

Questions/Comments from Participants during the Quarterly Meeting 6.17.2020

[A video of the meeting can be found here](#)

- Jason Wood presentation starts at: 00:00
- Questions start at: 23:15
- Kristin Hall presentation starts at: 29:40
- Questions at: 46:12

Questions answered during the meeting with some additional notes (approximate time indicated in [video](#)):

- ***Q: Is there any chance the plastic bag ban will be revisited after COVID-19 is less of a scare / issue?***

A: 24:06

Yes. The City had an internal group taking a look at the right plastic bag solution for the City of Cleveland and an ordinance was introduced. COVID-19 virus upset the whole process. We will have to look at how the world has changed and shifted after this. Either way we have to figure out a way to get single use plastics out of the waste stream as much as possible. We will have to revisit and come back to it and find a solution that works moving forward in an effective way.

ADDED Note: The ordinance as introduced may be found in the [City Record for March 27, 2020](#) on page 45.

- ***Q: I would love to see an increase in incentives and rebate programs about solar energy. Low income access to solar energy is necessary in order to achieve our energy goals.***

A: 25:13

I couldn't agree more that we have to increase access to solar energy for lmi (low to moderate income) residents. We've seen prices come down on solar and installations. I think as a community we recognize the benefits that it can do from large scale to community solar to site specific solar installations. We need to dedicate time and energy to identify mechanisms that will help close the gap on the funding issues that go along with on-site specific solar installations for lmi residents. It is premature to talk about anything specific solutions but it is on the agenda.

- ***Q: What was the bullet point about employee wages on the scooter slide referencing?***

A:26:12

We look at the wages that go along with it. In terms of the calculation of what we see from the local vendor contribution to the wages.

- ***Q: How many electric vehicle chargers currently exist in Cleveland?***

A: 26:43

Two questions there. The broader built in the city for capacity for the public setting. We are first looking at chargers that are specific to our fleet. Then broaden that discussion out to publicly available chargers. I think we have 3 locations now that have electric vehicle chargers to support City fleet and that will grow as we add more as we add more vehicles to the fleet.

- ***Q: Re: tree planting. How do we get the attention of those in charge of the tree canopy program in order to have our community considered for plantings?***

A: 27:42

If there are opportunities for planting in your neighborhood we want to hear about it so you can reach out to us in the Office and we can work with Urban Forestry on the identification of potential locations. We need to sort through the existing data to see where gaps in data are and what research needs to be done for comprehensive inventory. We should be able to identify those locations through our own process. We are really looking at right of way trees. Trees that are owned and maintained at the city level. If you see opportunities there let us know there may be complicating factors that don't make it ideal. The best vehicle for you is to reach out to us in the Office of Sustainability and we can make that linkage for you.

- ***Q: The recycling trucks are still coming by (as of last Friday) to collect recycling from our street here in Tremont! Will that be ending soon? (temporarily) ?***

A: 46:30

Unfortunately I don't have many updates but it will not be ending soon. We have to maintain two routes to address the volume of waste we are generating. As the Mayor has said we want to encourage residents to continue these recycling practices. As much as it might not seem to be worth the effort, it is worth keeping habits going so that when we relaunch you will be ready to go and do it right.

- ***What can apartment residents do to recycle?***

A: 47:23

I encourage you to reach out to the Solid Waste District, they have resources on multi-family recycling. And reach out to your landlords or property managers, they will ultimately be the one to drive that and make that decision and talk to your neighbors. The more neighbors are asking for it will bring it to your landlord's attention. We want these options for renters. This will be included in the scope for our consultant. We have a lot of renters and want them to have options as part of the bigger picture.

- ***Q: Has Sustainable Cleveland considered installing air monitoring sensors in/around Cleveland in order to understand quality of health and life, and the help better understand pollution mitigation and dispersion in the region?***

A: 48:26

There are point air pollution sensors throughout the City. We do work with the [Department of Public Health and Division of Air Quality](#) in order to identify long term solutions

ADDED note: Check the Progress Dashboard for Air Quality on the Sustainable Cleveland website [here](#).

- ***Q: I'd like to see regional planning around closing the tree canopy. Is Cleveland focused on the city's tree canopy only and/is there a conversation happening for NE Ohio?***

A: 49:00

There is a regional conversation going on. The City of Cleveland participates in the Cleveland Tree Coalition with representatives from the City, the County, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Holden Forests and Gardens, and Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and others. When we look at restoring the tree canopy and the additional \$1million from the Mayor that is being spent in the City. We are all involved in the broader discussion about trees.

ADDED note: Cleveland Tree Coalition (<http://www.clevelandtrees.org/>), Urban Forestry blog (https://www.sustainablecleveland.org/urban_forestry)

- ***What role can this team play in banning Styrofoam?***

A: 50:37

I encourage City of Cleveland residents to talk to your City Council members. We do have a working group focused on plastic bags, unfortunately this group is on hold because of COVID, but it is not going away. There may be an opportunity to include Styrofoam in that ordinance or in future versions.

- ***Do we have ways to incentivize businesses and markets to give their leftovers/spill over of food to food pantries/GC food bank?***

A: 51:38

Kristin: The word that is tripping me up is incentivize. That is an awesome idea and strategy. How to incentivize it? I can't think of a creative answer to that right now. But I will.

Jason: That is a broader discussion around food that we need to start.

Kristin: Something that has been challenging to get momentum going around during this COVID time period, is our business engagement. We may not be able to mandate or incentivize but can connect them to resources. A lot of businesses, large corporate but also small-medium sized, want to show that they are giving back to community and helps them reach their missions and goals.