



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, December 14, 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, Sandra Brotherton, Mary Pringle, Linda Plunkett, Jordan Burrell, Jonathan Knoche, Belvin Olasov

Absent: Doug Hatler, Council Member Bogosian

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Ms. Pringle made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023 meeting, and Dr. Plunkett seconded the motion.

Dr. Plunkett noted the proper spelling of Sharleen Johnson's name for the minutes.

VOTE: The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments -- none

4. Old Business

A. Wildlife

Committee members discussed the location for the first native plant garden, the classes on native plants, and the promotion of the garden. The Committee agreed the best location for the garden is the triangle plot at 7th Avenue and Palm Boulevard. Director Kerr said he would ask Ms. Johnson to prepare a design that he will share with the Water & Sewer Commission at their January 17 meeting. As the plot of land is owned by the Commission, anything done there must be approved by them. He will have Ms. Johnson incorporate some benches into the garden design as the Exchange Club may donate some to the project.

Director Kerr will work with Director Farrell to secure a date for the first native plant class at the Recreation Center in late January/early February. Ms. Johnson has 3-4 additional classes that she will be able to present should there be an interest following the initial offering. The City's PR Officer will prepare press releases about the project and reach out to Committee members for quotes and further information. Once those press releases are approved by the Committee and the

Water & Sewer Commission, she will put it out on all the City's social media channels. Ms. Pringle will work on writing something for the *Island Eye*.

Additional conversation ensued about the need for roadside signage identifying the garden as a project of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

B. Litter

Director Kerr reported that additional glass recycling bins will be placed at Breach Inlet after the beach restoration efforts are completed.

Discussion ensued about the effort to secure high school students seeking volunteer hours to empty the butt cannisters in the summer. Committee members suggested that Susan Smith could help with signing off on those hours as part of the IOP Clean Up Crew. Ms. Burrell said she would send an email to Director Kerr requesting that assistance, and Director Kerr will approach Ms. Smith.

C. Water Quality

Committee members discussed the numerous tests available for water quality testing and questioned if all of them are necessary for the Isle of Palms. Dr. Brotherton would like further clarification on exactly which tests are needed and why. The cost of the testing could be lowered if not all the tests are needed.

A brief discussion ensued about the Clean Marina Program. Director Kerr said the City is limited in what it can do at the marina as it is under the control and lease of a third party. However, he believes that tenant is supportive of the efforts of a clean marina, and it's likely the initiatives of the Clean Marina Program could be achieved following discussion with the tenant.

D. Climate Action

Mr. Olasov shared information about a block grant being awarded to municipalities that would like to engage in the use of renewable energy on municipal buildings. However, the application deadline is January 8. Director Kerr said it might be difficult to complete such an application by that time. Mr. Olasov suggested that the City may have a good chance at receiving such a grant because of the number of available grants and the number of municipalities who qualify. Director Kerr said the Public Works building might be a better option for solar panels since it is a bigger building with a more visible roof.

E. Update on Sea Level Rise Adaptation RFP

Director Kerr said there will be a meeting of the City's engineers and Seamon Whiteside about the City's infrastructure and potential threats to it. They will "identify the rate at which they think they should plan for the next 50 years." The results of that meeting will be shared with the Committee.

5. New Business

Director Kerr updated the Committee on the beach restoration project. He said the first batch of sandbags “gave up” and Public Works crews have been picking up the destroyed bags. The bags at Breach Inlet only have to last until the start of the Army Corps of Engineers’ beneficial use project begins in late January. A second set of tougher bags will be placed at Beachwood East in the near future.

6. Miscellaneous Business

Dr. Brotherton expressed appreciation for the outgoing Committee members.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 4pm.

Dr. Plunkett made a motion to adjourn, and Dr. Brotherton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk