



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, September 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, 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 August 11, 2022 meeting, and Ms. Brotherton seconded the motion. The amended minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments -- none

4. New Business -- none

5. Old Business

A. Wildlife

Ms. Pringle said she was going to apply to the ATAX Committee for funding for the beach education signage discussed at the August meeting, but City staff determined that was likely not an appropriate use of those funds and has moved forward with purchasing the signs. The first 50 signs are on order and will include a QR code and the City seal. Director Kerr anticipates the signs will be in the process of being installed by the October meeting.

Referring to a report provided by the Police Department, Director Kerr noted that coyote sightings are down this year from last year. Questions were asked about trapping on public property. Director Kerr said he would start an email discussion between himself, Chief Cornett, and Ms. Faires to get those questions answered.

Ms. Pringle reported on the necropsy report of the deceased dolphin she reported on at the August meeting. She said the report referred to emaciation and lung congestion (pneumonia) as well as some possible human interaction with the corpse.

Ms. Pringle also reported on turtle nest hatching, sharing that 35 nests have hatched and they are waiting on 8 more. There has been a 79% hatch success rate in the nests on the Isle of Palms this season.

B. Litter

Director Kerr said the contract with Fisher Recycling, modified as suggested by Mr. Hatler, has been executed. He also shared that Harris Teeter has agreed to the placement of two bins to the left of the store. The grant application for the recycling effort has been submitted. The bins at Harris Teeter and at the Marina are expected to be in place in the next 30 days. Once they are placed, the City will notify the public via social media, the City sign, and possibly *The Island Eye*. Director Kerr said the number of bins and frequency of visits could be reevaluated depending on the success of the program.

Mr. Olasov said a member of the Coastal Conservation League contacted him about a composting program. He will arrange for her to attend the next meeting to share the particulars of the program with the Committee to determine if it is something they would like to have implemented on the Isle of Palms.

The ban on single-use plastics went back into effect at the beginning of the month. City staff reached out to the island businesses to make sure they were aware and able to meet the ordinance. Discussion ensued about how best to educate the public on various rules of recycling efforts.

Ms. Brotherton noted that Palmetto Pride has many grants coming available in October and would like to see a discussion of possible grants to apply for on the next meeting agenda.

C. Water Quality – update on Master Drainage Plan

Director Kerr shared that Davis & Floyd has identified two projects for grant funding that will help with drainage during a significant storm event. These projects at 6th, 7th Avenue and on Charleston Boulevard between 2nd and 4th Avenue will involve a dune infiltration system. He explained this type of system works in places where other drainage infrastructure does not exist and could be used elsewhere on the island if successful.

With regards to water quality, Director Kerr's efforts to meet with Charleston County Stormwater have not panned out. He suggested that the Water Quality subcommittee meet prior to the October meeting to discuss pivoting their strategies and explore private testing.

6. Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Olasov reported that Charleston County is releasing its report on greenhouse gasses on September 14. He also said the County is recruiting people to be a part of their Climate Action Plan Committees.

7. Adjournment

Dr. Plunkett made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Brotherton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk