



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**4:00pm, Thursday, October 27, 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: Doug Hatler, Council Member Bogosian

Staff Present: Director Kerr (via Zoom), Zoning Administrator Simms

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

**MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the September 9, 2022 meeting, and Mr. Knoche seconded the motion. The amended minutes passed unanimously.**

Ms. Pringle noted two spelling errors under Miscellaneous Business.

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

Elizabeth Fisher of Fisher Recycling said two collections of glass have already been made from the two drop-off spots on the island. The next step is to create more social media announcements about the collection efforts and to explain to people why it is important to leave glass in these containers. She will be working with Roots on the Rise marketing to craft messages to educate and inform but also to promote that the Isle of Palms is the first municipality to be offering collection sites. Ms. Fisher has also joined several IOP-specific Facebook pages to help spread the word to residents. She will provide a press release to the Committee and Administrator Fragoso about the glass recycling pickups. Ms. Lee said information about the glass recycling can be added to the City's message board.

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

##### **A. Wildlife**

Director Kerr said the turtle signs are ready to be ordered. Ms. Lee said that the turnaround time is 10 days once they are ordered. They will be put up during the offseason.

Ms. Pringle shared that she was invited to speak to the Garden Club in September about using native plants and gardening to benefit wildlife. She said that Robbie Berg of the Garden Club has

been approached to write a series of articles in *The Island Eye*. Dr. Plunkett added that the Garden Club would still like to add information to the City's website about good plants to grow, soil erosion, and island wildlife.

Ms. Pringle gave a turtle season update. She reported that of the 8,004 turtle nests in South Carolina, 43 were on the Isle of Palms. The nests had a 74.1% hatch rate, which was lower than they would have wanted but coyotes ate 371 eggs. Approximately 4,602 new baby loggerhead turtles made it into the ocean from the Isle of Palms.

Ms. Pringle also reported that following Hurricane Ian three octopuses washed up on shore. One died and two were returned to the ocean.

**B. Litter**

Update on glass recycling discussed during Citizen's Comments

**C. Water Quality**

Director Kerr reported that the Water Quality group met to discuss next steps. He said that he and Zoning Administrator Simms have some testing kits and are waiting on some rain to collect samples at 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and at the Marina. The samples will then be taken to a lab in Summerville for testing. Charleston Water Keepers will then analyze the results and provide feedback to the City. If the results are indicative of anything requiring a response, they will discuss next steps with the Committee.

**5. New Business**

**A. Discussion about food composting**

Director Kerr said he has received information about a food composting program being done in the City of Charleston that would run similarly to the glass recycling program. Mr. Olasov agreed that the program would run the same way and that the City of Folly Beach is also running such a program. He said there are two locked 64-gallon carts that are picked up twice a week at a cost of \$250/week. He believes the cost to be inclusive of hauling. Program participants can pickup the resulting compost at the Bees Ferry Landfill at no cost. Training starts in January and composting bins are provided to participants.

Dr. Plunkett said she would like to see more specific details about the program before moving forward with a recommendation. She suggested that a contract include a similar liability clause used in the glass recycling contract. Ms. Brotherton would like to see information about maintaining the cleanliness of the site and other frequently asked questions.

Director Kerr said there may be room at the marina for a collection bin. He asked Mr. Olasov to bring a proposal to the next meeting. Dr. Plunkett said that for those not interested in food composting, the effort will show the Committee's commitment to sustainability.

**B. Discussion about grants from Palmetto Pride**

Dr. Brotherton referred to a summary of available grants from Palmetto Pride that the City may qualify for. Discussion ensued as to whether or not the beach clean up crew would qualify for any of the grants, and it was determined that they receive support from the South Carolina Aquarium and they are not a 501(c)(3) and so do not qualify for grant funding. Dr. Brotherton would like to take a list of projects or efforts to Sarah Lyles at Palmetto Pride to consider for grant funding.

Director Kerr asked if grant funding could be used to offset the cost of one Beach Services Officer since they are the ones on the beach finding holes and picking up litter. Dr. Brotherton said she will ask about a grant that pays up to \$20,000 for a litter control officer. She will clarify if it can fund an existing position.

Dr. Plunkett noted that the City does not have to have an official affiliation with Palmetto Pride to qualify for grants.

Dr. Brotherton will do some more research and bring information back to the Committee.

**6. Miscellaneous Business**

Discussion ensued about submitting an article to *The Island Eye* about the glass recycling program. Ms. Faures would like to see a regular article from this committee in *The Island Eye*.

Dr. Plunkett said she would like to speak with Council Member Bogosian about the makeup of the Committee and whether or not it will include students in the future. Whether or not those positions are part of determining a quorum needs to be clarified. Director Kerr said staff has been discussing the feasibility of having students on the committee. Dr. Plunkett pointed out that the student spots on the Committee were the ones to expire after one year.

**7. Adjournment**

Dr. Plunkett made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Olasov seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk