



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, March 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: Deb Faires, Jonathan Knoche, Molly Marino, Belvin Olasov, Linda Plunkett, Mary Pringle, and City Council John Bogosian

Absent: Sandra Brotherton, Doug Hatler, Grace Jurgela

Staff Present: Director Kerr

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022 meeting, and Mr. Olasov seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

Robbie Berg, one of the co-presidents of the IOP Garden Club and President-elect of the Exchange Club, shared some upcoming beautification projects with the Committee including adding a mural to the side of the Public Works building that faces the IOP Connector, fall planting of yews at the Lutheran Retreat Center, and plantings around the City sign. She was told by a member of the ATAX Committee there may be funding available for some of these projects.

4. Old Business

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

i. Wildlife

MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to adopt a strategy of prohibiting metal shovels on the beach. Ms. Faires seconded the motion.

Ms. Pringle said that Kiawah Island and Hilton Head have already passed such an ordinance. Georgetown County is working towards the same for all its beaches. Mr. Knoche asked about the metal shovels used by people who metal detect.

Director Kerr shared the history of an attempt at such a ban 15 years ago, which led to a news story on CNN ridiculing the City for that effort. At that time, the City opted to be more proactive in filling in the holes left by visitors. Since more communities have passed such laws since that

time, City Council may be more open to the idea. Ms. Faires said this issue is also an opportunity to educate the public about the dangers of the holes to turtle and people.

Director Kerr said the next step would be to present a draft ordinance to the Committee at the next meeting for their consideration.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Olasov made a motion to seek ATAX monies to fund a “rack card” with information about birds and sea turtles for tourists to be placed at the desks of hotels and motels on the IOP and a light switch sticker for beach facing lights in front beach rental houses. Dr. Plunkett seconded the motion.

Ms. Pringle passed out a draft layout for the rack card and sticker. She did not think this effort would cost more than a few hundred dollars. Mr. Olasov said had some design ideas for the rack card he felt would make it easier to read. Director Kerr said he would work with Ms. Pringle on generating the formal request to the ATAX Committee.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

ii. **Water Quality**

Director Kerr updated the Committee on the status of the various initiatives voted on by the Committee at the February meeting. He reported that staff has begun discussing water testing options with Charleston Waterkeepers. He said both Charleston Waterkeepers and the State are doing some water testing but not much. He encouraged the Water Quality subcommittee to continue these conversations to encourage more testing. He reported there is \$15,000 in the FY23 budget for possible new testing that may come as a result of this effort.

The Drainage Master Plan is coming along. He said their investigation into the City’s development standards will come at the end of their process. Staff will be sure to keep the Committee integrated in that process.

Director Kerr also reported on legislation regarding neddles has passed the State Senate but is having issues in the House. Mayor Pounds has sent a letter in support of the legislation, and City Council will do all they can do to support the measure.

iii. **Climate Change**

Director Kerr reported that Charleston County is conducting a greenhouse audit, and the City has turned over its energy usage report from Dominion Energy to them to be included in the audit. Mr. Olasov said he would have more details on the audit next month.

Director Kerr noted that the City’s overall energy usage has gone down over the past few years. It is likely due to more energy efficient buildings and appliances.

MOTION: Mr. Olasov made a motion to recommend the Climate Action Resolution to City Council for approval. Dr. Plunkett seconded the motion.

Committee members discussed when to involve the other coastal communities in such an effort to help amplify the message. It was suggested that this effort be passed by City Council before engaging with other communities so as to not slow down the process.

Discussion ensued about some wording changes to the document. Wording regarding the formation of a Climate Action Plan will be included. Director Kerr and Mr. Olasov will wordsmith the document before presenting it to the Public Works Committee in April.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

iv. **Litter**

Director Kerr said a conference call with the appropriate people could be set up before the next Committee meeting to better understand the standards the City will need to adhere to in order to have membership in SC Palmetto Pride and Keep America Beautiful.

5. **New Business** -- none

6. **Miscellaneous Business**

Regarding the cigarette cannisters, Director Kerr reported that starting next week the Public Works Department will begin a pilot program of installing and emptying cannisters in the commercial district. He said the cannisters ordered by Public Works turned out to be the size of a beer can but recognized that the effort could be expanded later after they have had time to work the emptying of the cans into their schedule. He will report on the effort at April's meeting.

Director Kerr also reported on an effort to create a Conservation Station at 1118 Ocean Boulevard. Susan Smith is working with designers from the SC Aquarium to come up with a space that would include trash bins, leave/take a toy bin, and various educational components of what to do and not do at the beach. There will be a fundraising effort after the completion of the conceptual design and pricing are complete.

Ms. Faires remarked that more public education is needed regarding recycling. Mr. Olasov mentioned Charleston County's efforts regarding composting. Director Kerr asked for information about that be sent to him so that he could sent it out to the group.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 4:00pm.

7. **Adjournment**

Dr. Plunkett made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Olasov seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk