

**Mayfield Village Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 22, 2023**

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mayfield Village Community Room.

**Present:** Lorry Nadeau Peter Gall  
Mary Salomon Rosemarie Fabrizio  
Sandy Batcheller Patti Ferris  
Robert Gessner Maureen Washock  
Joanna McNally Monica Syracuse

**Absent:** Bob Haycox Sara Calo  
Mark Granakis Katie Parker  
Marilyn LaRiche-Goldstein

**Also Present:** Jennifer Jurcisek, Council Representative  
Brenda Bodnar, Mayor  
Al Meyers, Council Member  
Peter Batcheller, Resident  
Judy Stroop, Resident  
Diane Wolgamuth, Director of Administration

**Approval of Minutes & Swearing-In of New Member**

Mrs. Nadeau served as the Committee Chair in the absence of Mr. Haycox. Mrs. Nadeau opened the meeting and asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes from April 24, 2023, previously provided for review. There were none and the minutes were approved.

Council Representative Jennifer Jurcisek administered the oath of office to new CAC member, Monica Syracuse. Mrs. Nadeau commented that it was nice to have so many new members on the Committee.

**Recycling Presentation by Carin Miller from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District (CCSWD)**

Mayor Bodnar introduced Carin Miller, an Education Specialist with CCSWD and thanked her for coming to educate us and answer our questions about recycling. Ms. Miller thanked the Committee for the invitation. She advised that her presentation would be in three parts—an overview of CCSWD in the County; an explanation of where the recycled materials go, which helps with understanding why rules about recycling exist; and the recycling rules.

Ms. Miller explained that the CCSWD serves the 59 communities in Cuyahoga County. Annually, 2.3 million tons of trash are processed. About half of that waste can be composted or recycled. She described that there are no landfills located in Cuyahoga County, so all the trash must be transported to other parts of the State. Ms. Mills showed several videos of

people and machinery processing recyclables at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The videos showed loaders scooping materials onto conveyor belts and how infrared beams can identify plastics and aluminum. Magnets are also used to pull metals out of the stream. Ms. Miller explained that the recyclable materials go through many sorting machines and then multiple checks by staff before going into a baler that creates blocks out of the separated recycled materials which can then be purchased. Ms. Miller stated that Ohio is fortunate to have many purchasers of these materials in the state and in neighboring states.

Ms. Miller explained that there are two main factors in determining whether a material is recyclable:

- 1) Do machines exist to sort the material efficiently?
- 2) Is there a market for the material?

Ms. Miller added that when people put the wrong things in the recycling stream, it slows the process and threatens the sustainability of the program. She emphasized “when in doubt, throw it out,” stating that it is better to do that than mess up the recycling process with the wrong items.

Ms. Miller explained that “contamination” includes a number of things: hazardous materials, scrap metals, plastic bags, hoses, ropes, chains, x-mas lights. “These are all things no one wants to buy and can clog and damage the machines used to sort materials.” She added that shredded paper is also a problem and should never go in the recycling bin as it “goes everywhere and sticks to everything.”

Ms. Miller continued with her presentation, explaining that, annually, the CCSWD speaks to all the MRFs to find out what recycling materials they currently accept as, “things can change as they find or lose markets.” She stressed that all recyclables should be EMPTY, CLEAN, DRY AND LOOSE. This essentially means that:

- All visible food residue should be removed;
- Items do not need to be bone-dry but should not have liquid in them;
- Cardboard and paper should be dry;
- Items should never be bagged; and
- Cardboard boxes should be flattened.

Ms. Miller advised that the reason for asking for items to be empty and clean is that, once in bales, the items sit for a while and food residue will make them smelly, attract rats, etc.

Ms. Miller reviewed the following items, explaining which are acceptable and not acceptable for recycling:

- Kimble no longer takes cartons—no milk, juice or broth cartons.
- Aluminum is highly recyclable—aluminum cans, bottles, and cups are all accepted. Aluminum foil and pie plates are not accepted. If someone has a large quantity of such items, they can be taken to a metal scrapyard.
- All steel cans are accepted. They should be empty and rinsed with their lids inside. Labels can remain on the can. No other metals and no aerosol cans of any type are accepted.

- Glass bottles and jars are accepted but the neck should be narrower than the body. Jar lids should be removed but can go in the bin also. No caps should be left on glass bottles as they are generally too small to be recycled.
- Peanut butter-style jars are accepted even though they do not seem narrower at the neck. “The necks actually go in a little and are acceptable.” Disinfectant wipes containers are okay as are large vitamin bottles and plastic coffee containers.
- Spray nozzles and pumps should be removed from bottles. The bottles are recyclable, but the nozzles and pumps are not. This is because they are made from mixed materials which are generally not recyclable. A great example of mixed materials that cannot be recycled are Pringles cans which are made from paper with aluminum foil inside, a metal bottom and a plastic lid.
- No glass drinking glasses, Pyrex containers, measuring cups, etc. are recyclable as they are a different grade of glass.

Mrs. McNally asked if a broken bottle can be recycled. Ms. Miller responded that it could be, as many of the bottles break once inside the truck anyway.

- Mixed papers – glossy paper is okay, windows in envelopes or food boxes are also okay.
- Tape on boxes is acceptable as it gets skimmed off during the recycling process.
- Paper tubes from toilet paper and paper towels are okay, but toilet paper and paper towels are not.
- Paper egg cartons are okay.
- Molded paper fiber used as shipping material is okay.
- Frozen food boxes are okay. This is a recent change as they used to not be accepted due to coating on the box.
- Shredded paper should not be disposed of with recycling. It should be put in a paper bag and dropped off at a paper recycling bin. There are bins available at many churches and at the Metroparks.
- Boxes should be empty and flat and kept dry. Boxes can also be dropped in paper recycling bins.
- Plastic bottles and jugs—the numbers on them do not matter! The number is a resin code and does not mean the item can be recycled. The EPA is currently recommending to the government that the practice of putting numbers on plastics be stopped.
- For example, not all #1 plastics are the same. Water bottles and clam shells are both marked #1, but they are made through a completely different process. Different temperatures change the structure of the plastic. Plastic bottles can be crushed without breaking but clam shells break into shards of plastic when crushed.
- Solo cups, plasticware, clam shells, Styrofoam, pill bottles from a pharmacy--all are not recyclable.
- Pill bottles can be donated with all labels removed at [www.m25m.org/pillbottles](http://www.m25m.org/pillbottles) or [www.upcyclepartsshop.org](http://www.upcyclepartsshop.org).
- Plastic film, bubble wrap, produce bags, plastic grocery bags, etc. can be recycled at most grocery stores. A good test is if the film is stretchy, it can be included. Non-stretchy bags, common in some bakery bags, must go in the trash.

Ms. Miller provided the members with a recycling postcard that lists other items that are not recyclable (a copy is attached to these minutes). She stated that she encourages people to go to the CCSWD website at [www.cuyahogarecycles.org](http://www.cuyahogarecycles.org). At the site, an item can be typed in and information about recycling that item will be provided. She also suggested that people with questions call the CCSWD office, which is staffed daily at 216-443-3749.

Ms. Miller reviewed the following items that need special handling:

- Hazardous household waste should be taken to your local community's roundups. In Mayfield Village, these items are collected at the Service Dept four times a year.
- Latex paint cans should be dried out and disposed of with the trash.
- Needles should be put in a container before disposal in the trash.
- Medications can be dropped off at the Police Department.
- Fluorescent bulbs – compact bulbs can be taken to Home Depot or Lowe's for recycling. The long tubes are tougher to dispose of and a location for disposal must be found. Ms. Miller suggested Batteries Plus in Mayfield Heights as a local retailer that recycles fluorescent tubes and other items (see their website at <https://www.batteriesplus.com/recycling>).

Ms. Miller explained that some items can never be recycled and must go to the landfill, including Styrofoam, hoses, ropes, durable plastics like toys, broken ceramics, and take-out containers and utensils. "This is why we say 'reduce and reuse' before recycling. Consumers need to think about ways to reuse items and really consider their purchases."

Ms. Miller added that composting is a great way to keep materials out of the landfill that cause methane gases when decomposing.

Mrs. Stroop asked about cereal boxes. Ms. Miller responded that the box is recyclable, but the plastic liner is not. Mrs. Stroop asked if labels need to be removed from shipping plastics. Ms. Miller advised that they do not.

Mrs. Washock asked about plastic containers that previously held hazardous materials. Ms. Miller responded that such containers should be put in the trash and not recycled.

Ms. Wolgamuth advised that while preparing for tonight's meeting, she looked on-line to see if clam shell plastics were recyclable anywhere. A site called Earth911 offered that recycling locations for clam shells could be found by zip code. She related that she put in 44143 and the site responded that clam shells were accepted in curbside recycling in Mayfield Village, which is not accurate. Ms. Wolgamuth commented that this kind of misinformation is not helpful as many people already believe that clam shell plastics can be recycled. Ms. Miller agreed that clam shell plastics cannot be recycled anywhere and explained that CCSWD has been trying to get Earth911 to update their website. "The site is not just wrong about Mayfield Village, it is wrong about the entire County. If you look deeper, you will see that it has not been updated since 2014." Ms. Miller stated that the information was likely wrong even in 2014. She added that Earth911 is a national database and CCSWD just recently reached its CEO, hoping to get the information corrected.

Mr. Gall asked about pizza boxes. Ms. Miller responded, if greasy, they go in the trash. If the lid is not greasy, it can be torn off and recycled.

Mayor Bodnar asked about cans with plastic coating. Ms. Miller advised that they are acceptable for recycling.

Ms. Wolgamuth asked if bottles or cans should be crushed prior to disposal. Ms. Miller advised that the recyclers prefer that they not be crushed, but will accept them either way.

Mr. Gessner asked about the Village's trash score. Ms. Miller explained that the Village is entitled to an annual audit, but it has to be requested. "Generally, your trash hauler will tell you if they are having a problem with too much contamination. Many haulers are offering a blended rate and your contamination level can be a factor in pricing." Ms. Wolgamuth added that trash removal costs are based on tonnage. "Years ago, haulers offered a credit for recyclables that would offset the cost for disposing of the trash tonnage. Apparently, that is not being done anymore and they have gone with offering a blended rate." Ms. Miller stated that everything changed in 2018 when China stopped being willing to buy American recyclables. Then COVID hit, further impacting the value of recyclables. She stated that prices are slowly starting to recover. Ms. Wolgamuth pointed out that composting is a great way to keep trash tonnage down as food waste contributes to much of the weight.

Mrs. McNally asked about the possibility of the Village hosting a composting workshop. Ms. Miller stated she does composting presentations, can offer the necessary equipment for purchase, and can also teach people how to DIY a system. She would be happy to come out again to repeat this presentation or host a workshop. Mrs. Nadeau and the Committee members thanked Ms. Miller for an excellent and comprehensive presentation.

### **Council Report and Upcoming Events**

Mrs. Juncisek reported on the following:

- The Animal & Fowl ordinance, reviewed with this Committee, was recently passed by Council.
- Council approved a grant agreement with the County for \$250,000 for permanent restrooms at The Grove.
- Council also approved a grant agreement for additional energy efficiency and ADA upgrades at the Civic Center. This grant is also from the County for \$250,000.
- On May 28 at 1 p.m. is the Memorial Day Celebration at Whitehaven.
- Cruise Night is scheduled for June 10 from 4 to 9 p.m. Volunteers are needed and the sign-up sheet was passed around.

Mr. Gessner stated that he did some research on food trucks and believes the Village could charge daily fees (\$50 to \$100) or monthly fees (\$500 to \$1,000) for food trucks at The Grove. Mrs. Juncisek stated that this subject recently came up at Council. Shane McAviney, the Director of Parks & Recreation, explained that he asks the food trucks to feed the bands, something that is required in most band contracts. He also asks them to donate to the Hudacko Scholarship Fund. He believes that the Village benefits more from doing those things rather than charging the food trucks. Mr. Gessner thanked Mrs. Juncisek for that information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wolgamuth  
Director of Administration

# Recycle Right in Cuyahoga County.

Recycle right in your home by placing only these items in your recycling. Items should be loose – unbagged – in your recycling cart or bin.

## ALUMINUM CUPS



Empty and Rinse. No Straws.

## CANS



Empty and Rinse.

## CARDBOARD



Empty and Flatten Boxes.

## GLASS BOTTLES & JARS



Empty and Rinse.

## PAPER & BOXES



Flatten Boxes.

## PLASTIC BOTTLES & JUGS



Empty and Rinse. Replace Cap.

Some communities accept additional items such as these shown below. Check [CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://CuyahogaRecycles.org) for details.

## CARTONS



## PAPER CUPS



## PLASTIC CUPS



## PLASTIC TUBS



[CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://CuyahogaRecycles.org)

CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT



SCAN HERE

Acceptable curbside items 01/2023

# Leave These Out of Your Recycling

It's important to recycle correctly. Some items don't belong in your recycling cart or bin.

## Other Recycling

Many items can be recycled, reused or donated elsewhere. Here are some examples:



APPLIANCES



CLOTHING & TEXTILES



COMPUTERS & ELECTRONICS



CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS



LIGHT STRINGS



PLASTIC BAGS



PROPANE TANKS



SCRAP METAL



SHREDDED PAPER



TIRES

## Proper Disposal

Some items require special handling for proper disposal.



FLUORESCENT BULBS



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



LATEX PAINT



MEDICATIONS



NEEDLES & SHARPS

## Landfill

Not everything can be recycled. Place these items in the trash.



BROKEN CERAMICS



DURABLE PLASTIC



HOSES & ROPES



STYROFOAM™



TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS & UTENSILS

Learn more. Call (216) 443-3749 or visit [CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://CuyahogaRecycles.org)

