



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
August 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a special meeting on August 14, 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
Ms. Gallo	present
Mr. Barnes	present
Ms. Kellerman	present
Mr. Conway	absent
Ms. Scott	absent
Mr. Filiatraut	absent
Council Member Kist	absent

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

Staff members present: Director of Administrative Services, Adrienne Joly; Director of Public Service, Mike Barker; Planner II, Chelsea Nichols

III. Action of Minutes:

Mr. Schumacher asked for additions or corrections to the July 17, 2024 meeting minutes.

Ms. Gallo moved to approve the July 17, 2024 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher 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

Director of Administrative Services Joly stated that staff would like to conduct a brief mid-year budget review during Other Business.

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. Business:

i. Student Leaders in Sustainability Update:

Noelle Foreman and Noelle Griffith presented to the Board a summary of their grant project with consisted of educating the community about composting and included the following:

- Teaching the 3rd graders in their classrooms
- Composting Storytime at the Library for New Albany's Earth day to Arbor Day weeklong event



- Media Coverage
- New Albany Farmers Market – Winter
- Delivery buckets to those that registered for the New Albany Food Waste Compost Program – 108 sign-ups
- New Albany Farmers Markets - Summer

ii. Native Landscaping Discussion:

Director of Administrative Services Joly lead the discussion as follows:

Question 1: What did you learn from the MKSK presentation?

Mr. Schumacher stated he was surprised New Albany is only at 23% tree canopy.

Mr. Barns stated it was interesting to see what other communities are doing and interesting to learn how to work with staff and what would fit well in New Albany. The OSU goal for reducing mowing was interesting but it might not fit well in New Albany and it is not something that encourages native plants. He is wondering still about the nuts and bolts of native landscaping in terms of how you can mix it over time. The ultimate goal is to influence people to plant native landscaping and was not fond of the OSU example.

Mr. Schumacher stated there was a gap in the presentation between trees and grasses. The presentation was lacking the things in between and he was hoping to get more information on that.

Question 2: What should New Albany do in terms of Native Landscaping?

Mr. Schumacher stated he has many ideas:

- Reduce lawn areas in general. Not specially a “no mow” rule but replacement.
- City parks is the first place he would suggest they start.
- Canopy growth and other areas of the city where they can plant trees.
- For areas without trees, Lambton Park for example; how to unpack soil, add mulch, towards gold course.
- Watershed managements and Conservation areas.
 - Waterway protection
 - Source water awareness

Ms. Gallo agrees with starting with parks and neighborhood parks. The city is getting ready to install a new playground in Windsor and perhaps this is an opportunity to install native plantings and have signage education people. This may then entice people to plant in their own yards as well.

Question 3: What should staff work on to prepare for the 2025 budget proposal?

Mr. Schumacher suggested the city consider a certification program for landscape companies that provide services to New Albany residents.

Mr. Barns stated his top two goals:

- Protection of water ways and highlighting this with native plants.



- Pocket Prairies: Parks are a good place to start and incorporate an education component. This could be a number of smaller ones and could be more beneficial than one large one.
- He would like to see options, potential places, pros and cons.
 - Varied landscaping with multiple types of flowers blooming at different times of years.

Director of Administrative Services Joly proposed that staff work on identifying parks or public spaces and location. Then the Board can pick out what to do where. Students can help with the educational pieces. Taylor Farm Park might be one of the first places to start. This could all involve different scale projects that could apply to different situations and an educational campaign.

VII. Food Waste Compost Working Group Report:

Mr. Schumacher stated they had gotten to a point of asking staff to proceed with building an RFP to engage vendors for a household pick-up test. However, some recent findings on compost resources have come to light after the last working group meeting.

Locally, SWACO has made us aware of a couple of new/relaunched businesses for composting. As well, we learned that the City of Columbus has a bio-digester situated within their water treatment facility. In addition, he has engaged a company out of Pittsburgh that outfits 20' shipping containers with an anaerobic digester that allows for direct drop-in food waste and could allow for access to the compost by-product (think compost tea).

In light of these new findings, he would like to urge the Board to take a beat on moving forward so staff has time to “digest” the various new resources and determine if there are other options they may want to consider. Of course, the goal would be to do so quickly and have info avail for the August working group meeting, but he does want to allow time as staff deems necessary.

VIII. Other Business:

Director of Administrative Services Joly lead the discussion regarding the Mid-Year Budget Review.

IX. Poll Members for Comment NONE

X. Adjournment

Having no further business, Mr. Schumacher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40p.m. Without objection, the August 14, 2024 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Chelsea Nichols, Planner II