



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
January 12, 2022 Minutes**

The Sustainability Advisory Board met for the Board’s regularly scheduled session at the New Albany Village Hall, 99 W. Main St, and was called to order by Mr. Filiatraut at 6:32 PM.

Prior to roll call, Scott Harrold was sworn in as Board member by Kasey Kist.

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Brian Filiatraut, Chair	Present
Mr. Charles Schumacher, Vice-Chair	Present
Ms. Catherine Duffy, Secretary	Present
Mr. Peter Barnes	Present
Ms. Laura Gallo	Present
Mr. Steven Conway	Present
Mr. Scott Harrold	Present
Ms. Brigitte Bell (Student Member)	Present
Mr. Kasey Kist (Council liaison)	Present

Staff members present: Adrienne Joly, Administrative Services Director; Mike Barker, Public Service Deputy Director; Anna van der Zwaag, Planner; and Marylou Hoessle, City Forester.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there were any additions or corrections to the December 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Duffy clarified the deadline for the SWACO food waste reduction grant is actually August and not April.

Moved by Mr. Schumacher, seconded by Ms. Gallo to approve the December 8, 2021 meeting minutes with the stated correction. Upon roll call: Mr. Schumacher, yea; Ms. Gallo, yea; Mr. Filiatraut, yea; Ms. Duffy, yea; Mr. Harrold, Yea; Mr. Barnes, yea; Mr. Conway, yea. Yea, 7; Nay, 0; Abstain, 0. Motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated none from staff.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there were any members of the public present to speak to items not on tonight’s agenda.

Mr. Filiatraut noted there were no members of the public present.

Business

Mr. Filiatraut invited city staff to begin the items of business.

Sustainable2050 Update

Ms. van der Zwaag provided an update for the Sustainable2050 certification program through MORPC. She stated this is a certification you can receive that is tied to the region’s sustainability agenda, which was recently updated through 2024. The associated criteria were updated and should be available mid-January.

Mr. Filiatraut stated he is aware that the materials should be available soon.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated that City Council passed a resolution of commitment to Sustainable2050 on November 8, 2017 and that the Board does not need to go back to Council immediately.

Ms. van der Zwaag asked the Board how they would want to be involved in this process.

Mr. Harrold stated once the criteria are published, staff can bring those to the Board and update them on what the city qualifies for in terms of certification.

The Board discussed this in more detail, indicating they would be interested in an update once MORPC has made the criteria available.

Ms. van der Zwaag showed the draft of the spreadsheet and indicated she would review the final version based on the updated criteria and determine New Albany's eligibility for tier status certification.

Mr. Schumacher and Ms. van der Zwaag discussed how some criteria or eligible activities could provide an opportunity to work with the city's IDEA committee.

Rumpke Recycling Facility Tour

Ms. Hoessle provided an update on staff's tour of the Rumpke recycling facility in Columbus. The tour was attended by Mr. Barker, Ms. Hoessle, Ms. van der Zwaag, and Board Member Schumacher.

Ms. Hoessle described how materials are sorted and the level of contamination permitted in recyclables.

Ms. Joly invited Board members to provide suggestions on educational opportunities for the Board.

Ms. van der Zwaag shared how Rumpke will soon permit number 5 plastic cups in their recycling program, which can be recycled in the DORA program which will be implemented in New Albany this year.

EV Charging Station Grant Opportunity

Ms. van der Zwaag updated the Board on her progress applying for the Diesel Mitigation Trust Fund Grant for EV charging stations. Application will be due end of January and awards announced end of April.

New Albany Municipal Composting

Ms. Duffy presented on her research for composting programs in New Albany, including research on drop off and curbside composting programs.

Ms. Duffy explained the cost breakdown for using GoZERO, a company that manages all municipal composting programs in Central Ohio except for Bexley. GoZERO will charge \$14/cart (for 5 or less carts) or \$10/cart (for 6 or more carts) plus a \$70 pickup charge for each compost pickup.

Ms. Duffy described open versus closed compost programs. Open programs allow anyone in the municipality to come and drop off their compost. Closed programs require people to sign up.

Mr. Kist asked if there is a way to prevent someone not enrolled in the program from dropping off their compost in a closed program.

Ms. Duffy stated that there is not really a way to prevent people from dropping off their compost if they're not enrolled in the program. Cities can try to keep the location a secret. She stated some cities will require people to sign up to receive a compost bucket.

Ms. Duffy stated that there is no formal contract with GoZERO. They will monitor how many carts the city uses. GoZERO program is flexible and will allow cities to adjust how many carts they use or how many pickups they need. This can allow a city to add a few additional carts for events.

Ms. Duffy stated Upper Arlington has a very successful program. They have 17 carts at 3 locations and an open program to all residents. Their cost in 2021 was about \$20,000.

Ms. Duffy described other programs in Central Ohio including Grandview Heights, Grove City, and Hilliard, and Gahanna. Hilliard uses compostable cups for their DORA and provides extra carts during summertime in the DORA area.

Ms. Duffy stated Bexley is the only community in the area that uses a pickup program. She stated she doesn't know a lot about that specific program, but she described the differences between the three composting options in the area, including Innovative Organics, Compost Exchange, and GoZERO. She stated she has had the best personal experience with GoZERO, which is a non-profit focused on sustainability.

Ms. Duffy invited the Board to consider what would work best for New Albany, including number of carts, number of drop off points (accessibility, participation), and whether the program is open or closed. She mentioned some businesses in the Business Park have started composting, as well.

Ms. Duffy provided two examples of cost: six bins at one location serviced weekly would cost \$7,800. Eight bins at two locations serviced weekly would cost \$12,480.

Mr. Kist asked if the city applied for the SWACO grant after implementing the program.

Ms. Duffy responded that the SWACO grant can be applied towards future costs; however, it cannot be applied towards an existing bill. It can be applied towards any number of waste reduction activities, not just composting. The SWACO grant application period is May to August 2022, and the max grant amount is \$35,000 with the applying entity contributing 25%. The grant appears to be renewable.

The Board discussed potential locations for the carts in New Albany, including a more centralized location, a southern location, and a northern location.

Ms. Duffy stated All Saints is willing to provide space for carts on their site.

Mr. Kist suggested three locations at All Saints, behind Market Street businesses, and at New Albany's Service Department, which Board members and staff thought sounded appropriate.

Ms. Gallo stated she likes the idea of a drop-off program.

Multiple Board members stated they liked the idea of having registration tied to receiving a 5-gallon composting bucket. This would allow for the city to have a rough estimate of the number of participants.

Mr. Filiatraut asked about what makes the most successful community compost programs.

Ms. Duffy stated communication will play a big part in making this work.

Ms. Joly asked the Board what their long term goals would be related to composting.

Board members indicated having composting programs available to Market Square, schools, and the Business Park, as well as having a broader or more regional program.

Ms. Joly stated residents could register in order to receive a bucket, which would allow a method for contacting participants for survey purposes or notifications. She stated the SWACO grant could be a great option for funding going forward.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated she had spoken to Ray from Compost Exchange who was willing to provide a pilot program for curbside pickup if the city wanted to explore that option at all.

The Board described how having multiple options for composting could muddle the effectiveness of the program.

Mr. Schumacher asked if a location at the Service Department would be too far for some people or would make people go out of their way.

Ms. Hoessle stated that a lot of residents utilize the park and are close by anyway and would utilize the site.

Ms. Joly stated that it sounds like there is consensus on what the Board would like to see in New Albany. She summarized the Board's comments that they would recommend a drop-off composting program that would provide carts at three locations, including All Saints, Market Square, and the Service Department. She stated there are short, medium, and long term goals.

Moved by Ms. Duffy, seconded by Ms. Gallo to recommend to City Council to adopt a drop off composting program per the discussion at today's Board meeting. Upon roll call: Ms. Duffy, yea; Ms. Gallo, yea; Mr. Filiatraut, yea; Mr. Schumacher, yea; Mr. Harrold, yea; Mr. Barnes, yea; Mr. Conway, yea. Yea, 7; Nay, 0; Abstain, 0. Motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Joly stated staff will discuss with Mr. Kist how to present this to Council.

Poll Members for Comment

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there were any other comments from the Board.

Mr. Kist stated he has collected the recycled Christmas lights from the drop-off location at Village Hall and will be taking those to the recycling facility.

Mr. Filiatraut motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Ms. Gallo. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted by Anna van der Zwaag.