



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, February 9, 2023

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, Doug Hatler, Mary Pringle, Sandra Brotherton, Jonathan Knoche, Jordan Burrell, Council Member Bogosian

Absent: Belvin Olasov

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting, and Dr. Knoche seconded the motion.

Ms. Pringle asked that Dr. Knoche be referred to as Dr. instead of Mr. in item 2.

Dr. Brotherton asked that the location of the food composting bin be changed to the Carmen R. Bunch Park in item 4 and that the locations of the bins be added to the motion made by Mr. Hatler.

Mr. Hatler corrected the spelling of PFAS from PFOS.

VOTE: The amended minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

Susan Smith introduced Lauren Rust of the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network who came before the Committee to discuss the availability of two 3-sided signs that could be placed on the island to bring awareness to any number of environmentally-oriented educational issues. The signs and their installation are funded through NOAA. They are hurricane proof and six feet tall when installed. She suggested Breach Inlet and the City Marina as possible locations for the signage. She indicated that the signs have already been made but no text has been placed on them yet.

Dr. Plunkett expressed concern about too much signage. She suggested the City's Municipal parking lot near the front beach as a location for one of the signs. Dr. Knoche suggested Thompson Park on Sullivan's Island since the City already has a sign about marine mammals at Breach Inlet.

Ms. Pringle said a sign on the beach where the dolphins strand feed is a good idea and could include information about the migratory birds on the island.

Director Kerr asked Ms. Rust to speak with OCRM about whether or not they would allow signs ahead of the primary dune. He also suggested that these signs be a project of the Wildlife subcommittee. Dr. Plunkett said it would also be a good idea to speak with the City's new Public Relations person about the signs, their topics, and their placement.

4. Old Business

The presentation and discussion about the Charleston County Greenhouse Gas Audit will be held at the March meeting, and the PFAS discussion will happen in April.

Dr. Brotherton introduced the new student member of the Environmental Advisory Committee, Jordan Burrell.

A. Wildlife

Director Kerr said the remainder of the turtle signs will be up by the next meeting.

Ms. Pringle and Ms. Faires reviewed the 2023 goals of Wildlife Subcommittee:

1. Promote the use of native plants and trees on the Isle of Palms through education of residents and using them in any public green spaces that now exist or are created in the future.
2. Work with Audubon SC in their program to protect migratory sea birds.
3. Propose rodenticide ban on IOP.
4. Update IOP Coyote Management Plan to include more educational links/information; model Dewees Island's Coyote Management Plan and website; focus on benefits/necessities of top predator for balanced ecosystem; eliminate trapping/killing coyotes on IOP; increase signage at 25th and 26th avenues.

Other items for consideration by the subcommittee include increasing police enforcement of the existing lighting ordinance during sea turtle nesting season and working with Dominion Energy about their proposal to change to bright white LED streetlights and to consider turtle-friendly options.

To further the discussion about the promotion of native plants, Council Member Bogosian will include information about the use of artificial turf.

B. Litter

Director Kerr reported that the contract with Smart Recycling has been executed and will start March 1. Fisher Recycling has already moved their bins to the Carmen R. Bunch Park. Assistant Director Asero is working to build a corral around the bins as is required by City Ordinance. Signage for the corral will be considered to bring attention to the bins. He added that usage of the glass recycling bins is up, and Ms. Fisher will report to the Committee in April or May. Ms. Pringle suggested more reminders about the change in location may be necessary.

Dr. Brotherton and Dr. Plunkett reviewed the 2023 goals of the Litter Subcommittee:

1. Collaborate with the new IOP Public Relations and Tourism Coordinator to determine and implement best practices for educating and informing the public of litter prevention efforts.
2. Continue collaboration with Palmetto Pride.
3. Implement community cleanups biannually to encourage the full-time residents to clean up their neighborhoods.
4. Do an outcome assessment for litter improvements since start of the Environmental Advisory Committee
5. Initiate dialogue and collaboration with local businesses regarding efforts and ideas to reduce single-use plastics.

C. Water Quality – update on water quality testing

The Water Quality Subcommittee will present their goals at the next meeting.

Director Kerr reported that additional water testing has been completed on the back of the island and the results have yielded the same “off the charts” results. He has reached out to WaterKeepers for the next steps.

D. Climate Action

Mr. Hatler said he would discuss a report in this area with Mr. Olasov for the next meeting.

5. New Business -- none

6. Miscellaneous Business

Committee members briefly discussed their presence at this year’s Front Beach Festival for which all the vendors have been selected. Committee action for Earth Day was also discussed. Director Kerr suggested this is something the Climate Action subcommittee could work on. Dr. Plunkett suggested it is something the City’s new Public Relations person could promote.

Dr. Brotherton asked for a report at the next meeting from those who attended those who attended the Beach Advocates Conference.

In addition to that, Director Kerr will add the Charleston County Greenhouse Audit, information about an updated coyote management plan, metrics for the cigarette butt cannisters, an update on the Conservation Station at the Front Beach, and a food composting workshop discussion to next month’s meeting agenda.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 4pm.

7. **Adjournment**

Dr. Knoche made a motion to adjourn, and Dr. Plunkett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk