



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
January 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on January 10, 2024 at the New Albany Village Hall. Mr. Schumacher called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and asked to hear the roll.

II. Roll Call

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Filiatraut	absent
Ms. Duffy	absent
Mr. Harrold	present
Mr. Barnes	present
Mr. Schumacher	present
Mr. Conway	absent
Ms. Gallo	present
Ms. McGraw	absent
Council Member Kist	present

Having four voting members present, the board had a quorum.

Staff members present: Planner II van der Zwaag, City Forester Hoessle.

III. Action of Minutes:

Mr. Schumacher asked whether there were corrections to the minutes from the November 8, 2023 meeting. Hearing no comment, he noted that he had one correction to page five. On page five, regarding the conversation about the board being on the same page and contacting the hoa(s), it was his intent that staff contact them. Planner II van der Zwaag stated that she would make that change.

Hearing no further corrections, Ms. Gallo moved for approval of the minutes as corrected. Mr. Harrold seconded the motion.

Upon roll call: Ms. Gallo yes, Mr. Harrold yes, Mr. Schumacher yes, Mr. Barnes yes. The motion passed with four yes votes, and the November 8, 2023 meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

IV. Additions or Corrections to Agenda

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

Planner II van der Zwaag answered there were not.

V. Hearing of Visitors for Items Not on Tonight's Agenda



Mr. Schumacher asked whether there were any visitors present who wished to address the board for an item not on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Burac, 5131 Abbotsbury Ct. came to the lectern. Mr. Burac stated that he is a long-time resident of New Albany and his residence backs up to Sugar Run and Prairie House and it is a beautiful place. He continued that he is interested in sustainability – invasive species, blueways, and greenways and he is an amateur environmentalist which was why he began attending the board meetings. He stated that is grateful that New Albany had established the Sustainability Board. He discussed the cost of replacing a tree on his property, and recommended that the city might consider limiting the rebate program to replacement of shrubs. He continued that he was interested in invasive species and had been observing the types on his property. He had been using an app called picturethis, and that app might be a good resource for the community. The effort requires information and education of the community. He stated that he thought there were some opportunities for connecting our native communities with native plantings similar to the way that Dublin and Westerville have accomplished this. He stated that the SR 161 exit ramps were a good spot for native grass plantings, as well as along fence lines, stream corridors, and drainage easements. He also stated that he was looking forward to putting a native planting mix on 200-square feet of his own property.

Council Member Kist confirmed the name of the app Mr. Burac had mentioned, picturethis. The board noted that it was a subscription app, and discussed whether there were free apps. City Forester Hoessle remarked that she typically uses Google Lens to identify species.

Mr. Schumacher agreed and referenced his correction to the minutes. The board's goal is to build the landscapers in the process via meet and greet and to take a holistic approach.

Mr. Barnes agreed and added that it begins with starting small. He noted that residents can become concerned that native planting areas will appear unruly or unkempt. As a small project develops, the community will gain confidence.

Mr. Schumacher and the board thanked Mr. Burac for his testimony and asked Planner II van der Zwaag to proceed with the business on the agenda

VI. Business:

- I. Planner II van der Zwaag provided the following current project updates:
 - Student Leaders in Sustainability Pilot Grant – Planner II van der Zwaag explained that she was working on logistical items such as terms and conditions, and site approval agreements. She expected to have a mid-point update in the next month or two. Following that, the board would begin to evidence of the projects around the community and they could expect an end of semester update. She stated that there was already an uptick in registrations for compost buckets. She continued that the high school environmental club was working on signage for the program. Ms. Gallo stated that signage at the Intermediate School could be very effective because many cars waited in the drop-off/pick-up line each day. Mr. Barnes agreed and said the same was true at the Primary School.
 - Invasive Trade-In Program - Planner II van der Zwaag stated that they are looking to roll that program out in time for Earth Day to Arbor Day, with the



receipts be submitted in May and she had a meeting scheduled with Franklin County Soil and Water on January 11th. She wanted to provide tools to residents so they would know what kinds of species should and should not be removed, and what species were beneficial.

Mr. Schumacher asked City Forester Hoessle whether it was feasible for residents to have a site visit from her group or from Franklin County Soil and Water regarding species on their property. City Forester Hoessle replied that due to time constraints she did not think so.

Planner II van der Zwaag added that residents needed to submit evidence in the form of pictures to support their case for a voucher from the program.

Mr. Schumacher continued that he knew Franklin County Soil and Water's website had an option to request a site visit, and asked Planner II van der Zwaag whether it would be reasonable to offer that as a resource.

Planner II van der Zwaag said yes, she could do that.

Mr. Barnes agreed and stated it would be helpful, in connection with this program, to have a graphic depicting four of five invasives that could be pulled.

City Forester Hoessle agreed that that was a good idea.

Planner II van der Zwaag asked whether there was anything else.

Mr. Schumacher asked for an update on the Sustainable 2050 status.

Planner II van der Zwaag explained that Sustainable 2050 was internal and she needed to touch base with MORPC to know how often the city needed to resubmit and whether we were eligible for something new.

- II. Earth Day to Arbor Day at a Glance – Planner II van der Zwaag explained this was year three (kind of). She showed a slide with a timeline of the six events that were scheduled in between Earth Day and Arbor Day in 2023 including:

Earth Day: E-Waste Drive, Bill Resch Bench Dedication and Cleanup;
Monday: Compost 101, Open House @ Village Hall;
Tuesday: Native landscaping lecture@Heit;
Wednesday: Creek Stomp;
Thursday: Green Columbus @ Senior Connections;
Arbor Day: Arbor Day Proclamations, NAPLS Tree Planting.

Planner II van der Zwaag asked for the board's feedback.

Ms. Gallo said the waste-drive has to stay. Planner II van der Zwaag agreed and stated that the e-waste and household waste drives had already been scheduled for the 27th. They would occur on the same day at Public Service. She added that the cones would be set out and that signs would be posted at the soccer fields in order to advise and reroute game-day traffic.



Council Member Kist asked whether the city received a final invoice and whether the event remained in its budget.

Planner II van der Zwaag responded that it was definitely within the budget which was \$20,000.00 and it cost about \$15,000.00 so the program came in under budget. She added that the amount collected far exceeded expectations.

Council Member Kist asked whether the Creek Stomp was well attended.

Mr. Schumacher responded that a lot of adults attended.

Mr. Barnes added that the Intel crowd was heavy and that he was hoping for more kids and families. Moving forward he would do more with advertising this to kids ages 4 – 8.

Planner II van der Zwaag added that there were only about 10 kids, and that the event was fun.

Council Member Kist added that the Creek Stomp should be kept and asked how or whether it dovetailed into the inaturalist app and the scavenger hunt and whether those were included in “Other independent events & activities tracked through Bandwango app.”

Planner II van der Zwaag explained that Abbey Brooks was working with Sandy or the schools on coordinating a bioblitz with COSI which will happen at Taylor Farm Park the week after the Creek Stomp. Unfortunately it would not align with Earth Day to Arbor Day because of testing at the schools. The bioblitz would show the diversity of life at Taylor Farm and the change over time.

Mr. Schumacher asked when the community garden was shifting to Taylor Farm Park.

Planner II van der Zwaag responded that it would occur during Phase II of the Taylor Farm Project and the date for the shift had not been established.

Council Member Kist added that work was ongoing but he did not think that the shift would occur in time for this year’s planting, and that the community garden could remain in its current location until the new location at Taylor Farm was ready.

Mr. Barnes mentioned that the evening programs were not as well attended and asked Planner II van der Zwaag whether, in her view, they were worth repeating.

Planner II van der Zwaag agreed and stated that she thought that the people that did attend the evening programs, found them meaningful.

Mr. Barnes continued that at Dennison he had heard a talk about a Backyard National Park program. This could be a good way to spark interest in New Albany and was willing to brainstorm.

Planner van der Zwaag then mentioned that she had the following totals for the house hold waste collected in 2023:

- 16k pounds of paint;
- 22k pounds of hazardous household material;
- 1k pounds of putty and adhesives.



Council Member Kist asked whether there was an area where a significant amount of trees could be planted – a significant area rather than a ceremonial area. He remarked that the Wreaths Across America was a great example of the type of event and impact he was envisioning.

Forester Hoessle responded that the event with NAPLS last year, where kids planted 200 small trees at Resch Park was very successful. She indicated that Byington Park could be a good location for this year because many invasive species had recently been removed. She continued that they were hoping to do a planting at Swickard Woods, but that park was already dense with native plants. Byington Park needed more plantings and it was not much further than Resch Park.

Mr. Barnes agreed and added that the event last year was very successful.

Forester Hoessle agreed and stated that the smaller trees were surprisingly resilient and that because of their size, it was easy for the school children to plant them independently.

Planner II van der Zwaag asked if there were other thoughts. Hearing none, she added that she would opt to have the Noelles lead the Compost 101 discussion. She noted that Joe attended and that it was sparsely attended last year.

Mr. Barnes added that Healthy New Albany (HNA) offered other activities such as hikes, but those activities usually had a fee. He noted that Sandy Reed is highly trained in this area. He continued that he would be willing to ask if HNA would be willing to lead a family hike that would be free.

Planner II van der Zwaag responded that that was a great idea.

III. Subcommittee/Working Group Finalization

Planner II van der Zwaag showed and explained a slide showing the following:

- Meeting
 - Wednesday, 5-6 PM
 - Recommend the fourth Wednesday of every month to alternate with SAB meetings
- Members:
 - Charles
 - Pete
 - Laura
- Purpose:
 - Review, analyze, and recommend strategies to improve and expand the city's municipal food waste compost program.

Mr. Schumacher stated the purpose statement was a good general statement.

Planner II van der Zwaag added that this was a first step and the purpose could be revised, as could the membership. She noted that expansion of the membership would be by motion and approval of the board. Council's approval was not required.

Mr. Schumacher moved to establish working group to review, analyze, and recommend strategies to improve and expand the city's municipal food waste compost program. The committee would



include Mr. Schumacher, Mr. Barnes, and Ms. Gallo. The committee would meet as needed. Ms. Gallo seconded the motion.

Upon roll call: Mr. Schumacher yes, Ms. Gallo yes, Mr. Barnes yes, Mr. Harrold yes. The motion passed with four yes votes and the working group was established.

IV. Food Waste Compost in 2024

Planner II van der Zwaag noted this tied into the establishment of the working group. She showed a slide depicting the composting waste dashboard over the past three years. She noted that getting the totals from Rumpke was challenging. When thinking about composting for 2024 and potential expansion for 2025, what does that look like.

Council Member Kist mentioned that at their next month's meeting they would be hearing from a company, Earth Peak Organics, that has a go-zero goal and offered curbside pick-up. They handle commercial and residential. He believed they were doing a pilot program in another suburb. Matthew May was the company representative, and he believed they were based in New Albany.

Mr. Schumacher asked for an update with discussions with the foundation and the study.

Council Member Kist said discussions were ongoing.

Mr. Schumacher observed that, regarding composting, he wanted to do some digging into opportunities for additional drop off locations and investigating the feasibility for a pickup pilot program. He had investigated whether other municipalities have pickup program and mentioned that Iowa City has a program. He was also hoping to investigate whether there were companies that had organic waste and how they were handling that waste.

Council Member Kist discussed the issues that restaurant owners consider when considering whether to change waste disposal strategies. It was probably more effective to incentivize it on the front end.

Mr. Barnes stated he was excited about the possibility of a pickup, and could see the attractiveness of it for residents and eventually commercial owners.

Mr. Schumacher asked whether the survey of current composters should be managed by this board. The results of the survey would help inform next steps and development.

Planner II agreed and stated that she could do some research and draft some questions.

Mr. Harrold agreed and stated that it made sense to gather feedback from existing participants.

Planner II van der Zwaag asked whether the working group wanted to have its first meeting on the 24th, and said that she would circulate a meeting notice.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Schumacher suggested and the board agreed that the organizational meeting when the other members were present.



VIII. Poll Members for Comment

Mr. Schumacher stated that he found a website with a number of connections to Industrydive.com. It has a number of sustainability resources. He would pass it along to Planner II van der Zwaag.

Planner II van der Zwaag asked whether the board wished to repeat the informal table set up that was used in November 2023 in 2024.

Ms. Gallo suggested the board decide based upon the particular meeting agenda.

Council Member Kist agreed.

IX. Adjournment

Having no further business, Mr. Schumacher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Ms. Gallo seconded the motion. Without objection, the January 11, 2024 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Deputy Clerk Madriguera, Esq.