



Environmental Advisory Committee

4:00 p.m., Thursday, December 14, 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** – November 9, 2023
3. **Citizen's Comments**
4. **Presentations**
5. **Old Business**
 - i. Wildlife- discussion of native plant exhibition and classes
 - ii. Litter
 - iii. Water Quality- update on potential water quality testing program
 - iv. Climate Action
 - v. Update on Sea Level Rise Adaptation RFP
5. **New Business**
6. **Miscellaneous Business** – Appreciation of outgoing members

Next meeting date: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, January 11, 2023

7. **Adjournment**



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, November 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 (via phone), Doug Hatler, Mary Pringle, Linda Plunkett, Jordan Burrell, Jonathan Knoche, Belvin Olasov, Council Member Bogosian

Absent: Sandra Brotherton

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms, Council Member Bogosian

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Mr. Hatler made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2023 meeting, and Ms. Pringle seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments -- none

4. Presentations

A. Charlene Johnson – Native Plants for the People

Charlene Johnson of Native Plants for the People gave a presentation on the importance of native plants, the stages of planting a demonstration garden at the Water & Sewer Commission's lot at 7th Avenue and Palm Boulevard, and possible topics to present to residents in the spring.

After a lengthy discussion about the parameters and other locations for the demonstration garden, it was decided that Ms. Johnson will prepare a proposal for a 20' x 20' garden with impactful yet beneficial plantings. Her proposal will include options for the garden to be at the 7th Avenue and Palm Boulevard site and the Carmen R. Bunch Park. Ms. Johnson said the classes she proposes to give at the Recreation Center in the spring may generate volunteers who will want to help with the demonstration garden.

B. Chris Fisher – Fisher Recycling

Chris Fisher of Fisher Recycling said they have been taking over 1000 pounds of glass from the island each week during the first year of the program. He would like to put more bins at each location and would like the City to consider another location towards the south end of the island for recycling. He will work with the City's PR Officer to further educate the public about the

recycling program. Dr. Plunkett said it is important that residents know the County does not actually recycle the glass and understand what Fisher Recycling does with the glass they pick up.

MOTION: Mr. Hatler made a motion to recommend to City Council the renewal of the contract with Fisher Recycling in the amount of \$9,600. Dr. Knoche seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Kerr will work directly with Mr. Fisher about finding a suitable third location for recycling bins. Mr. Fisher will add more bins to the current site at the next pickup.

4. Old Business

A. Wildlife – no further update

B. Litter

Director Kerr reported that Asst. Director Asero has added the emptying of the cannisters into his workflow for the winter. He said it may be a challenge in the summer. Ms. Burrell said she has sent information to her schoolmates about the City's need for volunteers to help with emptying the cannisters in the summer. Director Kerr said specific dates to clean out the cannisters can be provided for students interested in volunteering.

C. Water Quality

Mr. Hatler shared a proposal for water quality testing at 13 outfalls around the island. Discussion ensued as to the cost of the testing and ways in which it could be reduced. Mr. Hatler will work with GEL Laboratories on a refined proposal based on the discussion and bring it back to the December meeting. Committee members would like to make a presentation to City Council about the importance of testing the water quality.

D. Climate Action

Director Kerr reported the City has entered into an agreement with a design-build team about renovating City Hall. He said the agreement includes analysis of energy efficiencies and basic environmental controls into the renovation.

Mr. Olasov shared information about converting the City's fleet to EV. Director Kerr said the staff has already been working closely with County staff to learn more about their efforts to see how it might benefit the City. Council Member Bogosian said he would like more information about the economic benefits of transitioning to EV.

E. Update on Sea Level Rise Adaptation RFP

Director Kerr said there has been no change to this project since the last meeting.

5. New Business – none

6. Miscellaneous Business

Dr. Plunkett would like to add a discussion about the South Carolina Clean Marina program to the December agenda. Mr. Hatler would like to discuss communications with City Council at the next meeting.

7. Adjournment

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

Ms. Burrell made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Pringle seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Douglas Kerr

From: Douglas Kerr
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9:27 AM
To: 'sharleen.p.johnson@gmail.com'
Cc: Mary Pringle; Sandra Brotherton (sbrotherton@iop.net); Matt Simms; Karrie Ferrell; Chaundra Yudchenko; Desiree Fragoso
Subject: next steps for native garden project
Attachments: EAC Native Plant Narrative.docx

Good morning Sharleen!

I wanted to follow up on next steps on our native garden project.

I know we at least want to have one class at the Recreation Center in January. I have copied Karrie here (this is the first she will have heard about this- sorry Karrie!) to help give some potential dates of availability of a room there. Depending on the level of interest, we may opt to have some more talks. My understanding from previous correspondence is that each talk will cost \$100.

I know we want to hire you to design a native garden, but I am not crystal clear on the location yet and hope to have this nailed down tomorrow afternoon and will follow back up on the location. My understanding from previous correspondence is that this design is estimated to cost around \$200.

If the chosen location is the 7th Avenue triangle, I will need to present the plan to the Water and Sewer Commission for approval once the design is complete. They meet once a month (January 17th may be the target), so we will need to be mindful of including this timing element.

When it comes time to install the garden, we know that we would like you on site to help with directing volunteers for two days (prep day and delivery/plant day).

I hope to nail down a plan to solicit volunteers tomorrow and wanted to see if there is an ideal number in your mind? I am thinking 10-15, but you let me know if you think that is too many or too few.

I have copied Chaundra on this email and she would be the one that could spread the word via the City's communications outlets about this effort. Please forward any information you think would be helpful for her to distribute. I am thinking this would be publicized prior to the upcoming talk(s), once they get scheduled.

I have also copied Matt Simms here and expect that he will be the key coordinator of this project. He developed the attached narrative several months ago and I would like for you to see if you have any thoughts on edits before he updates it.

Thank you for your help with this and we are very excited for this project to get underway. Please let me on your thoughts about these next steps and let us know if you think we need to adjust anything.

Thanks, Douglas

Douglas Kerr
Deputy City Administrator
Director of Building, Planning and Licensing
City of Isle of Palms

Water Action Plan:

Activity	Status
Maps – drainage, sewers, septic systems	Completed
Identify storm run-off outfalls	Completed – 18 outfalls identified excl. Wild Dunes
Identify septic system clusters	Completed
Define sample locations	Completed – 9 total, only 5 for PFAS
Collect and analyze stormwater samples	
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	

Sampling Proposal:

- Retain GEL to collect one (1) grab sample from 50% of the stormwater outfalls during the first hour of a rain event.
- Analyze each sample for the parameters listed in the table below.
- Only analyze up to five (5) stormwater outfall samples for PFAs.
- Prioritize sample locations to dense septic and commercial areas.

Parameter	Method	Lab	\$ / sample	Quantity	Total, \$
Total Coliforms	Standard Methods	Trident	55	9	495
Fecal Coliforms	Standard Methods	Trident	55	9	495
Total Nitrogen	US EPA 351.2/353.2/ Calculation	GEL	75	9	675
Total Phosphorus	US EPA 365.4	GEL	35	9	315
Oil & Grease	US EPA 1664B	GEL	75	9	675
pH	Field`	GEL	6	9	45
Total Suspended Solids	SM 2540 D	GEL	15	9	135
PFAS	US EPA Drat 1633 Rev. 1	GEL	450	5	2,250
Analytical Fees					\$5,085
Environmental Waste Fee (7% of analytical fees)					\$356
Sample Collection by GEL*					\$1,550
Total					\$6,991

*Sample collection estimate for 13 samples. This may be less for only 9 locations.