



MINUTES

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Krempasky called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Sandra Krempasky, Vice Chair Lana Bandy, and Member Karen Candler

Members Craig Thomson and George O'Brien were absent.

Also present: City Clerk Dariana Fitzgerald and Grounds Foreman Tom Large.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2023, REGULAR MEETING

Motion: to approve the minutes of December 14, 2023. **Moved by:** Member Candler. **Seconded by:** Vice Chair Bandy. Motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

1. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for 2024

Chair Krempasky nominated Lana Bandy as Chair and Member Candler as Vice Chair.

Motion: to appoint Lana Bandy as Chair and Karen Candler as Vice Chair. **Moved by:** Chair Krempasky. **Seconded by:** Member Candler. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Reforestation and Landscaping Projects

a. Mickler Boulevard

Foreman Large reported that he'd been speaking with Shayan Khatibi of Ruah Gardens to see if they could work out a maintenance schedule that would keep the costs lower than his original proposal of \$1400 per year. He stated that he is just waiting for spring to see what grows this year and will make a plan for any work that might need to be done after that.

Member Krempasky noted that projects in this area of Mickler Boulevard seem to be hard to maintain because of all the activity in the area and people disturbing the plantings. She

suggested watching and getting more of a handle on this project before moving forward with any others on Mickler.

b. Parkette Planning/Green Infrastructure

Foreman Large reported that the pine straw put in the 8th Street Eco Garden by Southern Horticulture wasn't really thick enough, so he used the funds the Committee approved to buy fifteen bundles for about \$90 and plans to put it in on Monday. He also noted that he had the sign and post and plans to install that soon as well.

Member Krempasky reported that she had spoken with Engineering Director Jason Sparks about some educational flyers or brochures and incorporating information about the Eco Garden. She suggested having them available at Arbor Day or placing a 'Take One' box at the Eco Garden.

c. Urban Forestry

Foreman Large reported that the water truck is up and running and that they still have a few trees and several plants remaining from Lowe's donation last year. He asked the Committee to think about possible spots and he can see if Public Works can work planting them into the upcoming schedule.

He stated that the holly tree planted near 18 Mickler Boulevard had died, but the palm trees around it were doing well, so they planted a palm in its spot and the nearby homeowner agreed to water it.

d. Environmental Planning Projects

This item was not discussed.

3. Educational Programs

a. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition

City Clerk Fitzgerald noted that no new applications had been received.

Member Krempasky stated that she would reach out to Commissioner George about applying.

Chair Bandy stated that it had been in the City's Newsletter this month, so maybe that would help.

b. Environmental Speaker and Film Series

Chair Bandy reported that attendance was decreasing, that when the program started there would be about 40-50 people, but now it's more like 10. She stated that the Library is eager to continue, though. She noted that she didn't want to end the program, but asked the Committee if the effort they had been putting in was seeing results.

Member Krempasky suggested maybe reducing effort a bit, perhaps foregoing speakers if it becomes too difficult to find someone, for example. She also suggested possibly partnering up with the ECO Cinema group that meets at the Yacht Club or possibly experiments or other hands-on demonstrations.

Chair Bandy noted that the next scheduled dates were February 22nd, June 27th, and October 24th.

Member Krempasky stated that the City of St. Augustine is doing Earth Day workshops, which they're calling Earth Month, but it's all during the day since their staff is not allowed to work after hours. She wasn't sure if we could borrow some of those programs, maybe see if St. Augustine staff would be willing to volunteer for us to help.

Chair Bandy mentioned that the Library contact, Leslie, would like to do something with rain barrels. She noted that the Library would likely have to charge about \$40 per person for materials for people to make their own to take home. Vice Chair Candler suggested speaking with the Boy Scouts, maybe they could earn a badge for it and help spread the word.

c. Newsletter Topics

Chair Bandy stated that she could include February's film and asked for any other suggestions. Member Krempasky suggested photos of the Eco Garden maybe with the flyer. Foreman Large mentioned the glass recycling dumpster. He mentioned that last he saw, the dumpster was three-quarters full and that was just glass, no trash, so it's being used appropriately.

Chair Bandy asked how recycling was going in general. Foreman Large replied that it was going well for a while, but as time goes by people are slipping and starting to include more non-recyclable material again. Chair Bandy suggested doing an educational video, maybe see if Island Prep would like to be involved, but that might be better for March's newsletter to have more time to prepare.

d. Environmental Education Materials

Member Krempasky suggested having the brochures at the library for people to take during the film presentations, as well as at Arbor Day. Chair Bandy agreed and stated that Member Thomson's idea of providing compiled information may be better suited to the Library as well, maybe a little reading area there since that's already a place people go to hang out and learn. Vice Chair Candler also suggested placing a pollinator box there with information on how it works and maybe photos of the ones on Mickler Boulevard.

VI. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

Chair Bandy noted that on January 19th at the Library, the Master Gardeners will be handing out trees from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Member Krempasky reported that they have about \$4,000 for the plaza project with \$1,600 or \$1,800 to pay Ruah Gardens for maintenance. She noted that the Eco Garden only cost \$2,800, so that leaves a surplus of \$1,200 that could be used to buy trees and maybe another project if they could plan something out and work with Public Works on a schedule.

Foreman Large noted that there would be a beach cleanup on January 19 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. from the Pier down to 10th Street.

City Clerk Fitzgerald stated that Events Coordinator Conlon and City staff are trying to do an Arbor Day event this year like we did in the past. Coordinator Conlon is trying to get in contact with past

vendors to see if they would return. Foreman Large encouraged the members to get in contact with Coordinator Conlon if they had any suggestions, would like to help, or could get in contact with people who may want to have a booth. City Clerk Fitzgerald noted that they are planning on a family-friendly event with activities for kids, as well as information for adults.

Vice Chair Candler suggested SEPAC having a table to provide information, like the brochures, along with photos of their projects. Member Krempasky asked about budget and noted that she used to pick up a cake for it. City Clerk Fitzgerald replied that any food was donated, and they have a minimal budget for this event, mostly we are hoping for donations and volunteers. Member Krempasky suggested something interactive, like a tree raffle or photo opportunity. Foreman Large mentioned that Smokey Bear had come in past years and people liked taking photos with him.


Foreman Large stated that he had contacted Ornamental Trees and Plants about trees and provided a list of their available options right now [Exhibit A]. He clarified that "cp" stands for "cubicle pack" and indicates how many are sold together, 40 or 60. He noted that last year we bought 160 Florida privet, 150 persimmon, and 160 red cedars. He suggested switching it up, so it's not the same options every year, and that in past years we've given away Shumard oaks, Southern magnolias, gum trees, cedar elms, and winged elms.

Foreman Large stated that Member Thomson noted some Public Works and other landscape companies weed eating too close to the trees and asked him to look around for options. He reported that he found these rubber mulch rings [Exhibit B] that could be placed around the base of the trees to prevent growth that would need to be trimmed. Member Krempasky stated that she might contact Finance Director Douylliez to see if the Landscape Fund could be used for something like this.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to Adjourn. **Moved by** Member Krempasky. **Seconded by** Vice Chair Candler. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bandy adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.


Lana Bandy, Chair

ATTEST


Dariana Fitzgerald, City Clerk

April Haskins

From: April Haskins
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 2:19 PM
To: Tom Large
Subject: FW: avalibility

April Haskins
Administrative Assistant
City of St Augustine Beach
Public Works Department
Phone: (904)471-1119
Fax: (904) 471-4191

From: David Dickerson <ornamentalplants352@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 2:18 PM
To: April Haskins <ayhaskins@cityofsab.org>
Subject: avalibility

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Exhibit A
Date 1-11-2024

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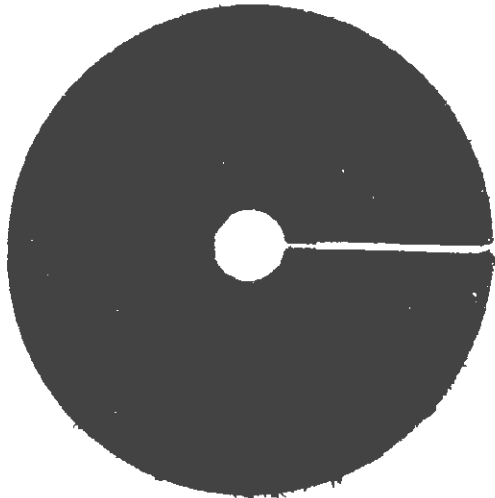
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Date 1-11-2024

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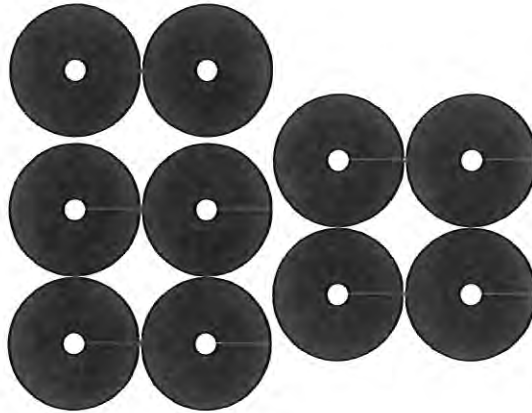
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Exhibit B-2

Date 1-11-2024