



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board  
September 14, 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 6:36 PM.

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Brian Filiatraut, Chair	Present
Mr. Charles Schumacher, Vice-Chair	Present (Arrived 6:55)
Ms. Catherine Duffy, Secretary	Present
Mr. Peter Barnes	Present
Ms. Laura Gallo	Present
Mr. Steven Conway	Absent
Mr. Scott Harrold	Absent
Ms. Lily McGraw (Student Member)	Present
Mr. Kasey Kist (Council liaison)	Absent

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

Following roll call, Ms. McGraw was sworn in by Board Chair, Mr. Filiatraut.

Moved by Ms. Duffy, seconded by Ms. Gallo to approve the August 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Upon roll call: Ms. Duffy, yea; Ms. Gallo, yea; Mr. Filiatraut, yea; Mr. Barnes, yea; Yea, 4; Nay, 0; Abstain, 0. Motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

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

Ms. van der Zwaag stated there are none from staff. None 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 were present.

**Business**

Mr. Filiatraut introduced the first item of business, a presentation from Noah Qazi, a senior at New Albany High School who presented his senior seminar project on recycling in Bevelhymer Park.

**Guest Presentation on Recycling by Noah Qazi**

Mr. Qazi presented his research on recycling, for which he compared recycling practices and litter found at parks throughout New Albany. These parks were Bevelhymer Park, Swickard Woods, and Rose Run Park. Mr. Qazi provided some background research, research methods, and results, as well as implications and next steps.

Ms. Joly asked if there were any places in Rose Run Park that would benefit from additional recycling bins.

Mr. Qazi stated there is a place where there is a lot of mulch where people ride their bikes, where there was some litter but overall Rose Run was better than other parks.

Ms. Gallo asked if he thinks adding recycling bins would stop the problem of people throwing trash on the ground. She asked if there is a way to prevent people from doing that.

Mr. Qazi stated it comes down to awareness and education.

Mr. Barnes stated maybe some signage could do some good too. It makes sense to place more recycling bins at Bevelhymer Park. He thought it would be a good idea to share the presentation with Brian Smith from New Albany Parks and Recreation.

The Board thanked Mr. Qazi for his presentation.

### **Summit on Sustainability**

The Board and staff discussed final registration for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Summit for Sustainability on October 14, 2022. Several staff and Board members plan to be in attendance.

### **2023 Sustainability Work Program and Budget Discussion**

Ms. van der Zwaag introduced the draft budget to the Board. She stated the budget reflects multiple priorities the Board established at their first regular meeting last December.

First, the Food Waste Compost Program was implemented in April and since has resulted in 320 registrations and 6.5 tons or 48 trash carts diverted from the landfill. She stated the budget remains approximately the same, with a slight increase in pickup cost from GoZERO prices increasing, as well as a third cart at the Village Hall pickup location.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if the budget needed to be whittled down or if it can be approved as-is.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated there will be some items that have options, and the Board can determine what their preference is.

Second, the solar energy priority project has been ongoing. The Board has discussed Senate Bill 61, which went into effect in September. Ms. van der Zwaag and the community development department are also working with MKSK to develop a solar energy best practices report.

Ms. Joly stated that if that report indicates additional work, such as a code update, those changes would either be made internally or through consultants via the community development department.

Ms. Duffy asked how education can be included related to solar.

Ms. Joly stated there is some promotional item budget included for education and other related items.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the third priority was sustainable/native landscaping. Some ideas the Board has discussed were pilot projects, grant programs, or an invasive tree/shrub trade-in program.

Mr. Filiatraut asked who would the target audience be for the grant program.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated likely organizations like non-profits, schools, religious organizations.

Ms. Joly stated the Board could determine the requirements and application process.

Mr. Barnes stated he likes this idea, especially if paired with an educational component.

Ms. Gallo asked how the Board determines what is an invasive plant for the trade-in program.

Ms. Joly stated those sorts of details will be determined; however, there would be specific invasive plants on our list.

Mr. Barnes stated this is a good idea and a good way to target specific invasive plants.

Ms. Duffy agreed that this is a good idea, as is the grant program.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the fourth Board priority was community cleanup projects. This includes electronic waste, paper shredding, and hazardous waste drives. Hazardous waste is the most expensive of the three drives.

Mr. Schumacher asked how other communities partner with SWACO for hazardous waste drives.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated three community drives are on SWACO's website and the Board could investigate how to make this partnership.

Ms. Joly mentioned the proposed budget was scaled from Westerville's actual costs. She stated the city can also look for partnership opportunities.

The Board and staff discussed how to approach the budget. Ms. Joly stated this is the first time a Board like this is requesting its own budget, so there will likely be conversations with council based on what the Board spent in 2022 and scaling that appropriately for next year's budget.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the Board's fifth priority was a sustainable action plan, which is currently not started. At this point, there is no proposed budget for this item.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated additional projects included in the draft budget are Earth Day to Arbor Day celebrations, water bottle refill station, the Fill it Forward app, pumpkin collection for composting, and PR campaigns.

Ms. Joly stated the schools are interested in partnering with the Board to discuss opportunities to apply for water bottle refill station grants and utilize the Fill it Forward app.

Ms. McGraw stated she is not sure how much students would utilize an app to track when they use a reusable water bottle.

Mr. Barnes stated that in their building, they have some water bottle stations but students aren't allowed to use their phones during the day – this would pose a challenge to using the app during the day.

Ms. Joly asked which building needs refill stations the most.

Ms. McGraw stated the high school has a few. Mr. Schumacher stated the high school could use some more.

The Board discussed whether gamification is the only way people can be enticed to participate and use refillable water bottles. The app could be used to justify using more stations; however, refill stations already have bottle counts.

Ms. Joly stated it will be important to work with teachers and schools to develop a program that works.

Ms. van der Zwaag mentioned the next items requiring budget is a pumpkin collection drive with a 20 cubic yard roll off container at service. There is also budget for PR items.

Ms. Duffy asked if the Board would be bound to the item descriptions included in the budget or if there is flexibility to utilize the money in slightly different ways than expected.

Ms. Joly stated there is some flexibility; however, if there are large variations, the Board can take that to council.

Ms. Duffy asked if there are other community partners for Earth Day and Arbor Day events.

Ms. Hoessle stated Healthy New Albany and Ahlum and Arbor will be partners.

Mr. Barnes stated the draft budget looks good. The Fill it Forward app part could be more broadly a project that partners with the school. He would be willing to meet with school administrators, as well.

Mr. Schumacher asked if the grant for water bottle refill stations was federal or state level EPA.

Ms. Joly stated this is from the state EPA.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the grant is \$5,000 per school or \$10,000 per school district, 12 months to install the equipment, and 100% reimbursement.

Mr. Schumacher stated that there is \$27,000 from the draft budget between the water bottle refill station and the Fill it Forward app that could be reassigned or needs clarification.

Ms. Joly suggested further defining that value at the next meeting.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if that money could be used towards a Sustainability Action Plan.

Ms. Joly stated a consultant would likely cost more than that for a plan.

Ms. Gallo stated that budget is good to go but if something needs to be cut, the app could be cut.

Ms. Joly stated staff will combine these two line items into something for school partnership/plastic use reduction. Next month, the Board can dive into these items some more.

Moved by Mr. Schumacher, seconded by Ms. Gallo to approve the proposed budget from staff. Upon roll call: Mr. Schumacher, yea; Ms. Gallo, yea; Mr. Filiatraut, yea; Ms. Duffy, yea; Mr. Barnes, yea; Yea, 5; Nay, 0; Abstain, 0. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

### **Other Business**

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

Mr. Filiatraut asked to revisit the Sustainability chapter of the strategic plan at a next meeting.

Ms. Duffy stated she has been invited to meetings at Temple Beth Shalom for their sustainability initiative. She is wondering if someone from New Albany could come to discuss what New Albany has been working on.

Mr. Schumacher asked if this is something the Board should consider – opening more dialogue up to the community. Potentially at the Heit center or something similar such as a “reengagement meeting”.

Ms. Joly mentioned the city just completed a resident survey, which some of those results could be relevant to the Board.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there’s a way to include businesses in the compost program.

Ms. Joly stated at present companies contract for their own waste removal, so there would be additional research that would need to be done to learn how communities engage businesses to participate in composting.

Ms. van der Zwaag invited Board members to share case studies they might have heard of already for how to engage businesses.

### **Poll Members for Comment**

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there were any other comments from 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 7:57 p.m.

Submitted by Anna van der Zwaag.