



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board  
September 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on September 11, 2024 at the New Albany Village Hall. Mr. Schumacher called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and asked to hear the roll.

**II. Roll Call**

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Schumacher	present
Mr. Barnes	present
Ms. Gallo	present
Mr. Conway	present
Ms. Scott	present
Mr. Filiatraut	absent
Ms. Kellerman	absent
Council Member Kist	present

Having five 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:**

Ms. Schumacher moved to approve the August 14, 2024 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Ms. Gallo and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 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. Seeing none, Mr. Schumacher closed the hearing of visitors.

**VI. Business:**

*i. MORPC Summit on Sustainability Invite*

Ms. Nichols announced information for the 2024 MORPC Summit on Sustainability, which will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 8am-4pm. Any Sab members interested in attending are to contact her to RSVP.

*ii. Invasive Trade-In Program Update*

Ms. Nichols reminded the Board about the launch of this new program and covered details of the program.

*iii. Compost Program and Bio Digester*

Ms. Joly led the discussion for the compost agenda item:



The 2024 Waste Diversion Program Goal was to explore expanding the food waste compost program.

- Working Group established – started exploring ways to expand the program:
  - Curbside
  - Commercial Composting
- Survey sent to gain level of interest for expanding from drop-off to curbside.

In going through the process, staff and SAB members have stumbled upon different technologies.

- On-site Digester: Ecotone Bio Digester – Zeus:
  - Accepts 500 lbs of food waste per week
  - Typically needs to be drained of liquid fertilizer 2 times per week
  - Ecotone can operate the digester or the City can do this alone.
- Con-site Composter Vessel: Green Mountain Technologies – Earth Flow
  - 20’ system can handle 500 lbs/day, in addition to the same amount of weight of carbon bulking gent like wood chips. 40’ system can handle a little more than double that amount.
  - Two Earth Flows located in Ohio; in Dayton at their food bank and also Cincinnati
- Consortium: SWACO handles bids for our Consortium; currently Rumpke – solid waste, recycling, and yard waste
  - SWACO willing to include bids for food waste as part of the next consortium contract.
  - 5-year contracts.
  - Kick-off for collecting bids for next full term starts August 25, 2025.
  - Takes 1-1.5 years to get ready for the contract.
  - Contracts and next full term will begin January 1, 2027.

#### Current Program

- Village Hall drop-off location is the most popular location. Its weekly weight for July:
  - July 2nd; 502 lbs
  - July 9th; 569 lbs
  - July 16th; 598 lbs
  - July 23rd; 577 lbs
  - July 30th; 779 lbs
- Annual cost with 4 drop-off locations = \$25,520

Sample 3-year plan with SWACO Consortium and on-site digester or composter:

- Year 1 – 2025
  - Keep food waste as is with drop-off only.
  - Apply for grant funding to purchase an Earth Flow Composter.
- Year 2 – 2026
  - Implement Earth Flow Composter as part of the New Albany Food Waste Program.
  - Keep Drop-off program.
  - Pilot Curbside Program
- Year 3 – 2027
  - New Consortium contract in place.



- Offer City-wide curbside as part of new contract.
- Continue to utilize the Earth Flow Composter as part of the curbside services as a way to reduce cost from food waste hauler.

The Board reviewed the compare and contrast table within the presentation slides and discussed “questions to consider” from the presentation slides as well.

Mr. Conway stated that he wonders what composter used at the Dayton food bank would look like on a community scale.

Ms. Scott states that this could be coupled with a native landscaping initiative. She has question though about how it would operate and how they would get there.

Ms. Joly states the Board should define their goals and the city could put out an RFP to see what kind of proposals they would get.

Mr. Barnes:

- Asked about the SWACO option. Ms. Joly clarified by stating SWACO opens bids for the Consortium.
- State he personally would see the goal as being an expansion to curbside and doing away with the drop-off. In addition, keeping the compost made from the food waste here in New Albany would be great.
- Asked about restrictions for putting a composter unit on site.

Mr. Schumacher:

- Stated he said the Zeus option as being “a piece of the pie” but not the “whole pie.” He sees it as a way to keep drop-off locations even if the city expands to a curbside program.
- He shared the spread sheet he put together with data from GoZero and Rumpke.
- Perhaps they could inquire with Ecotone as to whether they would want to utilize a digester in New Albany as a showcase piece.

Council Member Kist:

- Expanding to curbside would have the biggest impact.
- Not sure about implementing both a curbside program and a on-site digester/composter together.
- A composter/digester could replace one of the drop-off locations.

Ms. Joly summarized the discussion:

- The Board would still want a pilot curbside program.
- The city should put out a request for bids.
- The Board recommends the city budget to fund a pilot program.
- Keep drop-off program.
- Include curbside in the consortium process with SWACO.
- Reevaluate the digester/composter idea at a later date.

Council Member Kist stated agreed and stated he would see them implementing curbside first and if the pilot program works well then let’s go all in.



Mr. Schumacher moved to recommend city council expand the food waste program by funding a curbside pilot program in 2025. Seconded by Mr. Barnes and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the motion.

iv. Native Landscaping Discussion

Ms. Joly lead the discussion regarding native landscaping:

At the August meeting, the Board directed staff to work on identifying parks where the city could implement “pocket prairies.” Since then, Staff has identified the following park locations:

- Planters Grove Park
- James River Park
- Sumption Park
- Windsor Park
- Taylor Farm Park – Frontage

This could all involve different scale projects that could apply to different situations and an educational campaign.

The Board considered the following:

- Pocket Prairies – What is the Board’s goal?
  - Should they include educational pieces?
  - Should they be visible from the street?
  - Should they include signage?
  - How it is maintained?
  - Would there be HOA coordination?

Mr. Barnes stated:

- He would want to have people’s eyes on it.
- It should include signage. That will be important for education.
- He prefers starting with Taylor Farm and the Links/Sumption Park

Council Member Kist asked if the Board should shorten the list that staff came up with. Ms. Joly stated yes, they could. Or the Board could decide to have different applications at each park.

Ms. Scott stated:

- Taylor Farm makes sense for the native landscaping.
- It should be something large scale at Taylor Farm and smaller scale at the Links/Sumption Park.

Mr. Schumacher stated:

- He thought the goal was to change the land use from an area that has been mowed to something no longer mowed.
- He would like to see something with waterways.

Ms. Scott responded by stating:



- The educational component will be important.
- Eventually it would be good to get ride of some mowed areas.
- However, education first and then move into bigger project.

Mr. Barker suggested that staff add Resch Park to the list of locations for potential pocket prairies.

Ms. Joly suggested the following based on comments during the discussion:

- Planters Grove – turn mown area into prairie
- Pocket Prairie along Taylor Farm frontage

Mr. Schumacher asked for a motion to recommend city council budget for a series of pocket prairies that will also provide education.

Mr. Barnes moved to recommend city council budget for a series of pocket prairies that will also provide education. Seconded by Ms. Scott and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the minutes.

v. **Year-end Review and Work Plan**

The Board reviewed the 2024 Work Plan and discussed which initiatives they wanted to carry forward into 2025. This included budgeting \$10,000 for a 2025 Student Leadership Grant and \$11,500 for a 2025 Invasive Trad-In Program.

Mr. Schumacher asked for a motion to carry forward the Board’s Core Activities into 2025.

Mas. Gallo moved to carry forward the Board’s Core Activities into 2025. Seconded by Mr. Barnes and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the minutes.

Mr. Schumacher asked for a motion to recommend to city council that they budget \$10,000 for a 2025 Student Leadership Grant and \$11,500 for a 2025 Invasive Trad-In Program.

Mas. Scott moved to recommend to city council that they budget \$10,000 for a 2025 Student Leadership Grant and \$11,500 for a 2025 Invasive Trad-In Program. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the minutes.

**VII. Other Business: NONE**

**VIII. Poll Members for Comment: NONE**

**IX. Adjournment**

Having no further business, Mr. Schumacher moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07p.m. Without objection, the September 11, 2024 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by Chelsea Nichols, Planner II