



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on March 11, 2026 at the New Albany Village Hall. Mr. Schumacher called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and asked to hear the roll.

II. Roll Call: Those answering roll call:

Mr. Schumacher	present
Mr. Barnes	present
Ms. Gallo	present
Ms. Scott	present
Mr. Kocian	present
Ms. Kopelman	present
Mr. Burack	present
Council Member Kist	present
Student Representative Griffith	present

Staff members present: Deputy Director of Public Service Operations Manager, Steve Mayer
Planner II, Chelsea Nichols
Engineer II, Taylor Carnahan

III. Action of Minutes:

The Board adopted the January 14, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

- Motion by Ms. Gallo; seconded by Ms. Kopelman.
- Vote: 7-0 (approved unanimously).

The Board adopted the February 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

- Motion by Ms. Kopelman; seconded by Mr. Kocian.
- Vote: 7-0 (approved unanimously).

IV. Additions or Corrections to Agenda:

One additional item to discuss under Business.

V. Hearing of Visitors for Items Not on Tonight's Agenda: NONE

VI. Business:

FSWCD Stream Monitoring Presentation

John Bailey of the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District presented to the Board on pollution screening efforts connected to New Albany's Stormwater Manager Program.

Student Leaders in Sustainability Grant

Noelle Griffith presented a proposed sustainability project to the Board. She plans to work with city staff to refine project details before submitting the proposal to the Girl Scouts Board for approval. Pending their approval, she intends to apply for the Student Leaders in Sustainability Grant.

Pocket Prairies Update

- All seeds have been held by Mad Scientist Associates LLC since October 2025.
- Most plants for James River Park (JRP) are expected to arrive between May–August 2026.
- Some shrub species remain in nursery production and may not be available until Fall 2026.
- One milkweed species is being propagated in-house due to plug unavailability.
- The planting bed at JRP is being shifted outside the AEP easement.
- Spot treatments will begin once weather conditions improve, and Planters Grove may be seeded this spring.

Potential Citywide Food Waste Collection

The Board discussed potential partnership opportunities with Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), including:

- A citywide residential curbside food waste collection program
- Volume-based trash collection services
- Both options were included in the Consortium 1 collection services bid released in February.

2025 Waste Diversion Data Review

- The city’s current waste diversion rate is approximately 30%, compared to a regional average of 32%.
- The Sustainability Advisory Board requested staff support in developing a future waste diversion goal.

Upcoming Events and Outreach

- Spring 2026 Waste Collection Event: April 18, 8:00 AM–12:00 PM at the Public Service Department (volunteers needed).
- Healthy New Albany Farmers Market Booth: June 25 and August 27 at Healthy New Albany Farmers Market (volunteers needed).

Tree Canopy Strategy

The Board discussed the need for a coordinated tree planting strategy. A motion was approved recommending that city staff develop a long-term tree canopy installation plan for review and approval by City Council as part of the Board’s 2027 Work Plan and Budget Proposal.

- Motion by Mr. Schumacher; seconded by Mr. Barnes.
- Vote: 7–0 (approved unanimously).

VII. Other Business: NONE

VIII. Poll Members for Comment:

Board members requested that city staff coordinate with the Communications team to promote the SAB field trip to the Rumpke Recycling & Resource Center.

IX. Adjournment:

Having no further business, Mr. Schumacher moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30p.m. Without objection, the March 11, 2026 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.