



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**4:00pm, Thursday, June 15, 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, Linda Plunkett, Sandra Brotherton, Belvin Olasov, Council Member Bogosian

Staff Present: Administrator Fraogoso, Zoning Administrator Simms,

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

Ms. Pringle noted a spelling error to least terns.

**MOTION: Ms. Pringle made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the May 11, 2023 meeting, and Dr. Knoche seconded the motion. The amended minutes passed unanimously.**

#### **3. Citizen's Comments - none**

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

##### **A. Water Quality**

Dr. Knoche said the Water Quality group is discussing what their next steps will be. DHEC shared ideas on what could be measured in the waters, so they are trying to determine what to measure and focus on and what could or will be done with such measurements. They may visit or speak with General Engineering Lab to get an idea of costs for such measurements. Dr. Plunkett suggested looking for grant monies to cover the costs. Dr. Knoche anticipates that at the July meeting they will have a list of what they want to have sampled, the locations to be sampled, and the costs of such tests.

Dr. Brotherton asked Administrator Fragoso about City ordinances regarding the maintenance and inspection of septic tanks. Administrator Fragoso said that once DHEC approves the placement of a septic tank, there is no follow up on the part of the City. The City does have ordinances that require people to tie into the sewer system based on certain parameters and if the infrastructure exists within a certain distance. Zoning Administrator Simms said that a homeowner is required to have DHEC reinspect their septic system if they expand the size of the house.

Administrator Fragoso said she would speak with IOP Water & Sewer Commission and Thomas & Hutton about speaking to the Committee about the recently completed Master Drainage Plan and cost estimates for sewer system expansion. She shared that the costs to tie into the sewer system are the biggest hurdle to homeowners becoming part of the system.

Mr. Olasov would like to collect information on best practices when it comes to septic systems.

## **B. Climate Action**

Administrator Fragoso said the upcoming renovations to City Hall will include a look into the costs and feasibility of adding solar panels to the building. Mr. Olasov would like to discuss the electrification of the City's fleet at future meetings. Dr. Brotherton would like to see the City's leaf blowers added to that list of what could be electrified. Administrator Fragoso said it would be beneficial to speak with other municipalities who have implemented such measures to learn about their policies and their effectiveness.

Mr. Olasov said he would like to give a presentation on concerns surrounding lawn equipment at the next Committee meeting.

## **C. Wildlife**

Ms. Faires said a recent email from Director Kerr sharing Kiawah Island's use of native plants and grasses very informative. She would like to see information about native plants and grasses be made available to island residents to encourage their use. Administrator Fragoso said she would speak to the Recreation Department about identifying opportunities to enhance their landscaping with native vegetation and to create workshop options about such landscaping. She suggested that could be a potential offering in the fall. Ms. Burrell suggested there may be some vendors who sell such plants that may want to be a part of the Farmer's Market. Ms. Faires said she would speak with Mr. Olasov about who might be interested in being part of the Farmer's Market.

Ms. Pringle reported that the heavy rains on Memorial Day weekend destroyed the least terns' nesting site on the island. She also shared there are currently 21 turtle nests compared to 25 at this time last year. Holes on the beach are still being called into her, but she thanked the Code Enforcement Officer who is working on this issue, educating the BSOs about enforcing it, and also enforcing the light ordinance.

Dr. Knoche mentioned the erosion at Breach Inlet. Administrator Fragoso shared that Coastal Science Engineering made a presentation to City Council earlier in the week about the conditions and options to restore the area.

## **D. Litter**

Dr. Brotherton shared that while the Fill-A-Bag program may be worth considering for 25<sup>th</sup>, 34A, and 55<sup>th</sup> avenues beach accesses, it will need to be a resident-driven program as the City does not have the manpower to maintain the program.

Dr. Brotherton asked Ms. Faires how likely it would be the rental companies would encourage short-term renters to participate in the glass recycling program. Ms. Faires said it would be helpful to provide information about glass recycling to each rental company who might share it with their renters. Dr. Brotherton suggested that the City's PR Coordinator might help develop the information to be shared. Administrator Fragoso suggested contacting the IOP Chamber of Commerce to share these ideas as well.

**E. Update on Sea Level Rise Adaptation RFP**

Administrator Fragoso said the Planning Commission made a recommendation to City Council to approve the plan submitted by Seamon & Whiteside for the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan. City Council will vote on it at their June 27 meeting and the contract will be executed after the vote.

**5. New Business -- none**

**6. Miscellaneous Business**

**7. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 4pm.

Mr. Hatler made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Burrell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk