



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**4:00pm, Thursday, July 13, 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 (via Zoom), Doug Hatler, Mary Pringle, Linda Plunkett, Belvin Olasov, Council Member Bogosian

Absent: Jonathan Knoche, Jordan Burrell, Sandra Brotherton

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms

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

**MOTION: Mr. Hatler made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting, and Mr. Olasov seconded the motion. The amended minutes passed unanimously.**

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

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

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

Mr. Hatler reported that some of the testing they were considering is expensive. They would like to have some testing conducted on the water samples to differentiate between human and animal fecal coliform and to understand the sources of those contaminants. Additionally, they would like to continue to understand the relationship between water quality on the island and the septic systems and PFAS.

Director Kerr said that any significant expense will need to go through City Council if it exceeds the budgeted amount for the Committee's initiatives or such an expense could be worked into the the FY25 budget.

##### **B. Climate Action**

Mr. Olasov spoke about the City of Charleston's resolution to dedicate City resources for City staff to change to electric leaf blowers by the end of 2023. The resolution also encourages citizens to do the same, noting several health concerns surrounding the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. He believes such a resolution should be considered by City Council.

Director Kerr said that the City does not do its own lawn maintenance, but they could perhaps discuss the switch to electric leaf blowers with their landscaping contractors to see if they could do that and if there would be any associated costs. Council Member Bogosian said the response of the City's landscaping contractors would be needed before taking this recommendation to City Council. Director Kerr shared the vendors for vehicles used by Public Works do not recommend a change to electric vehicles at this time.

**C. Wildlife**

Ms. Pringle reported that the Turtle Team will be monitoring the beach every morning of the upcoming nourishment project on the south end of the island. She said it would be better if the project started before August 15 as the regular Turtle Team patrols end at that time.

She said there have been no reports of where the least terns are following the destruction of their nesting area on the island from the Memorial Day weekend rains.

Discussion ensued as to the importance of educating the public on the use of native plants and grasses in the home landscaping efforts. Director Kerr said Committee members need to provide the Recreation Center staff with contact information of individuals or businesses that would be willing to conduct such seminars. He also encouraged Committee members to speak with the Water & Sewer Commission about the possible use of their lot at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Palm Boulevard as a place to showcase native plants and grasses. He also suggested they speak with Director Pitts and Assistant Director Asero about what it would take to move the City's landscaping towards native plants and grasses.

**D. Litter**

Dr. Plunkett spoke with concern about the candies thrown and left along the path of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July golf cart parade. Director Kerr said this is not a City-sponsored event. He suggested reaching out to the parade organizers to make them aware of the litter concerns. Mr. Hatler suggested making cleanup of the parade route a condition of the permit they need to hold the parade. He said he will reach out to Chief Cornett about how to manage a cleanup requirement.

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

Director Kerr reported the contractor for the Sea Level Rise Adaptation plan has been selected and the agreement has been executed. He anticipates their work to begin soon and believes they may come speak to the Committee during their work process.

**5. New Business -- none**

**6. Miscellaneous Business**

**7. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Mr. Hatler made a motion to suspend the August meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee and for subcommittee work to continue as discussed prior to the September meeting. Ms. Pringle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 4pm.

Mr. Hatler made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Olasov seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk