

**Mayfield Village Citizens Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 27, 2021**

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on Monday, September 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

**Present:**

Bob Haycox (Chair)	Sandy Batcheller
Marilyn LaRiche-Goldstein	Jim Thomas
Loretta Williams	Joanna McNally
Rosemarie Fabrizio	Katie Parker

**Absent:**

Mary Singer	Sara Calo
Kay Phillips	Mary Salomon
Lorry Nadeau	Mark Granakis

**Also Present:**

Patsy Mills, Council Representative  
George Williams, Council Representative  
Steve Schutt, Council Alternate  
Scott Sipos, Service Director  
Barbara Prince, Resident  
Mark Arndt, Resident  
Diane Wolgamuth, Director of Administration

**Election of Chair**

Council Member Patsy Mills opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the remainder of 2021 and 2022. Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein nominated Bob Haycox and Rosemarie Fabrizio seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and Mr. Haycox was elected unanimously to be the Chair of the Committee through December 2022.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Haycox welcomed the members back and commented that the Committee had not met for 19 months. He stated that he was grateful to be back in-person and asked the Committee if there were any changes to the meeting minutes from February 24, 2020, previously provided for review. There were none and the minutes were approved.

### **Presentation by Rust Belt Riders (Food Composting Service)**

Mr. Haycox introduced Michael Robinson, a co-founder of Rust Belt Riders. Mr. Robinson thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present their service. He explained that his company makes soil out of food scraps and their sister organization is called Tilth Soil. Mr. Robinson went through his presentation (a copy of which is attached) describing that approximately 40% of food in the U.S. is wasted. When it goes to the landfill and is covered by other trash and soil, it has no access to oxygen, creating methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

When he and his partner started the business in 2014, they recognized that many children go hungry in this country and that people struggle with urban community gardens because they need better soil. They wanted to find ways to fix the problem of food waste. Mr. Robinson described that 43% of food waste comes from residential households, 40% from businesses like grocery stores and restaurants, and 16% from farms. They started hauling food scraps on their bikes (hence the name of the business) and after working with several local business incubators to refine the business model, they now have a composting facility in Independence and a warehouse in Cleveland to house their trucks.

Rust Belt has developed two residential programs to collect food waste:

- 1) Under the **Curbside Residential Program**, a resident is provided with a covered 5-gallon bucket and biodegradable liners. The resident leaves the bucket outside and it is swapped out every week with a fresh bucket and liner. The cost is \$40 per month, but discounts apply as the density of customers in a neighborhood increases. A discount to \$30 per month is also available if paid by the year. A team member is always available to answer questions about what can be composted. Unlike some composting, Rust Belt's process allows them to process meat and dairy as well as compostable plastic products. "If it can go down the garbage disposal, it is good to go in the bucket." A block of 40 participants is needed before Rust Belt can come out to a particular area.
- 2) The **Drop-Off Program** costs \$10 per month to participate. A community location is selected and locked bins are placed there for members to drop off their scraps. Members are provided with buckets and liners and a code to the locked bin so that they can drop off their scraps whenever it is convenient. Rust Belt has a phone app to help members identify what is compostable and provide updated codes to unlock the bins, as needed. A team member is also always available to answer questions under this program. Mr. Robinson stated that parks seem to be good drop off locations and said that over 400 members participate at a drop off location near the Shaker Lakes. A drop off location can be established with 40 participants. Rust Belt's current range is up to approximately 40 minutes from downtown.

Rust Belt is structured as a for-profit as they did not want to have to rely on grant money to sustain the company. They create a value-added product by selling the soil that comes from the compost. The process takes approximately three months and they make soil for organic gardening, landscapers, and also sell it on

their website, in different size bags and local loose delivery. Participants in the programs receive a free bag of soil annually, discounts on soil products, and access to gardening workshops. Rust Belt also donates soil to community gardens in the Cleveland area. They cannot yet afford to pay for the food scraps, but hope to get to that level in the future.

Mrs. McNally asked if they work with the Metroparks and Mr. Robinson advised that they have had conversations but he is unsure of the current status. Discussions are also underway with Heinen's grocery stores. Mrs. McNally suggested local libraries may also be good drop-off locations.

Mr. Robinson concluded his presentation saying that he hoped that Rustbelt Riders would have an opportunity to work with the Village and advised this his colleague, Zoe Apisdorf would be in touch with Ms. Wolgamuth about next steps.

### **Introduction of Service Director Scott Sipos**

Mr. Sipos provided the Committee with his background. He has worked in the Mayfield Village Service Department for 27 years, starting part-time under Gus Amendola. He now also lives in the Village with his wife and children. Beautification of the Village is his passion and will be his focus. He plans to improve upon the foundation he inherited.

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein asked what happened to the Aintree planter and why there are cones there. Mr. Sipos advised that the planter was hit by a truck and damaged. The cones are there to keep people from driving over the island. Replacement of the planter is currently being discussed. Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein commented that it would be better to not replace it as many people in the neighborhood don't like it.

Mrs. McNally asked about mailbox replacement. Mr. Sipos stated that he is currently trying to update many of the Service Dept. policies. If the Village plow truck damages a mailbox, the Village will replace it. The Village will not, however, replace old and worn mailboxes.

Mr. Haycox asked if the Village still has a sidewalk reimbursement program. Mr. Sipos advised that we do and that sidewalk repair is ultimately the responsibility of the homeowner. They discussed that sometimes it is better for neighbors to band together to hire a contractor and get a better price.

### **Council Report**

Mr. Williams stated that when he became a Council representative in 2015, he got many calls about deer. He asked residents to report concerns and asked the Village administration to keep track of accidents and dead deer, but there was never enough to warrant action. This year, the Village did an infrared study of the entire Village. The results showed that we don't have a problem as compared to other communities. The area with the highest concentration of deer is the Worton Park area, but it is still relatively low. Mr. Williams stated that Highland Heights and the Metroparks continue to cull deer and we need to find ways and share ideas to

live with them. Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein stated that she has had success spraying her plants. Mr. Haycox provided information about a service called En Garde Deer Defense (phone 440-447-0022, [egdeerdefense.com](http://egdeerdefense.com)). He has friends who use and recommend this service. They have a half-acre lot and pay \$75 per month for spraying all of their beds. They are very pleased with the service. They had a lot of issues with deer eating their plants but now don't have any problems.

Mrs. Mills commented that the deer culling in the Metroparks doesn't really help the Worton Park neighborhood. Mr. Arndt offered that Home Depot sells coyote urine for \$8 a bottle and it is very effective. It must be reapplied after a rain. Mrs. McNally stated that she feels that chipmunks do more damage than the deer.

Mrs. Mills provided the following report on Council activities during 2021:

- The Village looked into the possibility of establishing a fiber optic program to provide internet to residential neighborhoods and spoke with other cities that have such programs. The result of our research was that the infrastructure cost is in the millions and the Village does not have enough potential commercial customers to offset the installation cost. Therefore, this program is not moving forward at this time.
- Term limits for the Mayor and Council were placed on the ballot as the result of a resident petition. Both measures were defeated by the voters at the March 16, 2021 election.
- Many clean-up ordinances were passed regarding updates to the Building and Fire Codes.
- The employee Wage Ordinance was updated after Scott Sipos became Service Director. He eliminated the Foremen positions and established a crew leader system. Five new full-time employees were hired to fill vacancies in the Department.
- The Village renewed the SRO (School Resource Officer) agreements with the School District to provide police officers at Mayfield High School and Center Elementary.
- Mayor Bodnar presented a Proclamation honoring employees and patrons of Crooked River Crossfit after they saved the life of a patron who had a cardiac arrest while working out there. Lt. Jason Brothers of the MV Fire Department happened to be working out at the time. He and the others utilized the AED that was on site and the patron was revived, alert and speaking when EMS arrived. Mrs. Mills stated that the patron came to the Council meeting and expressed his gratitude to those that saved his life.
- The Village received a grant for reforestation of 3.25 acres of Village-owned land at Bonnieview and Beech Hill. Planting is expected to be completed by June 2022.

- Due to COVID, an extension was given, until November 2023, to the owner of the Georgian Medical Arts Building to start construction of the proposed surgical center.
- An ordinance is on Council's agenda right now to increase parking fines in the Village. Fines have only been increased minimally since the 1970s—the last increase was in 2004.
- Renovations to the Civic Center restrooms and kitchen are currently out to bid. Bids are due on October 1 and Council will decide whether to move forward.
- NOACA is installing electric vehicle charging stations throughout NE Ohio. The Civic Center parking lot will be receiving several, likely in 2022.
- The Police Dept will be utilizing handheld, officer-operated, traffic enforcement devices to try to get control of rush-hour speeding on I-271. Council just approved the Ordinance to establish the program and it should be underway in another 60 days.

Mrs. Mills stated that the photo enforcement program has gotten some reaction from the media. Both Chief Matias and Council President Schutt were interviewed on television and did a great job explaining the program. Mrs. Batcheller commented that she did not like seeing negative comments about the Village, people calling us "money grubbing". She stated that she is happy about the program but doesn't like people criticizing our police. Mrs. Mills responded that the Chief made it clear in the interviews that speeding cars are treacherous for officers and that they only intend to use the cameras on I-271 during rush hour. Mrs. Batcheller suggested that the facts be included in the next VOV. Mrs. Parker asked if Mayfield Heights was also utilizing the cameras and Ms. Wolgamuth advised that it is only the Village at this time.

Mr. Schutt added that the program was proposed in June and was tabled while more information was obtained. Council approved the ordinance in September on an emergency basis. He recently experienced the high speeds of drivers while helping his son change a tire on the highway. He was convinced that this program was needed. Mr. Schutt stated that he feels that any people are still working from home so there are less cars on the road. People know that police are not enforcing speed limits, so they are taking advantage. The police are using this technology to avoid having to chase cars down. The camera takes a picture of your car and the plate and a ticket is mailed to you.

Mrs. Mills continued with her report:

- The summer season at The Grove was fabulous.
- Cruise Night was very successful with many cars participating in the event. It was a beautiful night.
- The Trick or Treat Trail will again be held on Oct 23 from 11:30 am. to 2:30 p.m. At the end of the trail, children get a pumpkin. It is a very nice event.

- Elections are coming up on November 2. George Williams is running unopposed in Ward 4. Mrs. Mills is not running in Ward 2 and Mark Arndt and Steve Jerome are running for that spot. Steve Schutt, Al Meyers and Ron DiNardo are running for the two open At-Large seats.
- There are seven candidates running for the Mayfield School Board.

Mrs. Batcheller described the School Board candidates' night held last week that was sponsored by the Mayfield Area Chamber of Commerce. She attended and said that only 3 candidates showed up and it was very lightly attended as the event was not well publicized. She has spoken to the Chamber and they would be willing to sponsor another night. She asked if they might be able to use a Village facility. Ms. Wolgamuth responded that The Grove or Reserve Hall might be available if there is a group that is organizing the event. Mrs. Batcheller said that there is a lot of controversy regarding masking right now and there is a very vocal group opposed to masks. Critical Race Theory is also becoming an issue and the School District needs new Board members to take the schools through these issues. Dr. Thomas commented that masks are a passing issue and education should be the focus. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that Council Member Jurcisek had mentioned that a group of parents was trying to organize a candidates' night. She will reach out to her to see if there are any updates.

Mrs. Mills continued:

- The Holiday Craft Mart is scheduled for Saturday, November 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Community Room.
- A Salute to Veterans is being planned on November 11. They are going to take a day trip to the Ohio Veterans Memorial Park in Clinton, Ohio and will come back here for lunch.

### **Other Matters**

Mark Arndt introduced himself and stated that he is running for the Ward 2 Council seat.

Mrs. Fabrizio asked about soliciting in the Village and advised that a pest control company has been going door to door. Ms. Wolgamuth stated that the Village has a no-solicitation ordinance and permits must be obtained before going door to door. Residents should call the police if someone comes to their door and does not have a permit. Mrs. Mills added that the Village has no-solicitation stickers that can be placed near your door. Dr. Thomas added that the first thing he does if someone comes to his door is ask if they have been issued a permit.

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein stated that she feels that The Grove has a large budget and the Village should charge a fee to those who attend and are not from here. Mr. Schutt responded that the Village received State grants to build The Grove with the understanding that it would be open to the public. Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein stated that we don't go to Highland Heights or Gates Mills for free concerts, but Committee members pointed out

that free concerts are available and she could. Mrs. Parker stated that fencing and barriers would be needed to charge for concerts. Ms. Wolgamuth pointed out that there are many employees who work in Mayfield Village. As their income tax dollars also fund the concerts at The Grove, the Village does not want to charge those individuals to attend. Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein suggested that residents and employees could be given passes to get in free. Mrs. Mills stated that every community in the area has concerts and does not charge to attend. She recently heard that Beachwood is also looking to build an outdoor venue and they will not likely charge for admission.

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein stated that she was just voicing her complaint and that she has heard it from others, but understood if no one agreed. She added that many times it is so crowded at The Grove that she and her husband leave. Mrs. Parker suggested that changing up the bands would change the crowd and the size of the crowd. Mrs. McNally stated that she thinks hiring more local bands would be good, that sometimes the sound is loud, and that she has never found The Grove to be too crowded.

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein added that she thinks the Musicians Union should be contacted as they will provide and pay for musicians. Mr. Williams suggested that Recreation Director Shane McAviney be invited to a future meeting to discuss these issues. Mrs. Mills advised that the Recreation Board will be meeting in October and Mr. Schutt is on that committee and can bring these concerns to them.

Mr. Williams asked how many of those in attendance would likely participate if there was a Rust Belt Riders drop off location in the Village. Seven members raised their hands. He then asked how many thought it was worth further discussion, and more raised their hands. Mrs. McNally said that she thinks it is a win-win for everyone. Ms. Wolgamuth said she will talk to Heinen's management about working together. If Rust Belt is coming to the Village location anyway, we may be able to set up a drop-off location with less than 40 members, at least starting out.

Mr. Williams advised that on October 11 at 7 p.m. at the Mayfield Library, the Hillcrest Democratic Club is hosting a candidates' night for all candidates on the ballot in Mayfield Heights, Highland Heights, Gates Mills and Mayfield Village. This includes Council, School Board, etc. All those interested are invited to attend.

Mrs. Fabrizio advised that, during Covid, her book club met through Zoom with the Library hosting the meeting. It is a nice service for groups who don't want to meet in person.

There being no further business, Mr. Haycox thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Wolgamuth, Director of Administration

**FEED PEOPLE, NOT LANDFILLS**

# **RUST BELT RIDERS**

An inconvenient story of food waste





**40%**

OF ALL FOOD IN THE U.S.  
IS WASTED

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**#1**

THE SINGLE LARGEST  
COMPONENT OF OUR  
NATIONS LANDFILLS

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a large sports stadium filled with spectators. The football field is visible in the center, with yard lines and the word 'CLEVELAND' painted on it. The stands are packed with people, and various advertisements are visible on the stadium walls. The overall image has a slightly desaturated, greenish-yellow tint.

# DAILY

We could fill Cleveland Browns Stadium  
Every. Single. Day.  
With the amount of food waste we generate in the U.S.



# Food Waste Fix!

the dumbest problem in the world.

- Meal Planning!
- Proper Storage
- Best By / Use By / Enjoy By
- Eating In Season
- Ugly on the Outside
- Pickle & Ferment
- Garden & Grow
- Smoothies and Stocks

# Who wastes all of this?



Households

43%



Businesses

40%



Farms

16%

Customized solutions for any organization type.



RUST BELT RIDERS  
COMMUNITY SUPPORTED COMPOSTING PROGRAM

# DROP-OFF

CONVENIENT COMMUNITY ACCESS

- **\$10 PER MONTH**
- 24/7 ACCESS TO CONVENIENT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS
- DISCOUNTS ON ALL TILTH SOIL PRODUCTS
- ACCESS TO WORKSHOPS + PERKS



RUST BELT RIDERS  
CURBSIDE COMPOSTING SERVICES

# PICK-UP

WEEKLY PICK UP WITH BIN SWAP.

- **\$30.00 PER MONTH**
- WEEKLY TO-YOUR-DOOR FOOD SCRAP COLLECTIONS SERVICES.
- WE PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BIN & KNOW-HOW TO DIVERT ALL HOUSEHOLD FOOD SCRAPS
- DISCOUNTS ON ALL TILTH SOIL PRODUCTS
- ACCESS TO WORKSHOPS & PERKS



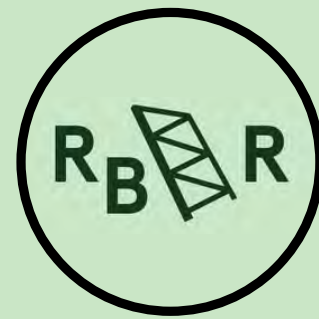
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made from  
food scraps



made in  
Cleveland



made by  
Rust Belt Riders



Best Small Scale  
Composter in U.S. 2020

# How Compost Works.

*a very brief overview*

## Nitrogen

food waste is our source of nitrogen. each pile is comprised of between 30% and 40% nitrogen

## Carbon

wood chips or leaves are our source of carbon. each pile is comprised of between 60% and 70% carbon.

## Air

microbial reproduction is what helps to facilitate decomposition. we want our piles to be aerobic so we turn them at temperature intervals.

## Moisture

we aim to maintain 50% moisture throughout our piles to promote microbial reproduction



# Tilth Soil

## HIGHLIGHTS

According to a 2019 University of Kentucky study comparing over 90 commercially available soils from across the country they concluded:

"Top Performing compost-based commercial organic potting mixes, Vermont Fort Lite, Vermont Fort Vee, and Tilth Sprout."

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# ADVANCING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Feed People, Not Landfills

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