



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. Sharleen Johnson – Native Plants for the People

Sharleen 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