



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
July 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on July 9, 2025 at the New Albany Village Hall. Ms. Gallo called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. and asked to hear the roll.

II. Roll Call

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Schumacher	absent
Mr. Barnes	absent
Ms. Gallo	present
Ms. Scott	present
Mr. Kocian	present
Ms. Kopelman	present
Ms. Lopez	present
Council Member Shull	present

Staff members present: Planner II, Chelsea Nichols

III. Action of Minutes:

Ms. Gallo asked for a motion on the Minutes.

Mr. Kocian moved to approve the June 11, 2025 minutes. Seconded by Ms. Kopelman 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: Planner II Nichols introduced and welcomed the new Board member, Jennifer Lopez. Planner II Nichols also introduced Council Member Shull who was present on behalf of Council Member Kist.

V. Hearing of Visitors for Items Not on Tonight's Agenda

Ms. Gallo asked whether there were any visitors present who wished to address the board for an item not on tonight's agenda. Seeing none, she closed the Hearing of Visitors.

VI. Business:

RFP Review and Recommendation

Planner II Nichols lead the discussion:

Recap of June meeting:

- a. The Board reviewed and discussed the four proposals the city received for the Pilot Curbside Food Waste Collection Program.
- b. The Board did not make a recommendation on which proposal to accept for the pilot curbside food waste program. They needed a little more time to review the proposals, complete the score sheets, and asked staff to do some reference checks on all the vendors. They also came up with a list of follow-up questions that staff sent to each of the four companies.



Review Proposal Responses to the RFP:

- i. Compost Clubhouse:
 - c. Their proposal came in at \$11,682 for the annual cost. Six Board Member Score Sheets were submitted with a total score of 491 points.
 - d. Board member feedback included:
 - i. It seemed like the company with the least amount of experience.
- ii. EarthPeak Solutions:
 - a. Their proposal came in at \$7,182 for the annual cost. Six Board Member Score Sheets were submitted with a total score of 527 points.
 - b. Board member feedback included:
 - i. Lowest price but concerned that it is so much lower than the others.
 - ii. The schools tried to get a quote from them for their program, but they never submitted the quote.
- iii. GoZERO:
 - a. Their proposal came in at \$18,594 for the annual cost. Six Board Member Score Sheets were submitted with a total score of 564 points.
 - b. Board member feedback included:
 - i. Wonderful experience with them at the schools for their program.
 - ii. This is a reputable company, but the cost is very high compared to the others.
- iv. The Compost Exchange:
 - a. Their proposal came in at \$11,250 for the annual cost. Six Board Member Score Sheets were submitted with a total score of 592 points.
 - b. Board member feedback included:
 - i. Rubber bands to be provided is a positive attribute of the proposal.
 - ii. They thought ahead and were very clear about what they were going to deliver.
 - iii. Polished presentation/proposal.
 - iv. Right price point and you can tell they have experience.
 - v. If chosen, the Board would suggest the bucket ownership be kept with The Compost Exchange.
- v. Questions still to be answered:
 - a. What do we do if we get less than 150 people to sign up to participate in the program?
 - b. Will the contractor still get paid for 150 households? Is it a flat rate or per household?
 - c. Is there a number that's too low that would cause the city not to proceed with the program? The Compost Exchange requires at least 30 households.

Council Member Shull commended the Board members for all the time and effort they put into reviewing the proposals.



Ms. Gallo moved to recommend The Compost Exchange as the vendor for the Pilot Curbside Food Waste Program, pending answers to the Board's questions. Seconded by Ms. Scott and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to recommend The Compost Exchange as the vendor for the Pilot Curbside Food Waste Program, pending answers to the Board's questions.

Updates

Hefty Renew Program: The Board had asked staff to contact Hefty to see if they would supply the city with 150 Hefty Renew starter kits to distribute to homeowners participating in the pilot curbside food waste program. Unfortunately, they said "no" so staff will purchase the bags and assemble/distribute the kits to those homeowners after the pilot curbside e program is up and running.

Pocket Prairies: Open House was held on Wednesday, June 18th from 4:30-6pm at James River Park and Planters Grove Park. Residents were able to view plans and chat with the project team. City staff is waiting for Mad Scientist Associates to provide an updated project timeline and plan for when they intend to start implementation.

VII. Other Business:

Watercourse Mailing

The postcards were originally scheduled to be mailed to residents in mid-June. However, FSWCD intends to now mail them mid-July.

Farmer's Market

The Board has a table/booth/spot reserved for the July 31st Farmers Market. Planner II Nichols will be out of town and is looking for an SAB member to volunteer to work at the table. Ms. Scott had originally volunteered but she will also be out of town. SAB members are to let staff know whether they would like to volunteer at the Farmers Market on that date. If no one is available/interested, then the city will forfeit their spot.

SWACO Clothing Collection & Jeans Recycling Program

Various SAB members had indicated they would like to explore whether the city could be a drop-off location for the SWACO Clothing Collection Program. However, it appears as though the city will be a drop-off location for New Albany Community Foundation's Jeans Recycling Program. Given this, the city will likely not participate in providing a drop-off location for both programs as to not confuse residents and overcrowding the city lot with collection bins.

VIII. Poll Members for Comment:

Ms. Gallo expressed appreciation for the new Windsor Playground. She took "her favorite six-year-old" to the park recently and they loved it. They had a great time. It was very lovely.

Ms. Kopelman wanted the Board to be aware that there is a piece about SAB initiatives in the latest issues of the Healthy New Albany Magazine.

IX. Adjournment: Having no further business, Ms. Gallo moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34p.m. Without objection, the July 9, 2025 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.