



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board  
March 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on March 12, 2025 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. Barnes	present
Ms. Gallo	present
Mr. Conway	absent
Ms. Scott	present
Ms. Kellerman	absent
Mr. Kocian	present
Council Member Kist	present
Student Representative Hall	absent

Staff members present: Director of Administrative Services, Adrienne Joly; Public Services Manager Angela Hobart; Planner II, Chelsea Nichols

**III. Action of Minutes:**

Mr. Schumacher moved to approve the February 12, 2025 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.

Jennifer Lopez, 4289 Vaux Link Ct, was present to address the board:

- Tree Removal:
  - She has been a resident since 1997 and is a sustainability enthusiast. She is apart of a local sustainability collective. She is happy to help resolve these matters.
  - There used to be signs with messaging stating something to the effect that "1 tree removed, 6 planted in its place.
  - New Albany Eagles because there were many in the area. However, trees are being taken down and their habitat is being taking away as a result.
  - Developers are held to a standard for removing trees. Residents take trees down at will.
    - Examples: 1) Neighbors took down a cluster of trees and then moved away; and 2) A man removed 2 oak trees.
  - Could New Albany consider standards and protocols to protect trees?
- Gas Powered Leaf Blowers:
  - Has seen other communities around the United States where people cannot use gas powered leaf blowers due to pollution and noise.



## **VI. Business:**

- i. Environmental Criteria & Opportunities for Sustainability (ECOS) Program:
  - Presentation given and discussion lead by New Albany Community Development Department and MA Design.
  - The presentation is attached for reference.
- ii. Pocket Prairies Workshop:
  - Presentation given and discussion lead by Mad Scientists Associates LLC.
  - The presentation is attached for reference.
  - Taylor Farm Park:
    - Ground cover along roadways.
    - Looking at where the city can remove turf and replace with ground cover. This will be a good test piece for where it can be done in other places within the city. Big impact and potential to replicate.
    - Keep plants low.
    - Prairie plants that bloom at different times of the year.
    - Invasive species will pop-up along the road. There are ways to deal with them. It will be a lot in the maintenance and amending the site prep.
    - Over-seeding every couple of years.
    - Get volunteers for all locations to get people involved with this.
  - James River Park:
    - Area in yellow was a favorite. No barrier to access to green space.
    - Orange area least favorite.
    - Envision for this one is to be more formal.
    - If no fence and wall, create the barrier with plant sections and mowing to the edge.
    - This will be good promotion for people to hopefully do these at home.
    - Education piece/ signage to be included. Perhaps with a QR code.
    - Lower level perennials. Leave it in the fall. Here and at Taylor Farm.
    - Rocks for kids to play / hardscape to be incorporated.
    - Low maintenance educational garden.
  - Planters Grove Park:
    - Red area is used for football.
    - Orange area feels more organic and is the favorite. However, board would like to see it rearranged.
    - Leave in the fall.
    - Mow every 2 years.
    - Marketing will be important as this is across the street from people's houses. Perhaps a community meeting. Definitely send info to the residents of the neighborhood.



- Sharon Woods Metro park good example.
- Plug planting and flowering plants.
- Bench for people to sit near it.
- If this is currently cared for by Rocky Fork, the contract will need to be renegotiated.
- Perhaps all areas within all 3 parks could be taken out of the Rocky Fork contract. City to look at how to take care of the gardens.

iii. Student Leaders in Sustainability Grant

- Application Review and Approval:

Ms. Gallo moved to approve the Student Leaders in Sustainability Grant application submitted by Alexa Briggs, with the condition that there be signage indicating it is an Eagle Scout project that was funded by the city's grant program. Seconded by Ms. Scott and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to award the grant to Alexa Briggs.

iv. Waste Diversion

- Reviewed Draft RFP for the Pilot Curbside Food Waste Collection Program.
  - Participants should receive all bags upfront as opposed to one bag each week.
  - Rules for replacement bucket/multiple buckets?
  - Cost out if the company provides the buckets vs. the city providing buckets.
  - How many hours does it take each week?
  - Home participation rate.
  - Windosr HOA meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussion regarding tracking solid waste as it relates to diversion.

**VII. Other Business:** Introduced new Board member, Jeffrey Kocian.

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

**IX. Adjournment:** Having no further business, Mr. Schumacher moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03p.m. Without objection, the March 12, 2025 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.