



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, August 11, 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, Jonathan Knoche, Belvin Olasov, Sandra Brotherton

Absent: Grace Jurgela, Doug Hatler

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 July 14, 2022 meeting, and Mr. Knoche seconded the motion. The amended minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments -- none

4. New Business -- none

5. Old Business

A. Wildlife

Director Kerr reported that at last month's City Council meeting Chief Cornett said that his officers are already approaching people on the beach about filling in the holes they dig as well in filling in the holes themselves. He advocated for a more robust public education campaign about the need to fill in holes rather than implement an ordinance. He does not want to create an expectation that tickets will be written. Should the public education campaign prove ineffective, the idea of an ordinance could be revisited. Council Member Bogosian added that City Council did not want another ordinance they could not enforce.

Ms. Pringle shared a mockup of a potential sign that could be used as part of the public education campaign. She is working on an application to the ATAX Committee for the funding to pay for the printing of the signs. Ms. Lee is collecting printing estimates. How and where the signs could be attached were discussed. Dr. Plunkett suggested that the grant application should include replacement sign costs as well as installation costs.

Mr. Olasov asked about litter data pre- and post-smoking ban. Ms. Faires said a friend who regularly helps clean the beach has noticed a decrease in the amount of cigarette trash on the beach.

MOTION: Ms. Faires made a motion to pursue a public education campaign about the need to fill in holes on the beach as discussed in the meeting. Mr. Knoche seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pringle reported there was a dead bottlenose dolphin on the beach. NOAA said it appeared to be emaciated. She also shared there have been 56 loggerhead turtle nests this season, 30 have hatched, 27 have been inventoried, and almost 5000 eggs have been handled. She said there is a 77% hatch success rate.

B. Litter – consider Fisher Recycling proposal

Director Kerr said City Council approved the agreement with Fisher Recycling for two dropoff bins on the island. He said the agreement does protect the City from any liability after the glass is picked up. Ms. Fisher has prepared the grant application that could reimburse the City for the annual cost of the bins.

Locations for the bins were discussed. The Committee agreed that in addition to the Marina, the Harris Teeter parking lot made the most sense for a bin. Director Kerr said he will speak with Harris Teeter and the Beach Company about this initiative.

Signs for the cigarette butt cannisters are being installed this week.

Mr. Olasov asked if there was a way to check in with the restaurants to be sure they are prepared for the full plastics ban to go back into effect on September 1. Director Kerr said City Council made it clear that this last extension was for them to use up the stock they purchased and there would not be another extension.

C. Water Quality – update on Master Drainage Plan

Director Kerr said he has continued to reach out to Charleston County Stormwater for a meeting to discuss a monitoring program of the water quality leaving the backside of the island, but those efforts have been to no avail. He suggested that the Water Quality Subcommittee meet to discuss next steps.

He said the Master Drainage Plan continues to move along. They still anticipate finishing that project by the end of the year. He described the Dune Infiltration Program that Davis & Floyd is recommending for three places on the island. He will email further information about this project to Committee members. He also reported that Davis & Floyd has identified two properties on the island that will become case studies for the City's residential construction standards.

6. Miscellaneous Business

Director Kerr will provide a coyote update at the next meeting.

7. Adjournment

Dr. Plunkett made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Faires seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk