



**HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, 2nd floor, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Aditi Bussells, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 22, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the October 22, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund Update - Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Administrator / Public Works Department – *Received as information*

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Administrator/Public Works Department provided the latest update on the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund. There are nine participants: three college groups and six high school groups with a total funding award of \$43,000. The first reports were submitted on October 31, 2024 and final reports are due by December 31, 2024. Additionally, the City of Columbia has been selected by Bloomberg Philanthropies for Phase 2 of the Youth Climate Action Fund, securing \$100,000. To highlight these efforts, a showcase will be held on January 14, 2025 in the City Hall Lobby from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event offers an opportunity to learn about each project and be inspired by the passionate stories of these young change makers.



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COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

3. Late-Night Food Trucks - Ms. Kalenna Ginyard, Program Compliance Specialist / Office of Business Opportunities – *Received as information*

Dr. Bussells explained that the idea for late-night food trucks came from an experienced food truck operator, who pointed out the limited dining options available after 11 p.m. on weekends, as most kitchens are closed. She recommended exploring a similar concept in our entertainment districts after that time while ensuring that it doesn't compete with existing brick-and-mortar businesses.

Ms. Kalenna Kinyard, Program Compliance Specialist/Office of Business Opportunities explained that the initiative aims to expand food truck availability and create opportunities for vendors to grow their customer base. Challenges include the need for vendors to designate well-lit areas for food trucks to set up as well as collaborating with the Columbia Police Department and Richland County to plan regular patrols and establish effective crowd management strategies. Current potential locations include The Vista, which could attract residents and visitors during evening hours and Five Points, which could attract college students and young professionals.

There was discussion about city owned property being used as potential locations; avoiding close proximity to restaurants; proposed timeframe; exploring options; time of operation; coordinating with the hospitality districts; researching successful programs in other states; and adding lighting and security at Page Ellington Park.

Dr. Bussells explained that Councilor Brennan is proposing a motion to create an ad hoc committee within the larger committee to focus on some of the homeless initiatives that have been under discussion. This will provide Kameisha and her team with a direct line of communication and dedicated time to address that specific issue. Additionally, the goal for the beginning of the year is to develop a map of health initiatives for 2025, focusing on two to three key items, allowing staff adequate time for preparation. She highlighted the importance of environmental priorities and strategies, especially in light of the new administration and available funding opportunities.



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There was discussion about the status of PFAS for 2025; exploring ways to hold responsible parties accountable for environmental pollution; and electric vehicle sustainability in relation to the arrival of Scout Motors.

Dr. Bussells requested an update on the Blue Bike vendor replacement, in anticipation of the opening of the greenway and Finlay Park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk