



## **Environmental Advisory Committee**

4:00 p.m., Thursday, August 11, 2022

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** – July 14, 2022
3. **Citizen's Comments-** Citizen's comments shall be limited to 3 minutes.
4. **Old Business**
  - i. Wildlife- update on ordinance prohibiting digging holes on the beach and consider alternative of public education campaign
  - ii. Litter- Fisher Recycling update- discuss drop locations
  - iii. Water Quality- update on drainage masterplan
5. **Miscellaneous Business** - Next meeting date: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 8, 2022
7. **Adjournment**



## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, July 14, 2022

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, Linda Plunkett, Mary Pringle, Doug Hatler, Jonathan Knoche, Belvin Olasov, Sandra Brotherton

Absent: Grace Jurgela

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Council Member Bogosian

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

**MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting, and Mr. Hatler seconded the motion. The amended minutes passed unanimously.**

#### 3. Citizens' Comments -- none

#### 4. New Business -- none

#### 5. Old Business

##### A. Wildlife

Director Kerr referred to the revised draft ordinance prohibiting holes above the mean high tide line. He said it had been sent to some members of the Public Works Committee who were fine with it. Ms. Pringle suggested changing the wording to use landward or seaward. She also shared a picture of a large hole left on the beach at Wild Dunes. She said she receives calls about large holes on the beach almost daily. Director Kerr said this ordinance will give the officers and BSOs a tool to tell people they need to fill in the holes. If signage and the ordinance prove to not be enough in reducing the problem, then more work may be needed in the future.

Committee members agreed to keep the size of holes out of the ordinance as holes of any size are problem for safety and wildlife reasons. Council Member Bogosian agreed it will be easier to pass an ordinance that does not include holes sizes and specifications.

Director Kerr said he would change the wording of the ordinance to state that digging holes landward of the mean high tide water line is prohibited.

**MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to recommend the amended ordinance to City Council for approval. Mr. Knoche seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Pringle shared information about the larger lease tern colony on the beach this year, stating there are approximately 20 chicks in the colony. She also said that there are 35 turtle nests on the beach this year. Unfortunately, coyotes have destroyed 6 of them.

She also shared a mass stranding of great shearwaters at the beginning of the month. None of them survived. Some carcasses were sent off for further study. It is likely they were suffering from lack of food due to their long journey across water.

Discussion ensued about ways in which to manage the coyote population. Director Kerr said he would review the data collected by the police department and keep the matter on the agenda.

**B. Litter – consider Fisher Recycling proposal**

Director Kerr said the proposal from Fisher Recycling includes the placement of two collection bins on the island. They will be emptied once a week. The annual cost is \$9600, which could be offset by grant money. Suggested locations for the bins were the marina and the Harris Teeter parking lot.

**MOTION: Dr. Plunkett made a motion to recommend to City Council the approval of a one-year contract with Fisher Recycling with the caveat of no future City liability after the collection of the glass. Ms. Faires seconded the motion.**

Director Kerr said he believes City Council would be fine with the expenditure for this effort even if there is no grant funding. Dr. Plunkett said that Sarah Lyles of Palmetto Pride spoke highly of Fisher Recycling.

**VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Brotherton asked for an update on the cigarette butt cannisters. Director Kerr said Asst. Director Asero is shepherding the project and more cannisters have been installed at the public dock. They are being used and emptied, but the number of butts being collected is not being counted. Director Kerr said he would speak with Asst. Director Asero about coming up with a way to measure how much is being collected.

Ms. Brotherton asked about more signage on the cannisters. Ms. Lee said they have attempted to contact Surfrider about appropriate signage but they have received no response. Ms. Brotherton said she would reach out to them about the seven signs the City needs.

**C. Water Quality – update on Master Drainage Plan**

Director Kerr said Davis & Floyd are developing plans for some key drainage projects. They are also reviewing the City's standards with regards to water quantity. They have identified two properties on the island with drainage issues as a result of City regulations to determine what was done and what can be done to improve the City's response in the future. Suggestions for improvements to the standards will be brought before the Committee in the future.

Director Kerr said they are still working to set up a meeting with Charleston County Stormwater to get direction from them about handling a potential water quality problem.

**6. Miscellaneous Business**

Ms. Pringle shared information from Administrator Fragoso about Palmetto Pride grants for watergoats to help collect litter flowing downstream. She would like to discuss at a future meeting places across the island that could benefit from this sort of technology.

Mr. Olasov said that while the City Council is not likely to sign a Climate Change Resolution, he suggested hosting a presentation for City Council on climate science to generate their support for future climate actions. Director Kerr said he would put the matter on a future meeting agenda to discuss how that might come together.

Director Kerr said City Council's adoption of a Code of Conduct for members of all boards and commissions will be on the next agenda.

**8. Adjournment**

Dr. Plunkett made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Brotherton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk



- Fill In Holes on the Beach
- No White Flashlights around Turtles
- Leave No Trash on the Beach
- DO NOT DISTURB NESTS

