



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, January 17, 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, Belvin Olasov, Todd Murphy, Laura Lovins (via phone), Dane Buckout, Lucia Spiotta

Absent: Doug Hatler, Jordan Burrell

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

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Olasov nominated Dr. Brotherton as Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken with all in favor.

Ms. Pringle nominated Ms. Lovins as Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken with all in favor.

Dr. Brotherton will serve as Chair and Ms. Lovins will serve as Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Ms. Pringle made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting, and Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Brotherton welcomed the new members, Laura Lovins, Dane Buckout, Todd Murphy, and Lucia Spiotta.

4. Citizen's Comments -- none

5. Old Business

A. Wildlife

Ms. Pringle said that Sharleen Johnson's native plants presentation at the Recreation Center was well attended and well received.

Discussion ensued about the Committee's participation in a Sullivan's Island Earth Day event on April 27. Dr. Brotherton will compile a 2023 annual review of the Committee's accomplishments to be used as a handout encouraging the formation of a similar committee in other

municipalities. Ms. Lovins will speak with the Audubon Society about including materials regarding the protection of shorebirds. She will also represent the Committee at the table that day.

Director Kerr reported that the Ms. Johnson's plan for the native plants garden on the Water & Sewer Commission's property was well received by the Commission members. Since they are unsure when they will be putting a pump station on that property, they will have their attorney draw up a 2-year license agreement for the Committee's garden. A longer term could be negotiated at the end of two years if the Commission is not ready to build the pump station.

After further discussion, it was decided that Zoning Administrator Simms will speak with Ms. Johnson about scheduling additional classes at the Recreation Center, dates for the preparation and planting of the site, and the appropriate number of volunteers needed to help. Ms. Pringle noted that the IOP Chamber of Commerce, not the Exchange Club, will be donating the benches for the garden.

Ms. Pringle and Director Kerr spoke about the establishment of a Purple Martin colony at the garden site. She said it might take longer than two years to establish a colony. She will discuss it further with the resident who will be providing the housing for the colony.

Ms. Pringle also reported that she helped complete the annual bald eagle nesting survey, and four nesting areas have been found. She also shared information about three stranded green turtles in nearby waters in December.

B. Litter

Dr. Brotherton said there is no update on litter this month.

C. Water Quality

As Mr. Hatler was not present to give an update on these efforts, Director Kerr shared the work of this subcommittee with the new members of the Committee.

D. Climate Action

Mr. Olasov reported that Zoning Administrator Simms was able to complete the grant application for solar panels on the Public Works building ahead of the deadline.

E. Update on Sea Level Rise Adaptation RFP

Director Kerr said Seamon Whiteside is setting up a meeting with the technical engineers overseeing the City's infrastructure related to sea level rise. They will set up public meetings after that.

F. Breach Inlet Update

Director Kerr said the selection of a contractor for this project has been delayed due to a technical issue on the Federal level. The project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers' project and the City's coastal engineer will provide an update to the City Council at next week's meeting.

6. New Business

Ms. Lovins said the Sierra Club will host Leslie Lenhart of the SC Environmental Law Project who will give a talk on septic tanks on March 7. Details on time and location will be forthcoming.

Mr. Olasov would like all Committee members to introduce themselves at the next meeting since there are several new members.

Dr. Brotherton asked if there is a space on the City's website where efforts of the Committee – glass recycling, native plants, composting – can be hosted for anyone who is new to the island and or the works of the Committee. Director Kerr will speak with the PR Officer about adding that information to the website.

Ms. Pringle thanked Mr. Murphy for taking on the phytoplankton monitoring at the Sea Cabins pier.

7. Miscellaneous Business

8. Adjournment

Committee members discussed the possibility of moving the regular meeting time to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 4pm.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Pringle seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk