



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**4:00pm, Thursday, September 12, 2024**

**1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC**

**and broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to order**

Present: Sandra Brotherton, Mary Pringle, Todd Murphy, Laura Lovins, Doug Hatler, Lucia Spiotta, Belvin Olasov, Council Member Miars

Absent: Dane Buckout

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms, Asst. Director Asero

#### **2. Citizen's Comments -- none**

#### **3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

**MOTION: Ms. Lovins made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024 meeting, and Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Presentation**

##### **Beach Trash Can Pilot Study – Susan Smith**

Director Kerr reminded the Committee that the City's current contract for beach trash can pickup will end next September. The City asked Susan Smith to track trash on the beach when the cans are on the beach and when they are placed roadside.

Ms. Smith shared her data collecting process over a two-week period at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She said there was a negligible difference in the amount of trash on the beach whether the cans were on the beach or roadside.

The Committee discussed the aesthetics of the trashcans on the beach, with a few members noting how it looked nice without the cans. Ms. Smith and Dr. Brotherton both received feedback from citizens who were upset the cans had been removed from the beach.

The Committee continued to discuss a variety of options and possibilities for trash containers and trash removal from the beach. Director Kerr said there is some time to come up with a solution.

**MOTION: Dr. Brotherton made a motion to reorder the agenda to speak about Water Quality followed by Litter and then Wildlife. Mr. Hatler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Old Business**

**A. Water Quality**

Mr. Hatler reported he will be sending pictures of the outfalls to GEL this week. Once the sample locations are selected, GEL will take the water samples. He hopes this will be before the end of the year. Samples must be taken after it rains.

**B. Litter**

Dr. Brotherton shared information she collected about beach trashcans from other beach communities. She said the City may need to have different alternatives for different areas of the beach. She also said this change creates an opportunity for the City to find more aesthetically pleasing options for trash receptacles. She added her big takeaway from her research is the need for buy-in from the community.

Director Kerr said that he and Asst. Director Asero will reach out to Kiawah Island and their vendor, Trident, about their trash pickup service. Asst. Director Asero will also provide to the Committee a list of the most heavily used beach accesses.

**C. Wildlife**

Ms. Pringle mentioned the email she shared with Committee members earlier regarding a talk about native plants being held on October 10.

She reported that there were 56 turtle nests this season with an approximately 90% hatch rate. Two nests remain unhatched to date. The Purple Martin gourds at the Native Plant garden were a big success this season.

**D. Climate Action**

Mr. Olasov reported that Charleston County passed their Climate Action Plan. The work will begin when a new coordinator is hired.

**6. New Business**

**A. Update on EAC table at the IOP Farmers Market**

Ms. Lovins said that many of the food composting buckets have been given out. They are now distributing native plant seeds to those who visit the table.

**B. Update on the installation of compost liner dispensers at compost drop-off locations**

Asst. Director Asero said the compost liners have been installed at the Carmen R. Bunch Park and the Marina.

**6. Miscellaneous Business**

Ms. Lovins said she met with Chris Jordan, the General Manager of the IOP Water & Sewer Commission, Ryne Phillips from Seamon Whiteside, and Roger Gwynne, a Federal-level

environmental lobbyist from the Ferguson Group. Director Kerr said the City has a state-level lobbyist they are pleased with. They have discussed the possibility of sharing the expense of a Federal-level lobbyist with the Water & Sewer Commission. The City would need to complete an RFP process before moving forward. He shared the recent success of the Water & Sewer Commission in securing Federal-level grants.

**7. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 4pm.

Mr. Olasov made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Lovins seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk