



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, January 12, 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, Linda Plunkett, Doug Hatler, Mary Pringle, Belvin Olasov, Sandra Brotherton, Jonathan Knoche

Absent: Council Member Bogosian

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Dr. Plunkett nominated Dr. Brotherton for Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee. Dr. Knoche seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pringle nominated Dr. Plunkett for Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee. Mr. Hatler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Brotherton thanked Ms. Pringle for her work and service in leading the Committee in its first year.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Mr. Hatler made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2022 meeting, and Dr. Plunkett seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments – none

4. Presentation by Smart Recycling, US – Meghan McGill and Kevin Outen

Ms. McGill explained the program that is in place in the City of Charleston. She said the City of Charleston will continue to house the training and the website as new locations join the effort. They hope to make this a regional program. Interested residents must sign up for the program and complete the required training in order to receive a code that will allow them to unlock the food composting bins.

Isle of Palms will be responsible for selecting the location of the bins and the signage. Director Kerr said the Harris Teeter is non-committal at this point about hosting the bins. After further discussion, the Committee suggested the bins be placed at the Carmen R. Bunch Park. They suggested moving the glass recycling bins to the same location.

Ms. McGill said the City of Charleston has done a lot of marketing on social media about the program and has had some in person workshops as well as Smart Recycling representatives at community events.

The contract has an annual cost that is based on the “tip rate” or the number of times the bins are emptied. The number of bins can be increased or decreased depending on the level of participation. Pick ups are twice a week regardless of the number of bins to help control the smell. Mr. Hatler suggested the same indemnification clause used in the glass recycling contract be added to this one as well.

4. Old Business

A. Wildlife – update on signs regarding beach rules

Director Kerr said that 22 of 53 signs have been installed and all should be installed before the start of the season.

Ms. Pringle reported that she and Ms. Faires participated in the National Eagle Survey on January 6 and 7. Many of the active nesting sites are near IOP. More information about this survey can be found on the DNR website.

B. Litter – update on Fisher Recycling

Director Kerr said the amount of glass in the recycling bins is growing each month. He will speak with Elizabeth Fisher about relocating the bins. He believes Ms. Fisher is still working on an article for The Island Eye. Mr. Hatler suggested she come before the Committee to give a 6-month update.

C. Water Quality – update on water quality testing

Director Kerr said that he and Zoning Administrator Simms did the first water quality test and it came back “off the charts.” More testing needs to be done to confirm and to plan for the next steps.

5. New Business

A. Consider making a recommendation on food composting operation

MOTION: Mr. Hatler made a motion recommending to City Council the implementation of a food composting program with Smart Recycling, US via an annual contract including an indemnification clause beginning with two bins at two locations (Carmen R. Bunch Park and the City Marina) for twice a week pickup. Dr. Brotherton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Miscellaneous Business

Dr. Plunkett asked about the status of the Charleston County Greenhouse report as mentioned in previous minutes. Mr. Olasov said he had sent the report to Zoning Administrator Simms, and he will send it to Committee members. He noted that IOP has the highest reported per capita

emissions rate. Mr. Olasov will reach out to Stuart Weinberg to present the information to the Committee in February.

Mr. Hatler said he will secure a speaker for the March meeting to address concerns about PFAS.

Director Kerr shared that City Council will amend the resolution used to create the Environmental Advisory Committee to allow for an ex-officio student member. An interested high school student has been identified and their membership will be addressed at City Council's January meeting.

Dr. Brotherton said each subcommittee should prepare some goals for 2023 and share those at the next meeting. The Climate Change subcommittee will be added back to the agenda for reporting purposes.

Committee members would like to see more information about their efforts in the *Island Eye*. Director Kerr said that will be a part of the job of the City's new Public Information Officer. When that person is in place, he will invite them to attend a Committee meeting.

Mr. Hatler suggested the Committee do something for Earth Day. Dr. Plunkett suggested the Committee be a part of the Beach Front Festival in March.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 4pm.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Hatler made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Pringle seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk