



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

I. Call to Order

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on April 10, 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	absent
Mr. Harrold	absent
Mr. Conway	present
Ms. Gallo	present
Mr. Barnes	present
Ms. McGraw	absent
Council Member Kist	present

Having four 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 March 13, 2024 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Conway and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the minutes.

IV. Additions or Corrections to Agenda

An addition to Other Business was made; Native Landscaping

Mr. Schumacher thanked Catherine Duffy for her time and service on the board and to the community.

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. Seeing none, Mr. Schumacher closed the hearing of visitors.

VI. Food Waste Compost Working Group Report

Mr. Barnes gave a brief recap of the working group's March meeting.

VII. Business:

- i. Presentation: Jacob Heffron, Rumpke Waste & Recycling

Mr. Heffron gave an overview of Rumpke's recycling updates and circular economy.



- A company update;
- Recycling in Franklin County, OH;
- The Rumpke Recycling & Resource Center;
- New Interactive Education in collaboration with COSI;
- New products; and
- Circular Economy: Geography matters.

Mr. Barnes asked if there is an end user for the clam shells. Mr. Heffron answered in the affirmative and stated it just has to be clean.

Mr. Schumacher asked if they will start taking plastic bags. Mr. Heffron stated there is a portion that can take it but it is commercial and clean. Residential is not clean. Perhaps they could have a community wide drop-off for plastic film. They do have a Hefty bag program.

Mr. Barnes stated the presentation and information is encouraging. His students say they don't recycle anymore. It makes him wonder what else they can be doing to turn the perception around.

Mr. Heffron stated it is difficult to educate and change people's minds. This new facility could help. When people can see it, maybe they will realize it.

Mr. Barnes suggested that Josh Poland do a video.

Mr. Schumacher asked if Rumpke is having any conversations about moving towards composting.

Mr. Heffron stated they could do it but they can't do it for everyone. If they could mix the compost with the yard waste then maybe it would be more doable. He also exemplified the European example that does the composting and solid waste together.

Mr. Barnes brought up the fact that people in multi-family housing do not have access to recycling. Mr. Heffron agreed and stated it is difficult to partner with property management companies that do not want to lose parking spaces to accommodating the recycling storage areas.

Ms. Joly asked if the new facility will be able to report back to communities and if yes, how will that be done. Mr. Heffron stated they can do it upon request. Probably not right when the new facility opens but the capacity is here.

Mr. Barker stated the city gets reports now on waste, yard waste, and recycling. They need to figure out how to report it out.

ii. Food Waste Compost Program – Resident Survey Results

Ms. Nichols presented the survey results to the board.

Mr. Schumacher asked how many new emails they got with the survey results and if staff could compare it to the compost program registrants list.

The Board held a discussion on next steps:

- What is the objective?
- Should they proceed with a pilot program?



- Which neighborhood; Windsor or the Links? Start with one neighborhood and perhaps move to another. Then when SWACO is ready, the whole city could be included.
- How to handle cost.
- Vet vendor options what does that process look like?
- How long should the pilot program run? 6-12 months?
- Reach out to the HOAs.

Ms. Joly suggested that at a future meeting they could add an agenda item what would be a presentation on the process for when the city goes to bid and how it is all handled through the service department.

Ms. Baker explained that the city pays for recycling and residents pay for waste. However, currently the city makes money off of the recycling.

Councilmember Kist suggested that we look into the SWACO grant program to pay for the curb-side composting program. This Board should design a program and include funding in the plan. The grant application is due in August.

Ms. Joly explained how Upper Arlington started their program from the SWACO grant and their residents are not getting charged. Staff can reach out to Upper Arlington.

Mr. Barnes offered to reach out to GoZero to see if they have the capacity to provide the curb-side service and what the cost would be.

- iii. Special Events Initiative - Discussion:
 - Goal: zero waste at city events
 - Example: Pelotonia had GoZero present at their event to collect food waste and they used compostable plates, forks
 - City example: Juneteenth; water hogs for no plastic water bottles
 - SWACO grants
 - City vs. private events is important to distinguish as city has control over their own events but not private events like Oktoberfest
 - Start small and then move to larger
 - Potential first step for the city: summer concert series
- iv. Earth Day to Arbor Day Planning – Ms. Joly 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
 - i. One volunteer needed: Mr. Schumacher volunteered
 - c. Wednesday, April 24th; Community Garden Open House with Healthy New Albany @ Taylor Farm Park, 11am-1pm
 - d. Friday, April 26th; Arbor Day celebration @ Resch Park in the morning, 9:30am
 - e. Saturday, April 27; E-waste and household hazardous waste (HHW) drives, 8:00am–12:00pm
 - i. Volunteers needed; 8am-10am shift, 10am-12pm shift
 - ii. Staff to send out a sign-up sheet

VIII. Other Business: Native Landscaping



Councilmember Kist initiated the discussion by explaining that any initiative from a sustainability standpoint will be generated from this group. He encouraged the members to come forward with any ideas they may have.

Mr. Schumacher stated the role of this board should be less project driven and more policy establishing. He would like for the board to discuss how they can create policy that would require utilizing native plants around roadways, in Taylor Farm, in greenbelts, have pollinator paths, and perhaps secure the help of MKSK.

Mr. Conway agreed that it will be important moving forward to have a different influence that is more than just event planning.

Mr. Barnes suggested that they have one whole meeting where they talk about Native Landscaping and another whole meeting where they talk about Solar.

Ms. Joly stated that staff can talk to MKSK and also Franklin County Soil and Water. She agreed that they should have a meeting dedicated to these topics and they can partake in short term/long term planning.

IX. Poll Members for Comment

None

X. Adjournment

Having no further business, Mr. Schumacher moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10p.m. Without objection, the March 13, 2024 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Chelsea Nichols, Planner II