time the city changed its collection process there was a reduction. At one time they had 100 workers back in the 50's and when they changed the process there was reduction, and when the city switched from back yard collection to automated collection there was a reduction of 8 workers, some retired, and ultimately 4 employees were laid off, and three returned to work after six months, and one employee did not return.

Mr. Jackson made a statement about he is opposed to reduction of the workforce.

Mr. Stan Budin from Shaker Road asked Mr. Beno and Mr. Torres if the city collects bottles and cans from restaurants and bars.

Mr. Beno said that the restaurants and bars have their own collection service. He said that contamination is usually an issue.

Mr. Torres said that the City services about 50 businesses.

[Unknown Resident] asked about branding the fact that Cleveland Heights recycles for free at local businesses and what would the actual cost be for a business if they had to pay to recycle.

Mr. Beno said that it would be about \$250.

Ms. Efroymson asked Tony about how the staff would change if the city were to switch to automation.

Mr. Torres said that he did not see any reduction to begin with, but some positions might be left vacant through attrition.

Ms. Hope Wright asked about once the contract with Kimble is up, and if there are charges for recycling collection, will the city start charging businesses.

Mr. Torres said that yes we will charge businesses if we have to pay.

Ms. Davida Russell asked how the city of Lakewood can collect refuse and recycling without charging the residents.

Mr. Beno said that it's just how the city structured their budget.

Ms. Johnson thanked all of the residents for attending.

Mr. Davis moved to thank Mr. Beno for his time.

Ms. Johnson agreed.

Ms. Menaker made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Russell seconded the motion.

Ms. Johnson waived the formality of a vote and adjourned the meeting.