



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**4:00pm, Thursday, February 10, 2022**

**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 and City Council John Bogosian

Staff Present: Director Kerr

#### **2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

**MOTION: Mr. Knoche made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2022 meeting, and Ms. Brotherton seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.**

#### **3. Citizens' Comments**

Diane Troy of the Island Turtle Team brought literature to the Committee about the nesting of Wilson's Plovers and Least Terns on the beach. She would like the Committee to encourage community involvement in protecting the nests. She also shared that the South Carolina Audubon Society would like to host educational sessions for the community and staff.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **A. Discussion of main priorities to pursue identified by the subcommittees**

Ms. Pringle asked each subcommittee to propose two of their priorities to the Committee for action.

##### **i. Water Quality**

**MOTION: Mr. Hatler made a motion to conduct a water quality audit and well water as well as intracoastal waterways. Ms. Marino seconded the motion.**

Mr. Hatler said he would like to identify available data and resources regarding water quality and possibly ask City Council to fund the purchase of additional information. Director Kerr said he would share a water quality study done 15 years ago. He also mentioned that DNR does do periodic water quality checks on the back side of the island.

**VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.**

**MOTION: Ms. Faires made a motion to seek ways to improve water conservation, quality, resiliency, sustainable infrastructure, and practices in IOP ordinances and policies. Ms. Jurgela seconded the motion.**

Director Kerr reported that the City has engaged Davis & Floyd to complete a Master Drainage Plan. He said “part of what they are doing is analyzing our current ordinances and coming up with suggestions as to whether or not our existing and our planned infrastructure will be adequate and should we implement more things to minimize the water getting into that storm system.”

Mr. Hatler asked if members of the Environmental Advisory Committee could be part of meetings with Davis & Floyd to possibly extract information from their report to use.

**MOTION: Ms. Marino made a motion to amend the original motion to include understanding IOP drainage infrastructure and seek ways to improve green infrastructure efforts. Dr. Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**VOTE: The amended motion passed unanimously.**

ii. **Climate Change**

**MOTION: Mr. Olasov made a motion to initiate a greenhouse gas audit, using a program like ICLEI’s to gain a basic sense of where the City’s emissions are and enable a future metric-based climate action approach. Mr. Hatler seconded the motion.**

Mr. Olasov said, “The idea behind this is getting the process going in the City and climate friendly practices by gathering the metrics, by knowing where we are at on our greenhouse gas emissions or energy usage.” He said Dr. Weinberg offered his expertise to start this process. The cost to get data from ICLEI is approximately \$1000/year. Mr. Olasov said he will get the most actionable piece of information from Dr. Weinberg and bring it back to the Committee to see if help or money is needed to work on it.

Mr. Olasov would also like to receive information from Dominion Energy about the island’s energy consumption, waste, and transportation. The purpose of the audit would be to create a baseline so that in 5-10 years improvements can be measured.

Committee members discussed whether or not this was the most timely, actionable plan to move forward with. Mr. Olasov said he would work to reduce the scope and come back to the Committee. He withdrew his motion and Mr. Hatler withdrew his second.

**MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to consider the passage of a Climate Action Resolution or Recognition of Climate Emergency to show a commitment to taking action on climate pollution. Ms. Faires seconded the motion.**

Director Kerr suggested creating a draft resolution to share with City Council to consider.

**VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.**

iii. **Litter and Pollution**

**MOTION:** Ms. Brotherton made a motion to become an affiliate of Palmetto Pride's "Keep SC Beautiful" program. Ms. Marino seconded the motion.

Ms. Brotherton said Palmetto Pride has excellent educational resources on their website and they provide grants, one of which could be used to hire a litter control officer. Dr. Plunkett added that membership in Palmetto Pride provides many benefits to the island without a lot of cost.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Ms. Brotherton made a motion to partner with Surfrider Foundation to provide signage and receptacle related to no smoking. Ms. Marino seconded the motion.

Ms. Brotherton detailed the signage and receptacles that are available for purchase. She suggested that local businesses could sponsor the receptacles and signs. Dr. Plunkett cautioned against adding to the sign pollution already found across the island. Committee members discussed possible location of these signs and receptacles as well as who would be responsible for emptying the containers.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

iv. **Wildlife**

**MOTION:** Mr. Hatler made a motion to postpone the discussion about the Wildlife subcommittee's priorities until the next meeting. Ms. Jurgela seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **New Business** -- none

6. **Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 4:00pm.

7. **Adjournment**

Dr. Plunkett made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Hatler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk