



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, June 9, 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, Linda Plunkett, Mary Pringle, Doug Hatler, Grace Jurgela

Absent: Jonathan Knoche, Molly Marino, Belvin Olasov, Sandra Brotherton

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Council Member Bogosian

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting, and Mr. Hatler seconded the motion. The amended minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

Susan Smith, 20 23rd Avenue, gave the Committee a detailed update of the work of the IOP Cleanup Crew. She reported that the crew is now stocked with clipboards and reusable buckets thanks to support from Palmetto Pride. Eight Monday night sweeps have been held since March resulting in 9000 pieces of litter being collected. Approximately 25-40 volunteers help at each sweep. A new Wednesday morning beach sweep with Beach Santa targeting city streetscapes and parking lots began recently. A No Toys Left Behind and Fill-a-Bag station has been added to the Front Beach area. Ms. Smith suggested to the Committee the creation of an IOP Landscaping Guide covering such topics as designing and caring for an eco-friendly yard, use of native plants, how to create a rain garden, use of pesticides and herbicides, and composting. Dr. Plunkett said she would share the idea with the Garden Club who could possibly create such content. The guide could be made available on the City's website.

Ms. Smith also said that she has mixed feelings about banning metal shovels on the beach as a metal shovel is a more sustainable item than a plastic shovel. She asked what results other communities have seen by banning the metal shovels.

MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to reorder the agenda to allow for the item under New Business regarding recycling to be heard first. Mr. Hatler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

A. Discussion of Fisher Recycling

Elizabeth Fisher, co-owner of Fisher Recycling, said that her company recycles glass since it is not being recycled by Charleston County. The glass her company recycles is repurposed into countertops that they make and sell. They are proposing that IOP become the first municipality in this part of the state to have a glass recycling program. Weekly pickup at two stops would be \$9,600 per year. The program could be funded by the City or through private or public grants.

5. Old Business

A. Wildlife

Director Kerr shared feedback from the Public Works Committee regarding the proposed ordinance banning metal shovels on the beach. He said that while the Committee agreed that those digging holes need to fill them, they were apprehensive about banning metal shovels and creating hole size specifications that need to be enforced. He said it may be better to identify the problem rather than go after a specific material. One suggestion would be to ban holes being dug behind the high tide line where they cannot be filled by the tide coming in. This would also make enforcement easier. Committee members agreed on the banning of holes being dug in the sand above the high tide line. More work on this ordinance will come before the Committee at its July meeting.

Ms. Pringle reported on bird rookeries that have been marked off in the areas of 48th, 50th, and 51st avenues. She said that some sea turtles have crawled through the rookeries. However, she said the bigger problem has been the coyotes eating the turtle eggs, which is mostly happening at nesting sites in Wild Dunes. Turtle Team members and DNR have saved many eggs in nests disturbed by coyotes. The remaining eggs have been relocated.

B. Water Quality

Director Kerr said a meeting with Charleston County to discuss water quality issues is being set up. He said there is \$15,000 set aside in the FY23 budget for water quality testing on the backside of the island.

C. Climate Change

Ms. Pringle said the Climate Change resolution was not well received by City Council, and Mr. Olasov has suggested tabling the issue until modifications can be made. Council Member Bogosian is to work with Mr. Olasov on making those changes to the resolution before it goes back to Council for further consideration.

6. New Business

B. Discussion of City Council's consideration of extending the single-use ban

Director Kerr shared that City Council passed the First Reading of an ordinance that would extend the suspension of the enforcement of single-use plastics by restaurants through September

1. He explained that restaurant owners have supply of the non-environmentally friendly materials they would like to exhaust before being required to go back to acceptable materials. Director Kerr said that he feels this will be the last extension of this kind that City Council will be giving.

MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to recommend to City Council to not extend the grace period beyond September 1, 2022 and reinforce the ban on Styrofoam and single-use plastics by restaurants. Mr. Hatler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 4:00pm. Dr. Plunkett asked that meeting dates for the remainder of the year be sent to Committee members for proper planning.

Director Kerr will include the recommendation for a glass recycling program on next month's agenda.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk