



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, May 11, 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, Doug Hatler, Jonathan Knoche, Jordan Burrell, Mary Pringle, Sandra Brotherton, Belvin Olasov, Council Member Bogosian

Absent: Linda Plunkett

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms,

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Ms. Faires made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2023 meeting, and Ms. Pringle seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

MOTION: Dr. Brotherton made a motion to reorder the agenda to allow for presentations to be heard before Citizen's Comments. Dr. Knoche seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentations

A. PFAS – Fran Marshall, Director of Environmental Public Health, DHEC and Sandra Snyder, Emerging Contaminants Specialist, DHEC

Fran Marshall and Sandra Snyder from South Carolina DHEC gave a presentation on PFAS – what they are, where they came from, when they became a concern, where they can be found, sources in the environment, and why PFAS should be concerning to everyone. They also spoke of the effort South Carolina DHEC is making in identifying PFAS use in South Carolina and how it is being cleaned up. The potential impacts to citizens include increased water costs trying to filter out PFAS as well as increased disposal costs. They said the Environmental Advisory Committee could be key in educating the citizens of Isle of Palms.

B. Glass Recycling Update – Elizabeth Fisher, Fisher Recycling

Elizabeth Fisher said that 20,000 pounds of glass have been collected from the bins on the Isle of Palms since the program's inception. She said the amount collected has increased each week. There are now four collection bins at each location. She has met with the City's PR Coordinator to discuss a marketing strategy. Information about glass recycling has been added to the City's website. Ms. Fisher will be at the upcoming Disaster Expo and Farmer's Markets to provide

information about the program. A press release has been finalized and will be sent to the *Island Eye*. She will be reaching out to the rental companies this month to encourage them to share information about the program with their renters.

4. **Citizens' Comments**

Susan Hill Smith thanked the Committee for their interest in the Fill-A-Bag program. She would like to see the neighborhood captains working on litter clean up involved in the program.

Natasha Viswanathan also spoke to the Committee about some of the details for implementing and maintaining a Fill-A-Bag program on the island. She said the stations need to be near trash receptacles. She will connect the City with someone to help start the program. Director Kerr said there is no issue with funding the program, but there is no staff to manage it. This would have to be a resident-led program.

5. **Old Business**

A. **Water Quality**

Dr. Knoche said the Water Quality group is making progress on its goals. They need a baseline of the water quality on the island. They are also looking for some expertise on what can be done for the City to improve the water quality as well as what residents can do to help improve water quality.

Mr. Hatler said they also need to understand the quality of the water coming from Charleston Water System, waste water runoff, PFAS use in the home, surface water runoff, and helping people get off of septic systems and into the water and sewer system. Director Kerr shared that the City and the Isle of Palms Water & Sewer Commission do have a plan for expanding the sewer system, but it is very expensive for people to tie into it and would only work if City Council required mandatory tie-in.

B. **Climate Action**

Director Kerr reported that the City did enter into a 20-year agreement about 5-7 years ago to buy into a solar farm in Ridgville and they have been receiving a credit on their electrical bill since then. He said it is possible some panels could be added to the top of the Public Safety building as it is a wide, flat surface. But no one would be able to see them. Mr. Olasov believes the panels need to be seen so as to encourage the public to invest in solar energy. Dr. Knoche said it is good for solar panels to be added to government buildings since they are intended to be in use for a long time.

Director Kerr said there is money in the FY24 budget to retrofit City Hall and suggested some analysis about the addition of solar panels could be done.

C. **Wildlife**

Ms. Pringle reported that the least terns are back on the island and an area on the beach has been roped off marking their nests. She has sent an article to the *Island Eye* about this. The Audubon Shorebird Stewards are telling people about the birds. They are expected to be gone by July.

Director Kerr asked her to send the article to him and he would pass it along to the PR Coordinator.

6. New Business

Updated on Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan RFP

Director Kerr reported that the Planning Commission heard presentations from two companies who would like to create the City's Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan. He will be negotiating prices with both companies.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Ms. Faires would like to restart the conversation about the promotion of native plants and grasses on the island.

Further discussion about the Fill-A-Bag program will also be on the June agenda.

8. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 4pm.

Mr. Hatler made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Faires seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk