



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
March 9, 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 6:33 PM.

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	Absent
Ms. Brigitte Bell (Student Member)	Absent
Mr. Kasey Kist (Council liaison)	Present

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

Moved by Mr. Schumacher, seconded by Ms. Gallo to approve the February 9, 2022 meeting minutes with the stated correction. Upon roll call: Mr. Schumacher, yea; Ms. Gallo, yea; Mr. Filiatraut, yea; Ms. Duffy, yea; Mr. Barnes, yea; Mr. Conway, yea. Yea, 6; Nay, 0; Abstain, 0. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

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

Ms. van der Zwaag stated one correction that Isaac Mullendore’s presentation will be moved to next months agenda. Ms. van der Zwaag stated that he will be presenting on residential opinions on solar panels.

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

Business

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

Composting Update

Ms. van der Zwaag provided an update on composting after the Board voted to recommend a composting program to city council at the last meeting. She stated the resolution to authorize the city manager to enact a drop-off municipal composting program for the city was approved by City Council and that the composting program will go live sometime in April after working with All Saints Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Shalom, the city communication team, and public service.

Mr. Schumacher asked how the city plans to advertise the program. Responses from staff stated that the program will be promoted on social media, in the school’s newsletter, and on the city weekly newsletter via email.

Board members they can promote on the community forum on Facebook and that the city could have sign ups available at the Farmers Market.

Ms. van der Zwaag also stated that GoZERO has plans to allow the city to purchase soil that utilized the compost later in the season.

Ms. Duffy asked if compostable bags will be passed out with the buckets. Staff stated that they plan to provide some compostable bags with the buckets as well as resources for where and how to purchase additional compostable bags.

Councilmember Kist stated that if the city goes through all 200 buckets immediately, then there is possibility for the city to order more buckets. Ms. Joly stated that ordering more buckets might provide an opportunity to brand the buckets with New Albany's logo.

Mr. Filiatraut stated members of the board could also serve as neighborhood liaisons to spread the word at a neighborhood level.

Sustainable2050 Update

Ms. van der Zwaag provided an update for the Sustainable2050 certification program through MORPC. The city will pursue a silver certification status. Communications with MORPC indicated that the city could submit the workbook by the end of April for MORPC's June Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

Earth Day 2022

Ms. Joly provided an update on Earth Day. Herself, Mr. Barnes, and Ms. Hoessle will meet to discuss the details of the event. The city communications team will also be involved.

Mr. Barnes discussed the purpose of doing a BioBlitz event. Someone can take a photo of a plant or animal and iNaturalist will identify it and place it in a database. He stated these work well in locations with lots of biodiversity.

Board members and staff continued to discuss logistics for the BioBlitz and Earth Day events. Ideas discussed included use of an event hashtag, event location of using Rose Run or Rocky Fork Metro Park, how to collect e-waste for an e-waste drive, the duration of the BioBlitz. The Board thought it would work well to have the main event take place on Saturday, April 23 with the BioBlitz being available throughout the week. This event would include a BioBlitz, an e-waste drive, and sign ups for composting.

Molly Scott, the coordinator of nature programs for Healthy New Albany introduced herself. She works with residents and students to do cleanups, hikes, and more activities surrounding nature programs. She offered her interest in coordinating with the city to help plan the Earth Day events, as well as composting. She can also help recruit volunteers for Earth Day if needed.

Environmental Sustainability Forum

Mr. Filiatraut gave a summary of the Environmental Sustainability Forum at MORPC, hosted by MORPC and Bexley's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee. Representatives from environmental sustainability groups throughout central Ohio attended. Some good ideas regarding pollinator gardens and other sustainability efforts were shared. These meetings will be held quarterly going forward for the purposes of coordination and best practices sharing.

Solar Options

Mr. Filiatraut provided background on Senate Bill 61 and SolSmart. SolSmart is a nationally recognized program run through US Department of Energy designed to recognize communities that have taken key steps to address local barriers to solar energy. Provides prerequisites that communities can achieve to earn certification. Several communities in central Ohio have pursued it. Upper Arlington just recently achieved gold level status. Other communities pursuing certification include Delaware and Hilliard, among others. MORPC connects communities to a free technical advisor who can help guide communities through the process. Pursuing SolSmart can help New Albany with criteria in Sustainability2050.

Mr. Filiatraut also talked about ways the city and its residents could leverage buying power to pursue solar, including a residential solar co-op that MORPC is organizing.

Senate Bill 61 is a bipartisan bill that passed through the Ohio Senate and is now in the Ohio House. This Bill would limit HOAs from imposing unfair restrictions on homeowners that want to go solar.

Ms. Joly stated that in light of Senate Bill 61, staff have met with the community development department to review city's regulations and zoning code. Staff are determining their responsibility and best practices related to solar in New Albany. Ms. Joly stated staff would be open to exploring SolSmart if the board was also interested.

Other Business

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there was any other business that staff. None from staff.

Poll Members for Comment

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

Ms. Duffy asked for an update on the DORA. Ms. van der Zwaag stated that plastic cups which are recyclable will be utilized. She stated that SWACO organized a DORA management meeting where central Ohio communities could discuss best practices related to waste generated by the DORA. Conversations covered compostable versus plastic cups, as well as use of stickers. DORA will be implemented on Founders Day, May 21. Additional recycling containers will be provided throughout Market Square as well.

Mr. Filiatraut motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Ms. Gallo. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Submitted by Anna van der Zwaag.