



**HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024**

The Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee will conduct a Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. Members of the public may view the meeting online at www.columbiasc.gov. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (803)545-3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.gov if you have questions regarding this meeting.

The Honorable Aditi Bussells, *Chair*

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., District II ▪ The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, At-Large

Prior to entering the meeting please turn all electronic communication devices to the silent, vibrate or off position. All presenters should speak directly into the microphone for recording purposes.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of May 28, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2. Animal Services Update - Ms. Victoria Riles, Animal Services Superintendent
3. Planted Wildlife Gardens Ordinance Update - Ms. Jessica Kinard, Esq., Senior Assistant City Attorney

ADJOURNMENT



MEETING DATE: August 27, 2024

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: Approval of May 28, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

FUNDING SOURCE & ORIGINAL BUDGET:

ATTACHMENTS:

- **#a:** HSEAC_MN_05282024 (PDF)



**HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Aditi Bussells, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Aditi Bussells	Chair	Present
Edward H. McDowell	Member	Absent
Tyler D. Bailey	Member	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of February 27, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Dr. Bussells, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the February 27, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.

2. Approval of March 26, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Dr. Bussells, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 26, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes.

PRESENTATION

3. Forestry and Beautification Tree Planting Program Update - Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works and Mr. Brian Neiger, Superintendent of Forestry and Beautification – *Received as information.*

Mr. Brian Neiger, Superintendent of Forestry and Beautification shared a presentation on the City's reforestation program. The program goals include planting 500 trees annually, managing the City's canopy effectively, and diversifying tree species to enhance resilience. Coordinator Weston Beck was hired six months ago and is supported by certified arborists. Their focus is on replanting removed trees and collaborating with local organizations for beautification. Site selection



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considers utility infrastructure and state regulations, while an updated tree selection list prioritizes local soil-resilient species. Community involvement includes resident notifications and collaborative tree selection. The Beat the Heat Grant kickoff will be held on July 13, 2024. There will also be an educational event where tree vouchers will be given to private property owners. The reforestation program is instrumental in Columbia maintaining its 45-year designation as a Tree City USA.

There was discussion about concerns with managing invasive species; addressing neighborhood-specific planting challenges due to underground cabling; improving tree survival rates; exploring partnerships to expand tree coverage on private property; and adjusting planting strategies to accommodate changing climate zones.

Dr. Bussells requested follow-up on questions in relation to tree plantings in Melrose Heights.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

4. Yard Trash Policy - Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works – *Received as information.*

Dr. Bussells said this discussion is in direct response to Councilwoman Herbert's referral to this committee at our last City Council meeting.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works explained the Solid Waste Division's current operational details in regards to yard trash. Specific requirements for service eligibility, such as the 51% owner-occupied rule for residential properties using front loader dumpsters, were outlined. The rate structure has not been revised since 1994 and it includes provisions for different service levels and special circumstances like construction projects. The City of Columbia does not provide free collection services to tax-exempt entities. Materials left on the curb without prior arrangement are subject to a payment process overseen by City of Columbia supervisors, with non-compliance potentially leading to involvement from the Code Enforcement Division.

There was discussion about past practices and enforcement procedures related to yard debris and construction waste.



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5. Columbia Signage - The Honorable Aditi Bussells – *Received as information.*

Dr. Bussells said this is a follow-up discussion on a longtime project. There's going to be several iterations of the new signage to replace the signs across the city and to be more cohesive.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works presented updated signage designs aimed at enhancing welcoming aesthetics. The designs include primary, secondary, and tertiary versions, with considerations for nighttime illumination.

There was discussion about removal of old signs; potential locations utilizing initial funding; the biggest gateways for sign placement; the wave motif and fonts; and the overall appearance.

There was consensus of the committee for staff to review the recommended changes with the vendor and to continue the discussion at a Work Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk



MEETING DATE: August 27, 2024

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: Animal Services Update - Ms. Victoria Riles,
Animal Services Superintendent

**FUNDING SOURCE &
ORIGINAL BUDGET:**



MEETING DATE: August 27, 2024

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: **Planted Wildlife Gardens Ordinance Update -
Ms. Jessica Kinard, Esq., Senior Assistant City
Attorney**

**FUNDING SOURCE &
ORIGINAL BUDGET:**