



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, November 18, 2021

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

and broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Sandra Brotherton, Deb Faires, Doug Hatler, Jonathan Knoche, Molly Marino, Belvin Olasov, Linda Plunkett, Mary Pringle, Grace Jurgela (via phone) and City Council Liaison Susan Smith

Staff Present: Director Kerr

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

MOTION: Ms. Plunkett made a motion to nominate Mary Pringle as Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee. Ms. Brotherton seconded the motion.

MOTION: Ms. Pringle made a motion to nominate Linda Plunkett as Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee. Mr. Hatler seconded the motion.

There being no other nominations, nominations were closed and vote was taken.

VOTE: A vote for Ms. Pringle as Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee was taken with all in favor except Ms. Pringle who did not vote. Ms. Pringle was elected as Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Ms. Brotherton made a motion to nominate Ms. Plunkett as Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee. Mr. Hatler seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – none

MOTION: Ms. Plunkett made a motion to approve, and Mr. Knoche seconded the motion.

Ms. Plunkett noted that the words “needs to be elected” should be added to the first paragraph.

VOTE: The amended minutes passed unanimously.

4. Citizens' Comments

Ms. Kelly Thorvalson, Conservation Programs Manager of the South Carolina Aquarium, gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on litter data from 2018-2021. There have been 687

documented beach sweeps in that time period in which over 240,000 pieces of trash were picked up, 157,000 of which came from the beaches. Of the litter picked up from the beaches, 80% was plastic including items such as balloons, bags, straws, cigarettes, and Styrofoam, all of which have been banned from local beaches. She did note that the presence of plastic bags has dropped by 50% since the ban on single-use plastic bags has been instituted. She also pointed out a decline in smoking-related litter from 1/3 to 1/5 of all trash picked up.

Ms. Thorvalson said that groups and or individuals picking up trash off of the beaches could track their collections via app, which will be sent to all members of the Committee.

The entire presentation can be seen on the YouTube recording of this meeting on the City's website. Some of the recommendations Ms. Thorvalson made to the Committee included stricter enforcement of litter-related ordinances, especially during the summer season; additional signage indicating banned products on the beach, additional smoking trash receptacles, recognition of businesses using sustainable packaging products, Adopt-an-Access program, and toy bins where visitors can take and leave used beach toys.

It was decided that Ms. Thorvalson should return to the Committee for similar presentations on a semi-annual basis.

5. Old Business

Discussion of priorities and projects for the Committee to address

The Committee determined four areas of focus: water quality, wildlife & habitats, litter, and climate action. Mr. Olasov suggested inviting Stuart Weinberg to the next meeting to discuss the City of Charleston's Climate Action Plan and help the Committee create such a plan for the Isle of Palms.

Director Kerr suggested the Committee come up with an all-encompassing vision statement supported by goals and measurable strategies. Ms. Plunkett offered to come up with a draft vision statement and goals before the next meeting.

Council Member Smith suggested the formation of small working groups to begin discussion on the priorities. Working group membership includes:

Wildlife & habitats – Faires, Pringle, Jurgela
Water quality – Knoche, Hatler, Olasov
Litter – Plunkett, Brotherton, Marino
Climate Action – Olasov, Brotherton, Hatler

6. New Business – none

7. Miscellaneous Business

MOTION: Mr. Olasov made a motion for the Committee to meet monthly beginning January 2022. Mr. Halter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 4:30pm.

Ms. Plunkett asked Director Kerr to follow up with the Committee about IOP emails for Committee members and the information from Ms. Thorvalson regarding the app for recording trash pickup.

Ms. Brotherton suggested that working groups could begin to exchange ideas over email between now and the next meeting. Director Kerr reminded the Committee about the FOIA rules as related to responding to emails.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk