Environmental Advisory Committee
4:00pm, Thursday, November 12, 2026
City Hall
Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

Public Comment:
All citizens who wish to speak during the meeting must email their first and last name, address, and topic to Nicole DeNeane at nicoled@isleofpalms.gov no later than **3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting.** Citizens may also provide public comment here: https://www.isleofpalms.gov/public-comment-form

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** and acknowledgement that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
2. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes – October 8, 2026**
3. **Citizen's Comments**
4. **Presentation – none**
5. **Old Business**

a. Update on Tree Reimbursement Grant Program (5 minutes)

b. Protocol for publication of articles on public sites (10 minutes)

6. **New Business**

a. Native Plant garden collaboration with Trident Tech and the IOP Rec Center (10 minutes)

b. Discussion of native plant contest and initiatives (10 minutes)

7. **Miscellaneous**

Next meeting: Thursday, December 10, 2026, 4:00pm

8. **Adjournment**

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
4:00pm, Thursday, October 8, 2026
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC
and broadcasted live on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms

MINUTES

1. **Call to order**

Present: Laura Lovins, Sean Popson, Britton Foy, Charlotte Webster, Susan Smith, Todd Murphy, Eric Cicora (via Zoom)

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Director Asero, Council Member Miars

Absent: Cindy Marrs

2. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2026 meeting, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. **Citizen's Comments -- none**

4. **Presentation – none**

5. **Old Business**

A. **Discussion of revision to Palm Path Brochure and next steps**

Mr. Murphy stated that he received feedback on the brochure from Chief Cornett, Chief Oliverius, and the Family Vacation Rental Group.

Discussion ensued about the best way to get the information from the brochure to those who need to read it most. In addition to printed brochures, ideas included a refrigerator magnet and a QR code at the bottom of City-required documents posted in short-term rental units.

The Committee concluded that no printed version of the brochure will be made, and they will "get creative" directing visitors to the materials online via a QR code.

B. **Discussion of revised draft and next steps for Tree Reimbursement Grant Program**

The Committee spent the bulk of the meeting discussing and revising the nuances of the grant program. Ms. Lovins will make the changes as discussed.

MOTION: Mr. Murphy made a motion to amend the revised version of the Tree Reimbursement Grant Program as discussed and forward it to City Council for consideration. Ms. Popson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT

C. **Protocol for publication of articles on public sites**

MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to defer this topic to the next meeting. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **New Business**

A. **Final IOP Rec Center Farmer's Market – 10/15, 4-7pm**

B. **Discussion of Christmas Tree Recycling for dune restoration**

Ms. Lovins reported that State no longer permits discarded Christmas trees on the beach as a means of dune restoration.

7. **Miscellaneous**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 4pm.

8. **Adjournment**

Ms. Popson made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Foy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

RE-CAP OF THE MAYORS RESILIENCY ROUNDTABLE

James Island Town Hall

On Friday, 10/16/26, the Charleston Horticultural Society's Madeleine McGee, Board Chair, hosted a Mayors Resiliency Round Table discussion event that Mayor Pounds and Laura Lovins attended.

The attendees for the event were local leaders from:
James Island
Awendaw
Charleston
Folly Beach
Hanahan
Isle of Palms
Kiawah
Mt. Pleasant
Seabrook
Sullivans Island
Summerville

Each community was given 3-4 minutes to present their community's resilience initiates, and at the end of the presentations we were then given opportunities to collaborate.

Mayor Pounds and I presented the following resilience initiatives for Isle of Palms:

- The Waterway Boulevard Multi-Use Path Elevation Project
- The solar rooftop project for the Public Works Department that the EAC wrote a grant application for, and was awarded the project in 2020
- The EAC's partnership with the SC Aquarium on the citizen science SeaRise sign project
- The Isle of Palms partnership with Charleston County Resilience and Sustainability in 2025 for the free food scrap composting program for IOP residents
- The installation of the Interpretive Signs in 2026 on the IOP public dock for public education about the salt marsh environment surrounding the dock

We all had handouts of our presentations to give to the other communities, and Mayor Pounds and I were able to learn a lot about what our neighbors are doing to foster resilience projects. There were so many other projects that IOP has completed, but due to the time limitation for the presentations, we weren't able to talk about all of them.

Laura Lovins will be having a coffee meeting on 11/18/26 with Stephanie Olszewski, Assistant to the City Administrator of Hanahan, to talk about how their city could develop an Environmental Advisory Committee to help with resilience projects.

RE-CAP OF NATIVE TREE GUIDE SUBCOMMITTEE WORK ON FINALIZATION OF THE PROPOSED NATIVE TREE LISTING FOR THE GUIDE

On 11/2/26, Susan Hill Smith, Britton Foy, and Laura Lovins met to work on finalization of the native tree listings to be included in the IOP Native Tree Guide.

- Work was done to keep, add, and/or remove trees for the IOP guide that had been in the Sullivan's Island Native Tree Guide
- Short lists for invasive/hazard trees and trees plagued by invasive insects were included
- Links for sources for our tree selections will be provided in the guide
- There will be information about height, width, island zone (for planting) for staff and residents to reference
- We will be working with staff (Douglas and Duette) to include any additional suggestions on invasive/hazard trees that should specifically be mentioned in the guide

Ultimately, this guide will also be the major reference guide for the IOP Tree Reimbursement Program, which will be going to Council for consideration before the end of 2026.