



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, September 11, 2025

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, Mary Pringle, Cindy Marrs, Sean Popson, Todd Murphy

Absent: Eric Cicora

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

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2025 meetings, and Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments --

4. Presentation – Mujeres Latinas and Waves of Change

Ms. Susan Smith spoke about how the IOP Clean Up Crew can support the efforts of the Mujeres Latinas including monitoring the bins to keep them free of trash. Mujeres Latinas will make and donate the bins to the island. Ms. Smith said she can get free signage for the bins.

Concern about trash in the bins was discussed. Mr. Murphy said the bins deal with the symptom of trash on the beach and not the problem of people leaving trash on the beach. He is also concerned that the trash buckets will end up on the beach.

Ms. Lovins noted that one of the matrix recommendations is related to educating the public about taking your trash with you when you leave the beach, particularly bigger items like broken chairs and toys.

After further discussion about the bins and possible locations, a trial location was voted on.

MOTION: Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve one trash and toy bin provided by Mujeres Latinas roadside at the 25th Avenue Beach access path next year from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Ms. Pringle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

A. Recommendations Matrix

Ms. Lovins met with Sarah McDonald and Aubrey Anthony of the "South Carolina Aquarium Sea Rise Sign Project" and will invite them to present at the October meeting.

Ms. Lovins reported that the recent water quality tests indicated high levels of *E. coli* at the 25th and 36th avenues outfalls. A proposal from Wolpert for DNA testing of these samples is forthcoming. She hopes to have the results by the October meeting. Administrator Kerr shared that the results from 20+ years ago indicated that over 90% of the *E. coli* was related to animals, so there was nothing that could be done to diminish that.

Administrator Kerr reported that the Chamber of Commerce received a low response (seven restaurants) to its survey on a potential amendment to the regulation. Discussion ensued about the choice between strengthening the enforcement of the current ban on non-recyclable plastics or changing the approach, meaning providing straws and disposable utensils only upon customer request. Council Member Miars would like to see more stringent straw regulations but agreed it would be better to start with asking restaurants to not hand out straws unless asked. Some restaurant owners will be invited to the next Committee meeting to further discuss.

Discussion continued about the "Good Neighbor" brochure. Ms. Marrs shared the "Wild Dunes Way" webpage with the Committee. Ms. Marrs will work with Mr. Cicora and the PR Officer to develop a brochure and webpage similar to that of the "Wild Dunes Way." The Committee believes that this new page could serve as a landing page for QR codes and consolidate information on various initiatives such as the "Do No Harm" campaign, septic system education, composting, plastics, native plants, and sea-level rise.

Administrator Kerr noted that items 4, 5, 14, and 18 on Mr. Cicora's version of the matrix recommendations could be combined onto one page, similar to the sustainability list from Folly Beach.

B. Contract with Fisher Glass Recycling

Administrator Kerr referenced a recent email from Dr. Jim Smiley sent to Committee members regarding the City's contract with Fisher Glass Recycling. Administrator Kerr said that Mr. Belvin Olasov has confirmed all that is in the email. He will provide more details at a later date.

Administrator Kerr said the Environmental Advisory Committee previously recommended that the City continue the contract with Fisher Glass Recycling since the County frequently changes its glass recycling policy.

Ms. Lovins added that Dr. Smiley's original email to her said that the City has no efforts directed at recycling aluminum cans from the beach. Ms. Marrs did not believe the small amount of compliance that initiative would create is not worth the effort.

This will be discussed further at the October meeting. Ms. Lovins will inform Dr. Smiley they are working on a solution.

5. New Business

Folly Beach's Sustainability Bucket List

Administrator Kerr would like to see a page/list similar to this created under the Environmental Advisory Committee's page on the City's website. Ms. Lovins is attempting to collaborate with the staff person at Folly Beach who helped create this document.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 4pm.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Popson made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk