



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board  
October 11, 2023 Approved 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 6:33 PM.

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Brian Filiautraut, Chair	Absent
Mr. Charles Schumacher, Vice-Chair	Present
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)	Absent
Mr. Kasey Kist (Council Liaison)	Absent

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

Mr. Schumacher asked if there were any corrections to the September 13, 2023 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes.

No corrections were noted.

Ms. Duffy moved to approve the September 13, 2023 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Ms. Gallo 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. None were noted.

Mr. Schumacher asked if there were any visitors wishing to speak on items not on the agenda. None were present.

**Business**

***Student Leaders in Sustainability Pilot Grant Q & A Session***

Ms. van der Zwaag began the items of business by welcoming those present to ask questions about the Student Leaders in Sustainability Pilot Grant, which is now live.

Noelle Griffith (5511 Steele Court), a member of the Girl Scouts, and her mother, Abbey Jo Griffith, presented a project idea about establishing a compost program at the primary school as well as encouraging local families to sign up for the city’s program.

Suggestions were made to potentially divide the project into phases and explore grant options to ensure sustainability of a primary school compost program beyond the school year. Ms. van der Zwaag suggested meeting separately to go over these ideas for the application.

Mr. Barnes stated he would also be happy to meet with the Griffiths, as well. He noted the challenge for this type of program is paying for it. He shared some ideas about training third graders to be prepared to compost once they get to the intermediate school.

Ms. Griffith asked about the deadline of the project being the end of the school year. Ms. van der Zwaag answered that there could be phases of this program that can be completed by the Student Leaders in Sustainability Pilot Grant deadline, and that she would also be willing to connect them to resources that might help her achieve the larger goals she has.

Ms. Gallo asked what the reasoning was for establishing a compost program at the primary school rather than the middle school. Ms. Griffith stated it was more about starting kids young and encouraging them to become passionate about composting at a young age so that maybe they would want to start the compost program at the middle school when they age into those grades.

Manori Wisidagamadona, 7428 Upper Clarenton Dr, asked about a potential electric bike project for her son, who is very interested in converting normal bikes into e-bikes. The Board discussed some potential avenues for this project and Ms. van der Zwaag invited her to reach out for more information or with additional questions.

### ***Invasive Species Trade-In Program Update***

Ms. van der Zwaag updated the Board on the Invasive Plant Trade-In Program. She stated city staff have had some challenges in finding a local plant nursery that would be willing to partner on this project within the recommended time frame, geographic location, and with city staff's recommended invasive species list. She stated staff are looking into a collaboration with Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District (FSWCD), which was an idea that came from one Board member. There was a meeting scheduled with FSWCD the following day.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated it might be more appropriate to hold off until spring for this program to work with FSWCD timeline. This timeline would also allow for promotion of the program through Earth Day to Arbor Day.

Mr. Schumacher mentioned concerns about the timeline for the ordering of plants through their plant sale would align with this project.

Ms. Joly stated the potential partnership with FSWCD might be a more natural fit, whether it's through the plant sale or using the city's relationship with them to find another more appropriate way to implement this program with them as a partner.

Mr. Barnes requested that if at all possible, the plants are delivered in groups to New Albany to prevent people from needing to drive to their location in central Columbus area. Ms. van der Zwaag stated she would ask at the meeting and see if that would be feasible.

The Board members expressed their support for the program and its potential benefits for the community.

### ***Upcoming Recycling Events***

Ms. van der Zwaag reminded the Board of upcoming events focused on diverting waste from the landfill.

- i. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event:

- Date: October 21st from 8:00 AM to noon.
  - Volunteers needed for two shifts.
  - Website for event is [newalbanyohio.org/hhw](http://newalbanyohio.org/hhw).
- ii. Pumpkin Collection:
- Scheduled to start on November 1<sup>st</sup> and running through December 8<sup>th</sup>, an extension of one week compared to last year.
  - Located at public service again.
- iii. Political Yard Sign Recycling:
- Planned for the week after the election.
  - More details to be provided closer to the date.
  - Discussion on improving the sorting system to handle the influx of signage.
  - Suggestion to evaluate the need for additional locations or more frequent service to accommodate the volume.
- iv. Holiday Lights Recycling:
- Location at Village Hall and also at the Plain Township Fire Department.

### ***2024 Priorities Discussion (Continued)***

The board examined the work plan, budget, and associated programs intended for the upcoming year. It was noted that many components remained consistent with the previous month's draft.

Ms. van der Zwaag presented a proposed schedule for which programs and activities would be discussed at which meetings, leaving flexibility for adjusting as necessary within the year. She stated the only change from last month's meeting was more broadly categorizing compost programs and recycling into one "waste diversion" category.

The discussion then shifted to the prospect of forming subcommittees. The attendees debated the possibility of smaller groups focusing on specific topics and potentially meeting more frequently than the monthly Board meetings. It was suggested that these subcommittees might engage in in-depth discussions and could potentially involve residents and other community members.

There was discussion on whether subcommittees were the most appropriate avenue for these in-depth discussions or if an ad-hoc committee, working group, focus group, or work session would be more appropriate. Ms. Joly stated she would check with the city attorney as to the best path forward based on the feedback from the Board at tonight's meeting.

It was emphasized that city staff would need to be present at any subcommittee, working group, or focus group meetings. Additionally, anything discussed at these meetings would need to report back the findings and discussion to the entire Sustainability Advisory Board at the next meeting.

It was noted that some members of the Board were absent and it might make sense to revisit this with more people present. Because of that, Mr. Schumacher recommended using next month's meeting as a sample working session with a more detailed focus on gaining interest from the entire Board on who wants to participate and how.

The Board agreed that using next month as a working session would be beneficial.

Additional conversation included creation of a sustainability webpage on the city's website, as well as possibility of using postcards that are made of seeds and can be planted.

Following the discussion on the work plan and budget, Mr. Schumacher moved to approve the 2024 Sustainability Advisory Board for City Council's review. Seconded by Ms. Gallo and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the 2024 Sustainability Advisory Board Budget.

### **Other Business**

Ms. van der Zwaag shared that the city received the gold-level award from the Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities award.

Ms. van der Zwaag also shared an opportunity for local nonprofits and community gardens to receive free compost soil.

### **Poll Members for Comment**

Mr. Schumacher asked if there were any other comments from the Board. None were noted.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Schumacher motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Ms. Duffy. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.