



**HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Aditi Bussells, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the August 27, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2. Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund - Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator and Ms. Payton Lang, Policy and Programs Advisor – *Received as information.*

Ms. Payton Lang, Policy and Programs Advisor explained that Mayor Rickenmann attended COP 28 (UN Climate Change Conference) in Dubai last year. Bloomberg opened up a challenge to include future leaders in the conversation by introducing the Youth Climate Action Fund. Its purpose is to activate and fund youth led climate initiatives. A selection committee was formed for the allocation of \$50,000 in funding.

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator shared about the YCAF award recipients:

- Columbia College - repairing an outdated greenhouse
- Dreher High School - establishing native plant garden beds and educational programs



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- Gills Creek Watershed Association - assessing water quality at Devil's Ditch
- Indian Waters Council, Boy Scouts of America - marking storm drains
- Jake Wehman of Ben Lippen School - educating students on mass transit impacts on environment
- South Carolina Public Health Association - conducting workshops during Climate Resilience Week
- Sowing Seeds into the Midlands: installing hydro solar panels to provide water to Skylar's garden
- USC Office of Sustainability
 - Food Systems: sponsoring undergraduate interns to engage with USC peers raise awareness of the need for more sustainable food system practices.
 - Home Weatherization – creating a free home weatherization program for Columbia residents.

The next steps are to submit midterm reports by October 31, and for the groups to complete their projects by December 31. We have also applied for an additional \$100,000 allotment for current grantees and additional applicants.

3. Animal Shelter Update: Canine Pnuemovirus - Ms. Victoria Riles, Animal Services Superintendent – *Received as information.*

Ms. Victoria Riles, Animal Services Superintendent provided an update on the current outbreak of canine pneumovirus, which is detected generally by a severe strain of kennel cough. The virus is easy to disinfect and dogs cannot be re-infected. There is no vaccine or test for new incoming animals. The action plan includes consulting with experts and other municipal shelter directors; limiting intakes to emergencies only; creating isolated spaces for new arrivals; and implementing quarantine measures. We are keeping new intakes out of the building and will resume normal operations in two to three weeks.

There was discussion about symptoms; contagion risks; and community-based sheltering during the closed intake period.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

4. Planted Wildlife Gardens Ordinance Update - Ms. Jessica Kinard, Esq., Senior Assistant City Attorney – *Endorse for City Council Consideration.*



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Ms. Jessica Kinard, Esq., Senior Assistant City Attorney provided an update on the revised ordinance, noting changes to the certification and naming process for gardens. Homeowners will be required to register their gardens with Code Enforcement. By using cues to care, these types of garden can be identified easier. We will have an existing list of people who are growing this kind of garden. Property owners are also encouraged to get certified through organizations, such as the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, and others that will be listed in the ordinance. Code Enforcement will retain the authority to issue notices for overgrown gardens.

There was discussion focused on defining cues to care and educating Code Enforcement staff.

The committee reached a consensus to endorse the ordinance for City Council's consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk