



Environmental Advisory Committee

4:00 p.m., Thursday, November 9, 2023

Council Chambers

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC 29451

Agenda

1. **Call to order** and acknowledgment that the press and the public have been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act
2. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes** – October 12, 2023
3. **Citizen's Comments**
4. **Presentation-** Sharleen Johnson of Native Plants to the People regarding potential native plant exhibit and classes
5. **Old Business**
 - i. Wildlife- discussion of native plant exhibition and classes
 - ii. Water Quality- update on potential water quality testing program
 - iii. Climate Action- update and discussion regarding solar panels on City facilities
 - iv. Litter
 - v. Update on Sea Level Rise Adaptation RFP
5. **New Business**
6. **Miscellaneous Business** - Next meeting date: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, December 14, 2023
7. **Adjournment**



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, October 12, 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, Mary Pringle, Linda Plunkett, Jordan Burrell, Sandra Brotherton, Council Member Bogosian

Absent: Jonathan Knoche, Belvin Olasov

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Dr. Brotherton offered two clerical changes to the minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting, and Ms. Burrell seconded the motion. The amended minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments -- none

4. Old Business

A. Water Quality

Mr. Hatler distributed and reviewed the proposed Water Quality Subcommittee's goals and action plan for 2023/2024. He will bring cost estimates for those actions to the November meeting. He suggested a presentation to the City Council about PFAS.

Ms. Burrell advocated the need to educate the public about PFAS. Dr. Brotherton suggested public education be added to the Water Quality Subcommittee's goals.

Committee members discussed several websites that provide information about PFAS. Mr. Hatler will compile a list of such websites and circulate it to Committee members.

B. Climate Action

Mr. Olasov notified the Committee via email he will bring information to the November meeting about electrifying the City's fleet.

Director Kerr reported that the process to select a firm to design the City Hall renovation has begun. He will share suggested environmentally-friendly options with regards to the renovation

with the Committee when available so they can evaluate them to make recommendations to City Council for inclusion in the project.

C. Wildlife

Ms. Faires said Charlene Johnson will attend the November meeting to give a presentation about plantings at the triangle property at 7th Avenue and Palm Boulevard. Ms. Pringle added that she attended recently a presentation given by Ms. Johnson and found it to be interesting and engaging. She expressed confidence in Ms. Johnson is the person the City needs to help with this project and to educate citizens on native plantings. She will meet with Ms. Johnson ahead of the November meeting to show her the triangle property, the Carmen R. Bunch Park as well as her yard.

Ms. Pringle also reported that the last turtle nest on the island hatched on Sunday and most of the hatchlings were eventually released into the water. She also shared that she has been taking water samples at the Sea Cabins Pier for NOAA for 22 years, and she has secured replacements to do the work going forward. She also said a new article for the *Island Eye* will speak about the need for funding genetic testing of the turtles.

Dr. Brotherton asked if City ordinances addressed the issue of “lion tailing” trees when they are pruned. Director Kerr said the City code has the ANSI A300 as the standard for tree pruning and that “lion tailing” is identified as a non-compliant manner in which to prune trees. He shared how the enforcement of that ordinance is a challenge since they are often made aware of such activity after the fact.

D. Litter

Director Kerr reported that the City’s landscape contractor proposed adding approximately \$4,700 per year to their contract to empty the butt cannisters on the island. The City did not accept that proposal. Dr. Brotherton said that the Surfrider Foundation expressed concern that the cannisters are not being emptied properly since their name is on the signs to which the cannisters are affixed. Director Kerr said the cannisters may have to be removed until a solution can be found as staff cannot take care of them. He shared that Susan Smith believes the City should take on the financial responsibility of keeping the beach clean.

Ms. Burrell said students at her school are required to log 30 hours of community service each year. She will research how the City could advertise at the school the need to empty the butt cannisters and bring that information to the November meeting.

E. Update on Sea Level Rise Adaptation RFP

Director Kerr reported that Seamon Whiteside will likely be speaking with the Committee in the future.

5. New Business – none

6. Miscellaneous Business

Director Kerr updated the Committee on the erosion-related projects happening at the south end of the island. The sand scraping project is complete, but after the recent King Tide, the erosion is worse. He reported that City Council approved this week the placement of large sandbags in front of approximately 10 properties in the area, which will hopefully delay further erosion after the next King Tide at the end of October and hold through to the Army Corps of Engineers' project slated to start in January. He explained the proposed scope of the project.

7. Adjournment

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

Dr. Plunkett made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Hatler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

IOP EAC - Water

Here are the proposed 2023-24 water goals

1. Water Inflows and Outflows. Using existing data and information, understand the inflow, outflow, and quality of water across the island including drinking water, wastewater, storm water, and groundwater to support efforts to protect public health and the environment.
2. Coliform Contamination. Based on the high concentrations of coliforms detected in samples of water discharged from the island, further investigate and evaluate the type(s) and source(s) of coliforms with the intention of finding and eliminating sources.
3. Septic Systems. In collaboration with the City, the Water & Sewer Commission, and DHEC, review and evaluate the existing septic systems and engineering requirements for new systems to understand the potential of septic systems to be sources of environmental pollution.
4. PFAS. In collaboration with Charleston Water, the Water & Sewer Commission, and DHEC, review PFAS monitoring results to determine if and at what level PFAS are present in water, wastewater, and biosolids and the potential impacts to public health and the environment. Also, continue to track PFAS regulatory requirements to identify and assess the City's liability should US EPA and DHEC promulgate enforceable regulations.

IOP Environmental Advisory Committee – Water Subcommittee Water Quality Action Plan

Activity	Labor	Materials	Estimated Cost	Duration
Maps – drainage, sewers, septic systems				
Identify storm run-off outfalls				
Identify septic system clusters				
Define sample locations				
Prioritize Sample Locations				
Collect and analyze samples				
Review & compare IOP septic requirements versus SCDHEC and USEPA standards		TBD		
Obtain lab results				
Obtain PFAS results from IOP W&S for wastewater, drinking water, & biosolids				
Evaluate results to determine if and any specific areas / issues of concern				
Summarize results and recommend next steps				

Notes:

- What maps are currently available from the City? IOP W&S?
- Can we get working space at the City?
- Who has the best information about location of septic systems?
- Will IOP W&S provide results for PFAS in wastewater, drinking water, & biosolids?
- Who currently regulates septic systems on IOP? What are the requirements?