



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**4:00pm, Thursday, March 14, 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

Absent: Belvin Olasov, Jordan Burrell, Dane Buckout

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

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

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

**MOTION: Ms. Pringle made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting, and Ms. Lovins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **A. Wildlife**

Ms. Pringle reported that the site preparation and planting of the native plants and grasses in the garden at Palm Boulevard and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue is complete. A watering schedule needs to be created until the plants are established.

Ms. Pringle suggested a QR code be added to any signage that would allow visitors to scan and learn about the plants in the garden. She will work with Barb Bergwerf and Sharlene Johnson to create the signage and send it to the City for approval. She will then work with Ms. Lee on ordering the sign.

Discussion ensued about the benches being donated for the garden and how they could be anchored to the ground. Ms. Robbie Berg said they will be black wrought iron benches with memorial plaques.

##### **B. Litter**

Dr. Brotherton said that she and Susan Smith have not had an opportunity to speak with any other shops about no longer selling low quality belly boards. Ms. Smith sent an email to those who volunteer with the Clean Up Crew to help educate them about these boards.

Dr. Brotherton asked about adding low quality belly boards to the City's ordinance banning Styrofoam on the beach. Council Member Miars said there would be an issue enforcing that as the officers cannot tell a low quality board from something else. She also noted that the issue is the boards being left on the beach and the littering ordinance is in place for that sort of activity. Director Kerr read from the ordinance that provides an exception to Styrofoam items encased by a more durable material.

**C. Water Quality**

Mr. Hatler said the next step is to present the financial request for water quality testing to City Council. He believes the cost will be less than \$10,000. Council Member Miars supports taking the request to City Council and said if the cost is less than \$10,000, it should be done in FY24.

**D. Climate Action**

Zoning Administrator Simms shared that the City was awarded the grant for solar panels on the Public Works building but not the grant for the native plants.

He said he spoke to Megan at Smart Recycling about hosting another class on food composting. Katie McKain is not available until June, but Megan could share some best practices in the meantime. Zoning Administrator Simms said the City purchased an additional 150 food composting buckets. Director Kerr said he could have the PR Officer share the QR code to the online composting class on the City's social media channels.

After further discussion, it was decided that the City will ask Megan to come to the City's Shred Day on Tuesday, April 23 to answer questions about food composting and direct people to the online course.

Regarding Charleston County's position on glass recycling, Zoning Administrator Simms said, "They do currently recycle glass, plastic, and paper, and it is separated and sold off to remanufacturers. But I think we were talking about glass recycling mostly. So 4-5 years ago, she said the Council cancelled glass recycling because it was just too costly, and there was no lucrative end market for that material. But now they do recycle again. They recycle glass again and sell it to a remanufacturer out of Georgia, and that whatever I guess they don't sell off, they do use for Bees Ferry and for the road construction." He said whether or not they recycle the glass is dependent on market conditions.

Prior to renewing any contract with Fisher Recycling, the Committee will see what the County is doing to determine if their efforts are redundant.

**E. Update on Sea Level Rise Adaptation RFP**

Director Kerr said Seamon & Whiteside met with the City's engineers related to oceanfront work, dredging, and drainage together with the sea level rise adaptation consultants for Sullivan's Island and Folly Beach as part of their information gathering. He expects they will come before the Committee in April. He will resend their scope of work to Committee members. Mr. Hatler suggested having Seamon & Whiteside submit their questions to the Committee prior to the meeting.

**5. New Business**

**Todd D. Krafft Septic Health Initiative Program in Nags Head, NC**

Ms. Lovins said this program initiative helped educate the people of Nags Head to the dangers of not properly maintaining and inspecting septic systems. The town gave residents incentives to switch to sewer. Any such program on the Isle of Palms would require a lot of education along with buy-in from City Council, businesses, and rental agencies.

She will put together a white paper about the program and will include the results of the water quality testing. She will also share best practices for switching over to sewer. She believes the program could be a “gap filler” between where we are now and where the Water & Sewer Commission would like to be.

The Committee will discuss the issue further at the April meeting.

**6. Miscellaneous Business**

Mr. Murphy asked if a future agenda item could be about contractors’ lighting around construction sites and how it is disrupting. He would like to discuss what Folly Beach has done about this issue to see if City Council could address it.

He also expressed concern about the lack of “Stay Off the Dunes” signage. Much of it is faded and some gone due to the work on the beach. He will speak to Wild Dunes about adding such signage on the private areas of the beach.

**7. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 4pm.

Mr. Hatler made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk