



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
March 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on March 13, 2024 at the New Albany Village Hall. Mr. Schumacher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked to hear the roll.

II. Roll Call

Those answering roll call:

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

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

Staff members present: Director of Administrative Services Joly, Director of Public Service Barker, City Forester Hoessle, Planner II Nichols.

III. Action of Minutes:

Mr. Schumacher moved to approve the January 10, 2024 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Conway and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the minutes.

Mr. Schumacher moved to approve the February 14, 2024 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Ms. Gallo and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the minutes.

IV. Additions or Corrections to Agenda

None

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.

Jacob Heffron with Rumpke introduced himself to the board. He explained that he will be back before them at the April meeting to make a presentation on the new recycling center; but he wanted to attend the meeting this evening to observe.

Seeing no further other visitors, Mr. Schumacher closed the hearing of visitors.

VI. Food Waste Compost Working Group Report



Mr. Barnes gave a recap of the working group's February meeting:

- Resident Survey
 - o Board members and staff reviewed the draft survey questions. All suggested changes were accepted.
- Food Waste Program
 - o Mr. Barnes shared details of his meeting with Earth Peak Organics regarding the schools.
- Commercial Business and Sustainability
 - o Potential for awarding sustainable companies.

VII. Business:

- i. Presentation: Sara Gallagher, The Worthington Partnership Green Team:

Ms. Gallagher gave an overview of The Worthington Partnership Green Team; a group of volunteers that champion sustainable initiatives in Worthington, OH. She explained how they provide awareness and promote actions to move Worthington towards being an earth-conscious community. Some of the Green Team initiatives included an AEP/Columbus Gas Energy Savers Program, Lean & Grow Gardening virtual workshops and tours, Waste Warriors, purchasing a refillable water station, making use of their SWACO Waste Equipment and Waste Reduction Grants, and the Native Plants Pollinator Pathway.

Mr. Barnes asked Ms. Gallagher to elaborate on the Pollinator Pathway concept. Ms. Gallagher explained that it is public and private pesticide-free corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds. She suggested that everyone visit the website: www.pollinator-pathway.org.

Ms. Gallagher introduced her colleague from SWACO, Karen Seidel. Ms. Seidel gave an extensive presentation on SWACO's Communities Program and all they have to offer in helping to champion transformational diversion programs and safe disposal of the waste stream.

Ms. Gallo stated she would love to have more of the info cards Ms. Seidel gave them so that she could pass the cards out to her students. Ms. Seidel stated they could even do a whole campaign and provided branded cards.

Mr. Barnes asked when SWACO will start a curb-side composting program. Ms. Seidel stated they will have a facility, but they need that up and running before they can start collecting curb-side.

- ii. New Albany Community Foundation Sustainability Engagement

Director of Administrative Services Joly explained how the Foundation intends to engage with businesses in the New Albany Business Park on the following topics: Energy & Climate, Green Spaces, Waste Management, and Water Stewardship. The Foundation has also invited the city to participate, provide input and support these efforts. She explained that the city staff will report back to the SAB after these meetings occur.

- iii. Food Waste Compost Program
 - a. Student Leaders in Sustainability Update:



Director of Administrative Services Joly reminded the SAB that one of the board's projects this year is a grant program that funds environmental projects by NAPLS students. Noelle Griffith and Noelle Foreman have received a grant for a multi-faceted educational campaign regarding composting. She introduced Ms. Griffith and Ms. Foreman.

Ms. Griffith and Ms. Foreman provided a presentation to the board about the different ways they are promoting composting and the different providing educational programs they are providing to students and to the community. The majority of the campaign's components consist of the following:

- 1) Going into the NAPLS 3rd grade classrooms to teach the younger students about composting;
- 2) Setting up a table at the farmer's market to education attendees and to help register residents for the city's existing drop-off composting program; and
- 3) Provide an educational "composting story time" program at the library during the city's celebration of Earth Day to Arbor Day (E2A).

Mr. Barnes asked if people already knew about the composting program when they talked to them at the farmer's market. Ms. Griffith and Ms. Foreman explained how there were mixed answers but some people have trouble locating the actual composting location at the service department. The address on the website takes people to the front office.

Director of Public Service Barker stated there is need for wayfinding in general out there in that overall area.

Mr. Filiatraut stated he really likes the classroom component of the campaign.

Councilmember Kist thanked the students for their presentation and stated this is exactly what they had in mind when they established the grant program. He invited them to come back to provide a final update after their campaign is complete.

b. Resident Survey:

Planner II Nichols passed out the draft resident survey questions to the board members.

Director of Administrative Services Joly went over a new map that depicts the existing compost registrants (Compost Registrants: 392 Total, 306 New Albany, 86 outside of the city). She explained how the resident survey will open on March 21st and run until April 4th. The survey will be emailed to the compost registrants and sent out to the community via CONNECTS.

iv. Earth Day to Arbor Day Planning – Director of Administrative Services Joly and City Forester Hoessle provided an update on the planning for Earth Day to Arbor Day activities.

- a. Sunday, April 21st; Compost Storytime @ library, 1:30–2:30pm
- b. Tuesday, April 23rd; NA101 @ New Albany Public Service Dept, 5:30–7:00pm
- c. Wednesday, April 23rd; Community Garden Open House with Healthy New Albany @ Taylor Farm Park, time is TBD
- d. Friday, April 26th; Arbor Day celebration @ Resch Park in the morning, Mayor to arrive around 9:30am.



- e. Saturday, April 27; E-waste and household hazardous waste (HHW) drives, 8:00am–12:00pm

Mr. Schumacher asked for clarification on whether the community gardens located at village hall will be moved to Taylor Farm. Director of Administrative Services Joly confirmed that the existing gardens located at village hall will be open for one more gardening season. Starting next year, the gardens will be located at Taylor Farm.

VIII. Other Business:

None

IX. Poll Members for Comment

Mr. Schumacher suggested that the April meeting be setup and ran more like a workshop style meeting since they will be reviewing the resident survey results.

X. Adjournment

Having no further business, Mr. Schumacher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53p.m. Without objection, the March 13, 2024 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Chelsea Nichols, Planner II