



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**4:00pm, Thursday, May 14, 2025**

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

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

### **MINUTES**

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

Present: Laura Lovins, Mary Pringle, Eric Cicora, Cindy Marrs, Sean Popson,  
Todd Murphy, Lucia Spiotta

Absent: Dane Buckout

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

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

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

**MOTION: Ms. Lovins made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2025 meeting as amended, and Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Presentations – none**

#### **5. Old Business**

##### **A. Lighting Ordinance Presentation – Todd Murphy**

Administrator Kerr reported on a meeting that he and Zoning Administrator Simms had with Dominion Energy representatives regarding turtle-friendly lighting on the island and how Edisto Island and Folly Beach are implementing such lighting. These communities are focused on changing the lighting that can be seen from the beach. Edisto Island is creating custom-made fixtures to reduce the spread of light. A grant is helping to cover some of the costs.

Administrator Kerr said there are approximately 400 streetlights across the island with an additional 150 inside Wild Dunes. Dominion Energy charges \$900/light pole to change to turtle-friendly lights. Lights are installed to SCDOT standards, and their standards are blue light. Changing to different lighting requires SCDOT permission. He also shared that Dominion Energy was unsure if the NSSF funds could be used to cover any of these costs.

Discussion ensued about the safety concerns and liability of lower lighting in some areas. Administrator Kerr suggested removing street lighting from the proposed ordinance, watch how

Edisto Island and Folly Beach implement their lighting ordinance, develop a street light plan moving forward, and develop an inventory of those lights that affect the front beach areas.

Mr. Murphy will continue to work on his presentation to City Council and bring it back to the Committee for feedback.

The Committee worked on wording changes to the proposed ordinance.

**B. Interpretive Sign Project**

Ms. Lovins shared two quotes for the interpretive sign project, both around \$13,000 for 14 mounted signs. The next step will be putting together a presentation of the proposed signs with text. She has emailed Islander 71 and the Marina about meeting to discuss the project and to see if they would be interested in sharing in any of the costs. An updated plan will be provided at the June Committee meeting.

**C. Good Neighbor Brochure**

Mr. Murphy believes this project is likely within the recommendations matrix and should be discussed then.

**D. Water Quality Testing – Matt Simms**

Zoning Administrator Simms shared about his meeting with the Town of Mt. Pleasant's Environmental Manager when they discussed water quality testing and microbial source tracking. The cost to test water at 3 outfalls and to track dog, human, and bird waste is approximately \$1500. Zoning Administrator Simms will share a sample analysis report with the Committee members.

The Committee discussed what should be tracked and what could be done with that information. Mr. Murphy suggested an awareness campaign helping the public understand the importance of proper disposal of pet waste.

It was decided to test for human and dog waste at 3 outfalls and compare the results to the water quality results from 20 years ago. Ms. Lovins shared cost estimates from another company and will ask them for a revised quote to track human and dog waste.

**E. Glyphosate/Round-up Ban – Eric Cicora**

Mr. Cicora said since the City rarely uses glyphosate, it will be easy to implement a ban on City-owned properties. He suggested the City could include recreationally-zoned areas in their ban to include the golf courses. He shared a draft of something that could be sent to City Council for their consideration.

He said a further step could be taken by banning its use among the licensed lawncare businesses that serve the island residents and businesses. Council Member Miars asked how something like that could be enforced. Ms. Marrs suggested an educational campaign for the residents, encouraging them to speak with their lawncare providers.

Administrator Kerr reported that Wild Dunes does use glyphosate on its property. Ms. Marrs said she would speak with Terri Haack to see how easy it might be to ban its use or change to other products within Wild Dunes.

Administrator Kerr suggested publicizing that the City does not use glyphosate on its properties, conduct a public information campaign about glyphosate use, add information to the City's newsletter and website about glyphosate, and publicize the issue in the island's two newspapers. Council Member Miars agreed that not using glyphosate on City-owned properties should be a City policy and not an ordinance.

Ms. Lovins will work with Ms. Popson and Ms. Marrs on potential articles for the newspapers and bring them to the June meeting.

**6. New Business**

**Community Enhancement Task Force recommendations**

After some discussion about how to begin working on the recommendations from the Community Enrichment Task Force and other plans, the Committee decided that Ms. Marrs, Mr. Cicora, and Ms. Popson will work as a subcommittee to review the recommendations and organize them in to like initiatives. They will bring their work back to the Committee in June.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

Ms. Lovins asked to be added to the City Council agenda for their May 27 meeting to share an update of the Committee's current activities.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 4pm.

**8. Adjournment**

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Popson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk