



New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
June 14, 2023 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. Schumacher at 6:35 PM.

Those answering roll call:

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

Staff members present: Mike Barker, Director of Public Service; Marylou Hoessle, City Forester; and Anna van der Zwaag, Planner II.

Mr. Schumacher asked if there were any corrections to the March 8, 2023 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes.

No corrections were noted.

Ms. Duffy moved to approve the March 8, 2023 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Harrold and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the minutes.

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

No additions or corrections to the agenda were noted.

Mr. Schumacher asked if there were any visitors wishing to speak on items not on the agenda.

None.

Business

Earth Day to Arbor Day Recap

Ms. van der Zwaag provided a recap of the Earth Day to Arbor Day week which took place in April.

For the e-waste drive, Ms. van der Zwaag stated over 10,000 pounds of e-waste were collected and reviewed the lessons learned, including the favorable location of the public service complex and increased participation. She noted the largest expense for the e-waste drive was the CRT TVs.

Mr. Barker stated the public service department was a great location and the turnout exceeded expectations again. The space within the garage is very advantageous, especially with variable weather that time of year.

Mr. Schumacher noted several people came through multiple times.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the Compost 101 open house was not well attended, with only three people attending; however, the city has achieved a milestone of over 50,000 pounds of food waste composted to-date.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the Creek Stomp had a better turnout and Mr. Schumacher and Mr. Barnes were both great help finding critters and showing the kids.

Ms. Hoessle provided a summary of the Arbor Day events that took place, including over 270 student volunteers from the school to help plant new trees.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the Parks Pass had 98 signups and 315 check-ins during the week, which Bandwango told city staff was great engagement for a one-week period.

Ms. Duffy asked about the turnout for the native landscaping lecture at the Heit that week.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated there were about 20 attendees who were given lots of helpful resources to implement native landscaping practices at their homes.

Mr. Schumacher stated overall there was good representation and participation and would be happy to keep it going while also evolving the community participation component.

Mr. Kist agreed the public service department was the best location for the e-waste drive and appreciated the volume of tree plantings that took place for Arbor Day.

Ms. Duffy stated she believes there is an appetite in the community for attending and working for these types of events.

Mr. Kist suggested adding a stream cleanup as people like to attend those types of events. He also noted the service department now has a truck that picks up trash along roadways like 161.

Solar Best Practices Report Update

Ms. van der Zwaag provided a summary of the responses received by the Sustainability Advisory Board, Architectural Review Board, and the Planning Commission on the Solar Best Practices Report. Areas of common ground between the three boards and commissions included commercial, institutional, and community solar.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated staff will need to review these areas of common ground and determine the most appropriate next steps.

Ms. Duffy stated, given the current silence in the code on residential solar, it is okay to keep the code silent as to avoid adding more restrictions on residential solar.

Mr. Kist asked what would be accomplished by modifying code if the HOAs and deed restrictions place heavier restrictions on solar.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated a large part of it is signaling that New Albany is open to solar.

Mr. Kist stated another aspect could be providing a tool to HOAs to indicate how the city would regulate the panels.

Mr. Harrold asked if there was a precedent for that in the past – HOAs changing their restrictions based on city code updates.

Mr. Barker stated there is more to come with this project and more coordination and potentially negotiation that will need to happen to move forward.

Mr. Kist stated that if anything is put into code it should be from a perspective of working with HOAs to provide guardrails.

Ms. Duffy added that codifying additional regulations would also impact people who don't live in an HOA and would put additional barriers in place for those residences, which she would be opposed to.

Student Leaders in Sustainability Grant Update

Ms. van der Zwaag summarized the updates to the Student Leaders in Sustainability Grant framework.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated she met with Principal Kraemer and provided a summary of the feedback he provided.

Mr. Kist asked if the Board is open to funding multiple projects.

Ms. van der Zwaag answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Schumacher stated he believed the preference would be for multiple projects.

Mr. Schumacher asked if part of the application requests the students to break down cost or provide cost estimate.

Ms. van der Zwaag answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Conway stated this updated framework is in line with what the Board had previously discussed.

Mr. Conway moved to endorse the Student Leaders in Sustainability Pilot Grant for City Council to review. Seconded by Mr. Harrold and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to endorse the framework.

Planning and Budget Discussion

Ms. van der Zwaag summarized the Board's project priorities this year and upcoming projects or events for 2023.

Ms. van der Zwaag asked for feedback on what the Board wants to keep, what they want to add, and if they want to modify types of projects.

Mr. Kist stated he views the core of the Board's programming as the Earth Day to Arbor Day Celebration, pumpkin/gourd composting, food waste compost, and holiday lights and political sign recycling. He would prefer to keep those as the main programming of the Board.

Mr. Kist stated that for the projects that are pursued in addition to those core things, the Board should be more selective.

Mr. Conway stated he agreed with the idea of these core events which will get the community used to seeing the same things and know what to expect.

Ms. Duffy agreed and stated she would like to be more of a programmatic group, influencing practices of sustainability within the city.

Ms. Duffy asked if Christmas trees can also be collected.

Mr. Barker stated Rumpke will pick up Christmas trees each year.

Mr. Conway stated he would like to look into what other similar sustainability groups are doing that might serve as an example of what is being done.

Mr. Kist recommended including more educational opportunities; pairing up with local corporate and utility partners that the city can help promote their sustainability programs.

Mr. Conway and Ms. Duffy stated there might be larger speakers that would draw residents.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated she will send out a survey in July to help create a draft work plan for the Board to review in August.

VISITORS

Michelle Malik, 7591 Lambton Park Rd, stated she recently attended a TedX event and some students gave a very inspiring talk on composting. She stated something similar in New Albany would be a great opportunity. She stated restaurants in New Albany could be a great place to start next.

Sam Malik, 7591 Lambton Park Rd, commended what the city is doing with the compost program. He stated the highest impact areas are the businesses in New Albany, in terms of the volume of plastic cups and compostable waste being thrown in the trash. Mr. Malik stated promoting best practices is a good focus, and suggested something like a “green seal” that could be given to businesses that meet certain sustainability criteria. He stated there are residents in New Albany that would love to get involved in some of these initiatives.

Other Project Updates

Ms. van der Zwaag asked and the Board agreed that the July meeting would be cancelled in favor of Board members attending the New Albany 101: Summer Appy Hour at the Heit at the same date and time of the regularly scheduled meeting.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the city will have a table at the June 22 Farmers Market and encouraged members to attend to help promote the compost program.

Ms. van der Zwaag announced that the high school was awarded a \$4,092 grant for 3 new water bottle refilling stations from the Ohio EPA.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the Community Backyards Workshop with Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District will take place September 27 at 6 PM.

Ms. van der Zwaag reminded members to keep the SWACO Community Waste Reduction Grant in the back of their minds as a possible funding source.

Ms. Duffy asked for an update on the Upper Arlington curbside compost pilot program in August.

Other Business

Ms. Schumacher asked if there was any other business.

None was presented.

Poll Members for Comment

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

Mr. Conway asked the current timeline for Phase I of Taylor Farm.

Mr. Barker stated the contractor has made tremendous progress and multiple things are going on at the same time, including a new large playground, paving, parking lot, and more. He expects parts of Phase I will be open to the public late summer/early fall.

Mr. Schumacher asked if the neighborhood park scopes included adding recycling receptacles.

Mr. Barker answered in the affirmative, stating there will be dedicated recycling and trash receptacles.

Mr. Schumacher motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Mr. Conway. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.