



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
June 8, 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 6:35 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)	Absent

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 April 13, 2022 meeting minutes. 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 there are a few items that will be added under other business later in the evening. No corrections from Board members.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there were any members of the public present to speak to items not on tonight’s agenda. No members of the public wishing to speak present.

Business

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

Earth Day/Arbor Day Update

Ms. van der Zwaag provided an update on the Earth Day events that took place on April 23. She stated it was a huge success with the amount of electronic waste that was collected, including four trucks and trailers full of e-waste. This e-waste included over 50 CRT TV monitors. No final count of items was available.

Ms. van der Zwaag thanked the public service staff who helped with the event, as without them the event would not have been able to be as successful. There were also over 20 compost registrations and lots of kids having fun by the water with the BioBlitz.

Ms. van der Zwaag discussed with the Board some of the lessons learned and some strategies that could be used going forward if this event were to happen again. These included moving the drop off location closer to the Heit Center and blocking off the parking lot the day before the event; more clear signage for what can and cannot be recycled; organization of the trucks.

Board members suggested putting out a dumpster for unwanted items or items that can not be accepted for the e-waste drive; additional partnerships; increased frequency of these drives; and combining this with other drives for items such as hazardous waste or paper needing shredded.

One Board member reported that several people took multiple trips to the electronic waste drive with carloads of material to recycle.

Ms. Joly thanked the Board members for their time volunteering to make Earth Day a success.

Ms. Hoessle provided an update with photos for the Arbor Day event. She reported that council and staff planted a ginkgo tree and some native witch hazel on the hillside in the Rose Run area.

Composting Update

Ms. van der Zwaag updated the Board on the success of the composting program so far. The city has seen over 250 registrations online, 126 buckets have been picked up from public service, and the remaining buckets will be made available to the wait list after another couple weeks.

Ms. van der Zwaag shared an online dashboard tool that GIS Analyst Ryan Kelley made to show the weight and volume of compost collected at each of the three locations. The online dashboard is not yet on the website but once it has been updated with comments from staff.

Board members suggested using other equivalencies on the dashboard to show how composting food waste can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and similar statistics. Ms. Duffy said she would share some of those numbers she received from GoZERO. Other Board members suggested using a trashcan as a metric to show how many trash barrels have been diverted from the landfill.

Mr. Barnes stated he is willing to help set up a booth at the farmers market to help with education and sign-ups. Board members asked if it would be possible to have a place at the farmers market for residents to drop off their compost.

The Board and staff discussed generating a food waste/compost survey to gather feedback from residents participating in the program. Ms. van der Zwaag stated she will prepare a sample survey to present at the next meeting.

Ms. Duffy suggested the idea of taking a tour of the compost facility that GoZERO uses. Ms. van der Zwaag stated she would reach out to Jamison from GoZERO to learn more about what this tour would look like.

Taylor Farm Park Presentation

Ms. Joly gave a presentation on the development of Taylor Farm Park. With the Board's interest in exploring native and sustainable landscaping, Ms. Joly thought an update on Taylor Farm would be appropriate. Ms. Joly's presentation covered the history of the farm and what's happened to date, what the city is doing in the immediate future, and then the longer term phases for the project.

Ms. Joly presented a map of the area to orient people to the site. Taylor Farm is on the north side of Dublin Granville and right at the western gateway into New Albany. Rocky Fork Creek runs along the west, which can be seen as an overgrown riparian area on the map. The site is L-shaped, goes over to Harlem Road on the southeast corner, and up to SR-161 on the north of the site. The site is about 100 acres and has a wooded area in the middle.

Taylor Farm operated as a farm for over 170 years. The Taylor family settled in that area and the last Taylor descendant was Eleanor Taylor, and she sold the farm to the New Albany Company in 2019. The site is home to several wetlands, which have strict rules from the Ohio EPA related to development. Wetlands are going to be disturbed by development. There is a process that any developer has to go through if they want to develop a wetland site. If any are going to be impacted then the developer either has to buy wetland credits somewhere else to create wetlands to replace what is being impacted. A lot of times that is not the case in someone just buys credits for mitigation site in northwest Ohio, but there are some environmental benefits to mitigating those wetlands close to the area where the development is happening. So that wetland construction started back in 2020. The city bought the property from the New Albany Company last June, and received a Clean Ohio grant for a portion of the purchase, meaning the site has to stay open space and passive recreation.

The city has been doing a lot of maintenance on the site, including invasive species management earlier this year. There are three wetland cells in total, and depending on the rainfall, there may be standing water. In total the project will include planting thousands of trees. There are emergent wetland areas and wetland buffer areas that will be protected. The wetlands are pretty shallow and will fill up if there is a lot of rain, and then drain slowly into the ground and event to the creeks. Due to the wetlands, there are some stringent monitoring requirements including removing invasive species and planting native vegetation.

Phase I of the project consists of a trail network made of both permeable asphalt and boardwalk depending on the proximity to the wetland. There will be multiple experiences for a variety of different user types in the park including a variety of different trail loops, playground equipment, and birding opportunities.

Taylor Farm has several buildings on the property. There is a home from the mid-1800s, a summer kitchen, a chicken coop, and a barn.

The goal is for Phase I to be completed by November. Phase II will include experiences for a variety of ages of users. It will also likely include relocating the community gardens to Taylor Farm.

Ms. Joly was asked if there are plans for a pavilion or shelter space. Ms. Joly stated that eventually there could be an event barn similar to some other communities, but that is just a concept at this point and there is no funding in place for that at this time.

Ms. Joly was asked about what will happen to the house. Ms. Joly stated that at this point the goal is just to secure the buildings and make sure they don't fall down and no one gets hurt near them. Eventually, the house could be something like a smaller event space or a bridal shower space – there are a lot of possibilities for that space.

Ms. Joly was asked about pedestrian access to the site. Ms. Joly stated there are a couple different ways that the farm can be accessed. Greensward is one of them and the city is exploring use of a push button activated pedestrian crossing with rapid flashing beacons. Additionally, not as part of Phase I, but there is an infrastructure project under design to make pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Harlem on Dublin Granville Road. The driveway for the new Presbyterian church will align with Harlem and there will be continuous leisure trail on the south side of the Dublin Granville. There will be a bridge over Sugar Run and then the same will happen on the north side.

Staff were asked about potential for use of Rocky Fork Creek for kayaking or other water-based activities. Mr. Barker stated that in the next few years, the creek will be cleaned up incrementally so it can become a place for activity.

Mr. Barker also stated that this project is a big win for the environment. The habitat that is being created for animal and plant life is high quality and this is going to be one of the highest quality forested wetland areas. Additionally, New Albany is located in a place where having positive impacts on these streams here will have positive impacts downstream for other communities.

Ms. Joly stated staff will try to schedule a field trip for a future meeting to Taylor Farm.

Sustainable & Native Landscaping

Ms. Hoessle provided a brief introduction to sustainable & native landscaping since the Board had stated it was a topic of interest to them. She stated sustainable and native landscaping can be financially and environmentally beneficial. They are not necessarily the same thing. Native landscaping can be good for insects and native wildlife; however, urban soils are not native and our native plants cannot necessarily grow in them.

Examples include roadside pollinator habitat; however, Ohio law prevents these from being planted in the median along state routes. There are both formal and informal planting types too. Landscaping can be targeted for wet, dry, sunny, or shady areas. There is a website called Wild Ones that posts guides on how to plan a native landscape – with downloadable landscape designs. Local examples in New Albany include the prairie and pollinator garden at the E3 building. At Taylor Farm, city planted prairie plants.

Mr. Sean Duffy from All Saints Episcopal Church spoke stating that All Saints potentially has some land that could be used for a pilot project or something similar.

The Board and staff members discussed how to go about projects related to sustainable and native landscaping and decided there are three types of projects they can discuss at a future meeting and decide on:

1. Educational campaign – farmers market, mailings, online resources. This includes messaging and communication.
2. Pilot Project – this can be the Board implementing a pilot project related to sustainable and native landscaping.
3. Recommendation to Council to convert certain area to sustainable landscaping.

Staff stated they can scope out how some of these projects would take shape and present to the Board at a future meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there was any other business from staff.

First, Mr. Bill Resch sent a presentation to Pete Barnes to present on his behalf. Mr. Barnes introduced Mr. Resch as a former science teacher in New Albany who is interested in all sorts of sustainability issues. He is one of the people who helped secure the nature preserves at Swickard Woods around the schools, but he's currently working on making sure that construction sites are not causing more erosion than necessary. This presentation relates to that.

The presentation included concepts surrounding this idea that mud from construction sites is creating problems for waterways. The presentation suggested that the best available technology to prevent this is a truck washing station, which can help remove excess mud and keep it out of the city's waterways.

Mr. Barker responded with some feedback on what New Albany currently requires when it comes to construction. Currently, each construction site should have other best management practices that

provides erosion control, including requiring sedimentation and abrasion control details when engineering drawings are submitted. Mr. Barker stated many contractors who work in the city are very cooperative. Each site has its own unique conditions that require specific measures to minimize erosion.

Mr. Barker was asked about smaller scale construction projects on homes and the bags that block water from going into the sewer. Mr. Barker stated that residential building inspectors from the development department look for use of proper stormwater pollution prevention strategies, but that there are challenges in ensuring those practices remain in place after a building inspection is over. Residents are allowed to call and report any issues to the city.

Board members suggested ideas for improving these practices by having a dedicated phone line, signs with QR codes, and reminding the city's inspectors to keep an eye out.

Mr. Schumacher had requested an update on DORA cups. Mr. Barker responded that our Public Services Manager, Angie, went out that weekend to gauge the trash and recycling effectiveness for the DORA. He stated there have been some learning curves initially, especially with things like weather and wind blowing over those stations; however, now they seem to be used appropriately. As long as there are trash and recycling bins next to each other, people are more likely to recycle appropriately.

Mr. Barker also provided an update that the city will be repurposing trash and recycling containers from the Columbus Blue Jackets at Nationwide Arena. The city will receive 15 pairs of them to use for events.

Mr. Filiatraut provided an update stating that Senate Bill 61, which prohibits HOAs from restricting solar for homeowners, passed the Ohio House of Representatives. The bill still needs to be signed into law, but more updates are to come related to that.

Ms. Duffy mentioned SWACO has some upcoming grant opportunities related to community waste reduction the city could investigate. Grant opportunities could include things like expanding the compost program, recycling bins at Bevelhymer Park or similar, refillable water bottle stations, or similar activities.

Poll Members for Comment

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

Ms. Gallo stated she is willing to contribute to doing research or other support for the Board.

Mr. Filiatraut motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Ms. Duffy. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted by Anna van der Zwaag.