



AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2023, REGULAR MEETING
- V. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:
 1. Reforestation and Landscaping Projects
 - a. Mickler Boulevard
 - b. Parkette Planning/Green Infrastructure
 - c. Urban Forestry
 - d. Environmental Planning Projects
 2. Educational Programs
 - a. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition
 - b. Environmental Speaker and Film Series
 - c. Newsletter Topics
 - d. Environmental Corner
- VI. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

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NOTE: The agenda material containing background information for this meeting is available in pdf format on the City's website, <http://www.staugbch.com>, at no cost or on a CD upon request at the City Manager's office for a \$5 fee. Adobe Acrobat Reader will be needed to open the file.

NOTICES: In accordance with Florida Statute 286.0105: "If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this scheduled meeting or hearing, the person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based."

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Manager's Office not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address provided, or telephone 904-471-2122, or email sabadmin@cityofsab.org.



MINUTES

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023, 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 Members Craig Thomson, Karen Candler, and George O'Brien.

Member Edward Edmonds was absent.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2023, REGULAR MEETING

Motion: to approve the minutes of April 11, 2023, with correction of typographical errors. **Moved by:** Member O'Brien. **Seconded by:** Member Candler. Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Krempasky advised that there are members of the public in the audience, and she asked if they were in attendance for a specific reason. Several people spoke from the audience and said that they are concerned about the environment and that someone just cut down the entire tree canopy in their neighborhood and they did not know where to start. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that if it is related to private property then it would not involve this Board, which only deals with public property owned by the City, and advised that this sounds like something for Code Enforcement or the Building Department.

Chair Krempasky asked for one of the audience members to come to the microphone and state their name and address for the record.

Ralf Ingwersen, 49 Ocean Woods Drive, has concerns about 9 Ocean Woods Drive; the Oak tree canopy on his and his neighbor's property has been gutted; he hired an arborist, Chuck Lippi, who filed a report stating that it was way more than thirty percent; Mr. Lippi was the one who put together the guidelines for the City; three of his neighbor's trees were also affected; any one that sees it would say that it is awful and was done by an unskilled butcher and would be appalled to have it happen in their neighborhood.

Chair Krempasky asked if it should be taken to Code Enforcement. City Clerk Fitzgerald said yes, they would need to investigate it. Member Candler asked what was done on their property. Mr. Ingwersen said that they removed a Magnolia tree and ravaged his own Oak tree and that he did not believe that they had a permit.

Chair Krempasky advised that the Code states that permission is required to remove a tree of a certain size even on private property. Mr. Ingwersen said that he could certainly present Mr. Lippi's report to whomever needs to see it.

Member O'Brien asked if there was any educational information that goes out to new residents letting them know what they can and cannot do. He advised that he moved here from Pennsylvania where you could do whatever you wanted on your property, and you cannot do that here, so it may be beneficial for new residents to become informed somehow. Mr. Ingwersen said that whoever you hire should be liable and that the company that did this has been in business for a long time. Chair Krempasky asked if he knew the name of the company that cut the trees. Mr. Ingwersen said that he believed it was Jack Wright. Chair Krempasky advised to make sure that information is in his report to Code Enforcement and that SEPAC is an advisory board and cannot take action.

Member O'Brien said that this is a perfect example of what we talked about at the last meeting and if we are not putting policies together or recommending policies to the other committee, then this would never get done. Chair Krempasky said that there is a tree ordinance that addresses some of these issues such as the size of a tree that can be removed. Member O'Brien asked how anyone would know about that information. Member Candler said that a professional tree company should investigate it before they come in and just start chopping trees down. Mr. Ingwersen said that they should have checked and that it is the complete removal of the tree canopy above his property and that Mr. Lippi's report may also have a case of breeching a property line.

Member Thomson said that SEPAC has advised the Planning and Zoning Board/Building Department regarding preserving the urban tree canopy, which is one of our goals. He said that part of that would be that only the trees within the footprint of the building would be removed in the oak hammock area and not all the way to the property line, which he believed would be a violation of the Code. He said that it should be specific when clearing a lot with a site plan showing which trees would be removed and if you are in an oak hammock area like Ocean Woods, then it should not be allowed. He asked if the neighbors were notified that building would be going on. Mr. Ingwersen said that is another thing where someone buys a property and does not even consult their neighbors. Member Thomson said that there must be a building plan because the Building Official assured us that they do not allow clear cutting of properties to happen without an approved building plan. Mr. Ingwersen said that it was not built when he bought it and he decided to clear cut it afterwards.

Member O'Brien asked if there had been any formal communication. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that our Codes are available on the City's website, or they could call the City to ask questions about their specific situation. She said that the City does not do any new resident mailings and is not notified when new residents move in.

Member O'Brien said that he would like to take the lead on this because he is in real estate. He said when there is a closing, that they should be able to provide information or put a simple

guideline in the Newsletter for taking care of their property and to say that we do not have the capacity to do it is unacceptable. He said that a communication plan is something that we could work on and recommend to the Planning and Zoning Board. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that unless someone actually tells us that they just moved here, we do not have a way of knowing, and the City is not involved in private property sales.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if Mr. Ingwersen's HOA required new buyers to read the HOA (Homeowners' Association) Convenance. Mr. Ingwersen said that it does not have an HOA. He said that if someone wants to remove a tree and does not have a permit to do it, that the company/person that they hire should be well aware of how it works. Member Candler asked who called the City. Mr. Ingwersen said that he believed that a neighbor called but that he was not present, so he did not know for sure. Member Candler said that when her neighbor took down a tree that someone called the City, and an inspector was out there the next day and addressed it with the Homeowners' Association.

City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that the correct method to solve this would be to go through Code Enforcement and that they would be able to see if there was a permit issued and if not, they could then issue citations and possibly have a case go before the Code Enforcement Board who would rule on it. Mr. Ingwersen asked if he could take care of it Thursday morning. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that he could come in and speak with Code Enforcement, call them, or we have a method to submit Code Enforcement complaints on our website.

Vice Chair Bandy advised that she also learned that some of the people that are hired to cut down trees may not follow all of the rules and may do whatever they are hired to do. Mr. Ingwersen said that that sounds like a great reason to terminate their business. Vice Chair Bandy said that they should be licensed, and it would be great if they were also arborists but that there really is no enforcement to ensure that they are licensed to work in the County and our City.

Chair Krempasky said that there was an example in Sea Colony a few years ago where someone took down about five major trees without permission and they were heavily fined, and her thought was that they should never be able to work in this City again. Mr. Ingwersen said that the fines should be more than just an inconvenience of the price of doing business.

Member O'Brien said that we need to be more progressive about it and educate people. Mr. Ingwersen said that if he had an old, rusted car in his front yard that people would complain about their property values going down and that this is much worse because he could move the rusted car. Member O'Brien said that if people were educated that they would be more conscientious and not hack the trees.

Mr. Ingwersen said that he appreciated being asked about this first so that they did not have to sit through the whole meeting. Member Candler said that the tree canopy is one of SEPAC's focuses and we appreciate that we have residents that care.

Odio Arnold, 4 Ocean Woods Drive, W., there used to be a process in Georgia that people would be notified or given the Code before they moved in; maybe the City could notify people that buy homes, and it would save a lot of time and energy.

Rita Sutherland, 50 Ocean Woods Drive, asked if it would be possible to educate people and to make the realtors aware and to alert potential buyers of the ordinance regarding protecting the trees; we moved here because it is a quaint town and everyone is proud of it because other areas

like Jacksonville Beach, Virginia Beach lose all of that; the quality is the amount of green that we have here and the builders are trashing everything else; education could be done in a newspaper article but that it would be beneficial for the realtors to know it.

Chair Krempasky thanked everyone for their comments, and she moved on to Item VI.1.a and asked Foreman Large for his update report.

VI. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

1. Reforestation and Landscaping Projects

a. Mickler Boulevard

Foreman Large advised that the flowers are starting to come up, but without a lot of rain it is difficult. He said that he is surprised to see how well the bee pollinators are working and that there are small carpenter bees and orchard mason bees using them quite often. He said that they extended the roofs on the boxes and hopefully it will help. He discussed the water truck and advised that the person that does the maintenance on the Public Works vehicles also does several other jobs and that he took the water tank off to put on another truck and later found out that everything on the trucks were reversed. He advised that he has not had time to work on it again because they have been working so much in Ocean Hammock Park and he does not know when it will be back in operation.

Vice Chair Bandy advised that the wildflower garden is not looking very good and that there are a lot of things outside of it that are bigger than what is inside. She said that she and Foreman Large could get more plants from Southern Horticulture to supplement it and that she also has some seeds that did not need to be planted until the spring. She said that she was at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and they have a wildflower garden, which looks exactly like ours. She said that they are the heads of master gardener programs, and they know everything about agriculture/horticulture, which made her feel a little better about our wildflower garden and hopefully it will be shaping up later this year. She advised that she gave Foreman Large the signs and hopefully they could be identified soon. Member Thomson asked which museum the Vice Chair visited in Gainesville and if she took photos. Vice Chair Bandy advised that she went to the butterfly rain forest and the art museum, and that the wildflower garden was in back of it.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VI.1.b.

b. Parkette Planning/Green Infrastructure

Chair Krempasky advised that she met with two residents on A Street, and they said that the area we were thinking of putting a rain garden did not have standing water, so it is silly to put a rain garden there. She said that those residents advised her that on A Street looking south coming into the driveway where the storm drain is located, which is significantly higher than the drain itself, and water pools there and it could be raised a little bit so that the water could actually drain. She said that this is not our project, but it would help their problem. Foreman Large advised that he would have the drainage technician go look at it and see what he determines from the elevation of the parkette. Member Thomson said that it is mostly dry but that water pools during heavy rains because it does not get into the storm drain. Chair Krempasky agreed and said that the

house west of the parkette is raised significantly and may have a lot of runoff from their home onto the parkette. She said that both of the residents said that water is only there for approximately two hours and that it gets a lot of sun.

Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC would be interested in A Street. Member Thomson asked if we were calling it green infrastructure, dry retention, or a rain garden. Chair Krempasky said that it is whatever you want to call it. Member Thomson said that you do not want that runoff going into the catch basin right away and to try to slow it down and hold it for twenty-four hours if possible. Chair Krempasky said that the water does not pool there, it pools closer to the catch basin, which is under a huge oak tree and completely shady. Member Thomson said that a natural basin of some sort in that parkette that filtered the water before it got to the catch basin is what we are trying to do, and we could sculpt the landscape a little bit to achieve that, and we have already planted some cypress and other trees there.

Chair Krempasky advised that we could pursue it but that her best guess is that the residents are not going to be behind it. Member Thomson said that you talked to the residents and that they would not be happy with whatever we try to do. Chair Krempasky said that she tried to explain to the residents that this would be a model that would show the community that they could do a smaller version of it in their own yard. She advised that they would be more open to it if it were addressing a problem that they were having. She said that berms were put in when they were going to make it a community garden and that they thought that the water would flow better if the berms/railroad ties were removed. Foreman Large advised that they are there for parking so that people do not drive into the parkette.

Member Thomson said that it is not being used for parking, it is just flat, green space that we planted a few trees on and it is not functioning as green infrastructure and we are proposing to slow down the runoff. Chair Krempasky said that if we put the rain garden at the other end that it would affect what moves east and into the drain. Member Thomson said yes it should slow it down and be a natural basin so the water coming off of the parking area which slopes into the green space would puddle in the middle and gradually work its way down. He said that Lonnie suggested to do a drainage basin like a golf course and collect pooling water and have an underground pipe, which would go up to it and could be opened or closed to try to control runoff from getting into the storm sewer system.

Chair Krempasky asked how we should proceed because we need a landscape designer to look at this space, which would mean another \$195 to get a plan specifically for that spot and to let them know what we are trying to achieve by putting it where it pools the worst. Member Thomson said that we used to hire landscape planners. Vice Chair Bandy said that we have already done one design and have not been able to find a place to use it, so what if we do a second design and the neighbors are still hesitant.

Member Thomson said that it is a natural low area and the City put in concrete paving for about twenty cars right next to it. Chair Krempasky advised that we could go back to Native Plant Consulting, take them to the site, and let them know what we are trying to achieve. She said that the two people that are closest to the parkette are not in favor of the location that SEPAC is proposing. Member Thomson said that they fought the

community garden really hard. Vice Chair Bandy said that she did not think that it was a good use of SEPAC's money.

Chair Krempasky said that she would love to go back to D Street because it is the perfect place. Vice Chair Bandy asked if there was anything on the Boulevard. Member Thomson said that there is an interesting place that has two parkettes south of 11th Street on the west side where the City has a fence earmarking one and then there is hard paving going into Café Eleven. He said that it is a small area but that a rain garden could be made depending on the size. Chair Krempasky asked if water pooled there. Member Thomson said that most of the soil is built up above the road and we want to try to have a space where the road will drain and let the water absorb before it gets to the catch basin. He said that if we catch everything into the concrete pipe, that it goes straight out to the retention pond, and to the intercoastal. He said that they could be any size because it is basically taking the initial half-inch of rainfall that would go into the catch basin and store it for a short period of time. Member Candler said that the plan we have is basically 15 x 40. Member Thomson said that the plan could go on any parkette easily if we are just demonstrating rain gardens.

Member Candler asked for clarification of the 11th Street location. Member Thomson said that there are two parkettes across from Café Eleven that were developed with hardscape and that immediately opposite are two on the west side. He said that one is just a gravel pit with a fence and that the residents may not want it. Member O'Brien advised that it is near his house, the water always pools there, and it is a mess. He said that there are guys doing maintenance on the pipes there by the restrooms every day. Member Thomson said that the restrooms are on the east side of the Boulevard, which has been developed by the City and that there is an area on the west side that has not been developed. Member Candler asked for clarification of what the undeveloped area looked like. Member Thomson said standing by the sidewalk at Café Eleven, looking south, that there is a twenty- to thirty-foot-wide strip of right-a-way with palm trees that is just flat and could be improved. Member O'Brien said that maybe a rain garden would be a way to improve it. Member Thomson said that there is one residence behind it and that they have a fence and a pretty good buffer. Chair Krempasky asked how long that situation would stay because their driveway is actually on a parkette. Member Thomson said that he would not want to go into that because they were very vocal, and they have been using it for a long time. Chair Krempasky asked if the City had an agreement with them or if there was a point when that would end. Member Thomson said that there was a point, and that is where the fence is, and the City agreed to let them use the driveway. Chair Krempasky asked if he wanted to check out his location and she would check out Café Eleven. Member Thomson agreed and he asked Foreman Large for his opinion since there is a watering issue. Foreman Large said that he did not know if that resident would be on board with it because they have been difficult to work with but that he does know that it floods there. He said that if something is put there that could possibly stop the water runoff from going into their yard that they may be for it. He said that their driveway is elevated so putting a rain garden in front of it would not affect it that much.

Member O'Brien said that behind Café Eleven there is a parking lot, then the Commissioner's law office, and then there is his duplex. He said that there is a wetland area there and he asked if there was any merit to that. Member Thomson said that it is a

parkette as well. Foreman Large advised that SEPAC wanted to keep it on the Boulevard so that more people would see it and may want to put one in their yard. Member O'Brien said that the area is very visible and that he has a yard sign there because of all the foot traffic that they have. Member Thomson said that it is part of the Vision Plan now to create a plan to develop unimproved plazas with examples of native plants or rain gardens to educate the public about sustainable gardens. Chair Krempasky asked if it was really a parkette. Member Thomson said yes. He advised that the City has a big parking area and across the street it actually reads pretty big and that down farther there are a couple too. He said that we are doing what the City has asked us to do and if we feel strongly about one site vs. another, then we should make that recommendation to the City and let them know that it would need more funding. Vice Chair Bandy said there is funding, but none of the neighbors in the proposed areas have been in favor of it.

Member Thomson said that in the end it is a Commission issue, we could give them three options, and then Public Works would have to hold a public workshop meeting. He said that it is not SEPAC's job to convince everyone and that we are making recommendations to the City based on the policies that are in the Vision Plan that they adopted. He suggested for us not to frustrate ourselves too much. He said that we have these areas that could be done and that it would be the will of the Commission and the environmentally responsible people vs. the will of an occasional specific neighbor. Vice Chair Bandy said that we should have stepped back a long time ago to do that because we have been through multiple iterations of this by bringing the public in, going out and talking to the neighbors, and having a plan made. Chair Krempasky said that Member Thomson is the one that walked away from D Street and that she would still be willing to go to the Commission. Member Thomson said that is fine, but to give them several options, and let them decide. Member O'Brien suggested to give them our three options and advised them that we have had a couple people push back on option one, and maybe the second option is not so great, but it has not been contested, etc. Member Thomson said right now we have very little funding and very little support from Public Works or the Commission. Chair Krempasky advised that SEPAC has \$8,000 that needs to be spent before September 30th that was originally for two rain gardens. Member Thomson said obviously we are not going to make it and that he would hire an engineer or designer that could say that these are the plans and pick one. Chair Krempasky said that we would have to pay \$200 for each plan. Member Thomson said that that is not an environmental engineer or a landscape architect. He said that our job is to review plans of other professionals and not go shopping for plans and if the City wants this done, they have donated the money, but we are not getting things done. He said that SEPAC needs to be more effective and get them to make the decisions.

Chair Krempasky asked if everyone felt the same. Member Candler said that we should consider the City as a whole and not let one or two people push us around. Member Thomson said that we should not keep having individual workshops with this lot or that lot and to let the Commission decide what is the best use of the \$8,000 and where they want to spend it. He said that we have given them an idea, a plan, and that they could hold a workshop. He said that he would like to make a motion to identify three or four sites that are applicable for our \$200 site plan, the estimate for plants, and that Public Works will have to get on board and make it suitable to plant. Chair Krempasky said that Native Plant Consulting is going to take care of that. Member Thomson said the site next

to Café Eleven is as hard as a rock. Chair Krempasky said that Native Plant Consulting would kill the sod, do the planting, and purchase the plants, and all that SEPAC has to do is buy the palms. She said that the total was about \$4,000 per parkette and that Native Plant Consulting cannot plant the palms so SEPAC would need to hire someone to do it. Foreman Large advised that Public Works does not have the time to do many extra projects right now and that is why we are letting you know now that it would need to be in your proposal. Chair Krempasky advised that Native Plant Consulting would be doing everything except planting the palms and that they would then charge around \$15 per hour to do the maintenance and weeding for the first couple of years. Member O'Brien asked if there was anyone local, such as Southern Horticulture, that we could pay to do it. Foreman Large advised that they were also shorthanded and did not have the manpower to do it. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that we cannot just declare a certain company to do it because, under the City's financial rules, we would need to get quotes. Vice Chair Bandy said that before we make any motions that we should hear from the City Clerk because there is obviously some reason why we have been having these workshops and inviting the public. City Clerk Fitzgerald said that we have had projects like this in the past that residents have not liked, such as the planting at Lakeside Park, which we had to remove and that is why Public Works wants to have buy in from the public first.

Member O'Brien asked if he could go to 11th Street, take photos, and email them to the City Clerk to forward to everyone. City Clerk Fitzgerald said yes but that it could only be a one-way communication and that you could not discuss it until SEPAC meets again. Member O'Brien suggested for each member to go look at the different sites and come up with some clear action because he is already frustrated, and this is only his second meeting. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that individually each member could be assigned to a certain area and could go and investigate it and even talk to the residents, but you cannot talk to each other outside of a meeting. Member O'Brien asked if the information could then be presented at the next meeting. City Clerk Fitzgerald said yes.

Chair Krempasky suggested that we spend the money to get a Native Plant Consulting person to go to the sites and explain what the problem is and how they would address it vs. using the plan that is perfect for D Street. She said that she and Foreman Large took the planner out to D Street and she took a long time to determine which way the sun was going, etc. and that the A Street parkette has huge oak trees on it and that the palm grove may not work as shown in the original plan but may work in another spot. Member Thomson agreed that whoever developed the first plan should take a look at the three designated sites. Vice Chair Bandy suggested to find out if the sites are okay to do something on before we spend the money on a plan. Member Thomson said that SEPAC is supposed to be the judge of that because in the Vision Plan we have been given the task of improving the unimproved plazas. Vice Chair Bandy said that if that were the case, then we would have two rain gardens now, one at Playa Chac Mool, and one at D Street. Chair Krempasky said that she believed that everyone's point is that we are catering to the residents, and, at some point, the Commission has to decide. Member Thomson said exactly, and they would want to approve our project anyway. Vice Chair Bandy suggested that we put D Street on there. Member Thomson said that Playa Chac Mool is commercial and has an agreement with the City regarding the plaza because they maintain it. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised to take the plaza at Playa Chac Mool off the list. Member Thomson said that because they do the maintenance, they have a lot of say. Member

Candler said that the hotel does too. Foreman Large agreed. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that we would be adding more to what they are already required to do without their permission.

Vice Chair Bandy asked Foreman Large if he had an opinion of the newly proposed areas. Foreman Large said that his opinion is that there are a few places that would be ideal for a rain garden, but they are not on the Boulevard. He said one spot is near Mr. O'Brien's at 111 11th Street in the area that has three cypress trees on the other side of the privacy fence and that the Public Works Director had talked about piping it because that ditch does not function the way it should. He advised that the area is overgrown because it is a natural area for water to sit and that the cypress trees love it but that it would take a lot of work to clean it out. He said that the other area is the northwest corner of 3rd Street and 2nd Avenue and that Public Works planted three cypress trees because it tends to stay wet there. He described the area as being longer than it is wide and that he did not know if that adjacent resident would want it in front of her house. He said that Public Works maintains it but sometimes the homeowner has her crew do it because they do it more often than Public Works can get to it, but that they are not entitled to maintain it.

Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC wanted to proceed with 11th Street. Member O'Brien said that he would take some photos/videos and forward them to the City Clerk. Chair Krempasky asked if anyone wanted to go look at the 3rd Street and 2nd Avenue site. Member Candler said that she would. Chair Krempasky asked if they would each want to contact Native Plant Consulting to see if they had someone that could go with them. Member Thomson asked if there was a contact person at Native Plant Consulting. Chair Krempasky said that her name is Laura. Member O'Brien advised that he uses Jordan from Southern Horticulture for his stuff. Chair Krempasky advised that he would need to find out how much Jordan would charge for a plan because we have used them before for the entrances to the City and that SEPAC's Master Gardeners had to do the design because Southern Horticulture would not. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that at this point we have already paid for Native Plant Consulting for the design but still have not been able to find a location for it. She advised that finding a location has been the holdup and that the plan could potentially be adapted to other areas.

Vice Chair Bandy said \$195 times two to get two more plans. Chair Krempasky said that if we are going to present something to the Commission that we cannot just say that we are going to modify this plan and hope that it works on these two other sites. Member Thomson said that we may end up doing two sites because we have \$8,000. Chair Krempasky said that we were going to do two sites and that is why we have the \$8,000. Member Thomson said that they could pick two out of four and then we need to sign a contract so that the money is dedicated before September. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that the money has to at least be allocated and set aside for it before September 30th and has to be completely spent by November 30th.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if a motion was needed to spend \$200 on each plan. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that a motion is needed if you plan to spend the money before the next meeting. She said that SEPAC could find the locations, present it to the Commission with what you have now, and let them know that if they decide on a location, that SEPAC would contract the landscaper to fine tune the plan for that spot without spending the extra

money now. Chair Krempasky agreed and asked if SEPAC could get on the next Commission agenda. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that the next Commission meeting is before SEPAC's next meeting so you would not have time to discuss it together beforehand. Chair Krempasky said that we have three locations now. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that you would be presenting those locations with no prior discussion among yourselves. Member Thomson said that the research would be done, and we want to make a presentation to the Commission based on where we are now and then ask them to help make the decision. He said that schedule wise, it would be good because they may want to have a public workshop/hearing and they know that we are trying to get it done and they can help make the decision.

Vice Chair Bandy said that anyone that is going to visit a site would need to write a report or do a video and get it to the City Clerk and she would forward it to whichever member would be speaking before the Commission. Member Thomson said that it is a presentation, and you could just show up and make it and if they have a preference then they should say what it is and let us know if we could proceed. Member Candler suggested to look at the sites during the next month, talk about them at our next meeting, and then go to the Commission. Member Thomson said that would be SEPAC's June meeting, July we would be at the Commission meeting trying to get them to decide, and that would mean that we only have August and September to get someone to do the plan and bid it.

Chair Krempasky said that we would do our research and present it at SEPAC's next meeting. Member Thomson said that we are running out of time, but if you want to do it that way, that is fine, and if we run out of money, then it would go into next year's budget.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if she needed to reach out to Southern Horticulture. Chair Krempasky said yes.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VI.1.c and asked Forman Large for his update report.

c. Urban Forestry

Foreman Large advised that the City had its Arbor Day event, and we gave away all of 483 trees. He said that Chair Krempasky attended and gave away the majority of them. Chair Krempasky said that there were some visitors that wanted to pack them in their luggage to take home.

Foreman Large said that the recipients were asked to go on the website that Ms. Conlon provided and post pictures of the trees that they planted, and it will be interesting if they actually do it. Chair Krempasky said that we kind of stressed it because some people were from Virginia and the plants may actually thrive there. Vice Chair Bandy said that someone got a magnolia tree in her neighborhood, and it is doing well with three blooms and that she would take a picture and put it in the Newsletter.

Member Thomson asked to read something from the City's Urban Forestry Plan, which backs up what tonight's residents were saying. He said that Page 6 talks about ecosystems and the value of trees, which states, *"The plan includes results of ecosystem services analysis that quantifies the amenities provided by trees on public property in St. Augustine Beach. Larger canopy tree species provide greater amounts of these ecosystem services and should be planted or retained whenever adequate space is available."* He said that

there has actually been a quantification of the value of our urban tree canopy in public spaces and it goes on to say, *“Keep in mind however that the majority of the City’s urban forestry sides on private property where individual property owners manage the trees. Consequently, privately owned trees provide considerably more ecosystem services benefits to both the surrounding community and the owners themselves. Wherever possible, the City of St. Augustine Beach officials need to encourage private owners to retain canopy trees through a combined strategy of educational initiatives and minor regulations.”*

d. Environmental Planning Projects

Member Thomson advised that one of the things that he would like to present in this agenda item has to do with stormwater retention. He read that, *“ecosystem services include the ability of local tree populations to sequester and store carbon, which could help offset impacts of climate change. Coastal communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise, increased temperature extremes, and variations between drought and flooding. Ecosystem services also include the tree population’s ability to reduce both the volume, the stormwater runoff, and the pollutants contained in that stormwater. This in turn reduces the necessary City expenditures for stormwater containment structures and stormwater treatment facilities.”* He said that we have to look at trees as a community stormwater management asset as well and get the word out that if we want to have a sustainable environment, that we need to preserve the tree canopy as much as possible. He advised that one way to do that is to have trees designated as green infrastructure when the City adopts a stormwater utility fee. He said that it would provide a funding source for the things that we are talking about as well as create the ecosystem value that we want to maintain, which is what Lonnie Kaczmarzky’s paper was about. It would encourage new homeowners to understand the community value of trees on private property. He said that if there was a utility fee that people were paying monthly, and they “bricked-up” their property, that there should be some way to track it, and then their stormwater utility fee would increase for creating more runoff. He said that we need to have a holistic view of the main thing that trees are doing, which is controlling stormwater and also supporting an ecosystem. The trees cannot survive if all the runoff goes into concrete pipes, and we are left with a small amount of ground water available for the trees to maintain themselves during droughts.

Chair Krempasky asked if his draft had only been sent to the City Clerk [Exhibit A-1]. Member Thomson said yes and that there are three or four pages of notes from our meetings talking about this. He said that it is very important to put that concept before the Commission so that they can understand stormwater management in a holistic sense and look at the tree canopy and the retention areas that SEPAC is trying to do and imagine what it would be like without green infrastructure and how we could benefit by including it in the stormwater utility fee.

Chair Krempasky said that her feedback on this draft is that she is not in support of saying anything about Public Works or minimal funding from the City because for two years the City has given SEPAC money and that we have not been able to get the residents to agree. Member Thomson said that minimal funding to him is that we got \$8,000 and we should be getting \$150,000 if we are going to accomplish anything. Vice Chair Bandy said that

maybe we would get more funding someday if we could just get one little project done. Member Thomson said that he has been here for twenty years, and we are not getting it.

Chair Krempasky said that she believed that it was still a bit premature, but she does not mind doing the recommendations and she liked the idea of verifying and publicizing that the fee would include some things for the projects. She said that she could go with numbers 1-4 but that she would not go for most of the rest of it. Member Thomson asked if she wanted to omit the entire second paragraph. Chair Krempasky said yes. Member Thomson said that when we give these recommendations, we should have a presence at the Commission meeting. Chair Krempasky agreed. Member Thomson said that if the Commission asks what our concerns are that we would tell them that funding is minimal at best, and that to accomplish anything that is going to have a significant impact on controlling stormwater, that we would need money to hire environmental engineers/landscape architects. He said that the City probably spends \$1.5 million each year on stormwater management projects. Vice Chair Bandy said that she does not feel comfortable getting \$250,000 for a project to solve our stormwater issues. Member Thomson said that we are going to review green infrastructure plans that Public Works develops with environmental planners just like we should have reviewed the Vulnerability Study and this ordinance that just came out. He said that we have Vision Plans and Comprehensive Plans that are going to protect our environment but there is no policy action taking place that he could see in the City. We have spent two years talking about a right-of-way ordinance, which would include swales, etc. and then Director Tredik said that he did not have time to do it and that is when you would hire an environmental planner to do it. He said that he wants to be effective and that we have to approach the City as an advisory committee when we have a policy that we need to present to them. He said that attached to the letter are the presentations from 2019 and 2020 [Exhibit A-2] and then we would ask Public Works engineers to look at it and make recommendations or have a workshop.

Member Candler said that there is nothing wrong with saying that we want to work with the Commission. Chair Krempasky said that she thought SEPAC's task was to go back to Ordinance 23-01 and try to find a place to introduce the use of green infrastructure. She read page 9, Section 7-4, which states, "*The stormwater utility shall provide for the preparation of stormwater studies and the implementation of the stormwater utility and the repair, replacement, improvement, and enhancement of the City's capital facilities for stormwater management.*" She said that we could then add to that; "*to include the use of green infrastructure as well as gray infrastructure.*" [Exhibit C-1]. Member Thomson said that there is a lot that could go into that ordinance if they want to revise it. Chair Krempasky noted that the City Clerk said that the Commission wanted to keep it as general as possible right now. She advised that she found two definitions for gray infrastructure and green infrastructure, which could be included in the definition portion of the ordinance. Member Thomson said that he has no problem with the Chair making those recommendations, but we need them to understand as they move forward with the utility fee that a significant portion of it could go into green infrastructure. He said that SEPAC is the only advisory committee for sustainability and environmental planning, and we are trying to push them in that direction. He said that we worked on the Comprehensive Plan and the Vision Plan with our environmental ideas, but they are not getting used, and we need to make sure that they are.

Chair Krempasky asked Member Thomson for his suggestions. Member Thomson said that if we accept this letter with the four recommendations, that he would suggest that we attend the next Commission meeting to discuss it and make sure that they understand our recommendations. Member Candler asked if he would attend. Member Thomson said yes and that it would be nice if the Chair attended as well, but as long as it is a SEPAC effort, he would be happy to stand up and talk about it. He said that he and Lonnie talked about it in 2019, and then the right-of-way ordinance went by the wayside. He sent pictures of someone paving the right-of-way, now they have torn that out, and the hillside is draining onto the street. He said that there is not good follow through with what our comprehensive/environmental goals are, and that we need to make sure that they support the Planning and Zoning Board coming up with policy and changes to the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) and start enforcing some of these things.

Member O'Brien said that SEPAC should demonstrate the ability to take action because now we are talking about spending \$250,000, but cannot even spend \$8,000. He suggested redefining some of this while we execute the things that SEPAC has been working on for eighteen months so that we can show them that we are actually doing something. Member Thomson said that SEPAC has done a lot with the plazas and that the Commission likes our landscaping ideas. He said that we changed our name several years ago to what it is today, and we have worked on Comprehensive Plan revisions and the Vision Plan. The critical part is that there is a utility fee that would be charged to every residential and commercial property that is going to be designated for stormwater management. He advised that our job is to indicate to the Commission that some of that money should be put into green infrastructure, to not rely on an older conduit system, and we need to get that into the ordinance.

Member Candler asked if the stormwater utility fee is being discussed by the Commission at this time. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised no. Member Candler said that, at this point, it seems premature, and she suggested that SEPAC should go in when the Commission is ready to discuss it. Member Thomson said no, that the City Manager asked for our opinion on this because they just passed an ordinance that is vague as to whether or not it could be spent on green infrastructure and that the Chair has looked at the ordinance to see where we could insert items about green infrastructure. He said that he picked up on the presentations over the past four to six years as to why it is important to the City to start using green infrastructure. Member O'Brien asked if there was something small and measurable that SEPAC could suggest as a starting point or language about a percentage. Member Thomson said that we do not have to identify a percentage because that is going to be a whole other thing for how much money they are going to charge each individual, which will be based on impervious surface. He said that the Commission needs to understand why impervious surface and stormwater management are important and the Commission needs to agree that the ordinance would help fund green infrastructure because the public needs to know that as well. Member O'Brien asked if the Commission knows what it is. Member Thomson said that there have been two or three major presentations over the past two years, which is why it is in the Vision Plan to do green infrastructure on the parkettes.

Member Candler asked when the ordinance would be on the Commission's agenda. Member Thomson advised that the ordinance has already been passed and next year they

are going to set the fee but have not set a date yet. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that the ordinance that passed was just to set the framework, which is the first step in a long process, but it is still undetermined when or if the fee would be enacted. It was just to replace an old Code from the 1990s for a County stormwater fee that was never enacted and there is no guarantee that one would be put in place this time either. Member Thomson advised that the Commission said that they wanted input, that they wanted to pass the study, and they need the money from the utility fee, so why wouldn't they consider it. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised because we need to get the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) number and without it, nothing moves forward, which is the holdup right now. She said that once we have the ERU numbers, then the Commission still has to pass a resolution and hold a Public Hearing to determine the rate structure, which would then go to the Tax Collector. Member Thomson said that the Public Works Director wanted to hire someone to do that and to do a \$19,000 study, and then they were going to have a windfall of \$500,000 if they started charging the fee. He said that it is going to happen, and we need to make sure that they understand the environmental aspects of stormwater management and how green infrastructure could help our City. Member O'Brien said that we are saying it because it is in the Plan, and they have had three presentations. Member Thomson said yes, but the problem is that Public Works and the Building Department are not necessarily on board and Planning and Zoning has not really chimed either, but we are the environmental advisory planning committee. He advised that he spent thirty hours last month with the City Manager's letter and followed up with the presentations that we have done in the past and this is a direct communication with the Commission of what we are asking them to do with our specific recommendations. He agreed with striking the second paragraph and that it would not hurt to be on the Commission's agenda next month.

Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC was on board with Member Thomson sending the letter. Member Candler said that she did not have a problem with it. Member Thomson said that he would prefer that it come from the Chair and that the letter would be sent and then we would ask to be on their agenda to make a presentation, which the City Manager has given approval of.

Chair Krempasky advised that she is not going to send the letter unless every SEPAC member is behind it. Member Thomson asked for a motion. Member Candler agreed with it but said that she did not want SEPAC to get too far into the weeds to overwhelm them. She said that we want to keep it concise and make sure that they understand the importance of green infrastructure to the whole stormwater process and that a certain percentage of that project needs to be allocated towards it. She said that if we get too deep, they would block us out, but that we could present it at this point for when they start implementing it later on.

Motion: to send the letter to the Commission. **Moved by** Member Thomson, **Seconded by** Member Candler. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Thomson and Chair Krempasky said that they would attend. Member Thomson asked how to request being added to the agenda. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised to request that the City Manager add your presentation to the agenda. Member Candler said that she assumed that the letter was requesting it. Chair Krempasky said that she believed that

Member Thomson's point was that the PowerPoint presentation that SEPAC made for Arbor Day a few years ago should be attached to this so that they can review it. Member Thomson said that it is attached and that the City Manager will add it to their agenda books, and we will ask to give a presentation at the beginning of their next meeting. Chair Krempasky said that she was confused and asked if Member Thomson wanted the letter emailed to them. Member Thomson advised to email it to the Commission and to the City Manager and ask him to put SEPAC on the agenda for the Commission's June 5th meeting.

Member Thomson advised that one other thing that we should be looking at are the stormwater management goals and policy [Exhibit B]. He said that the second major policy goals for SEPAC have to do with stormwater management, which had specifics that we asked the City for and to instruct staff and the Planning and Zoning Board to take a look at. Member Thomson read the four bullet points from Exhibit B and said that they are basic but that they are a starting point and he suggested that everyone should have a copy of the adopted Vision Plan. Chair Krempasky asked if it was posted to the City's website. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that she has not been told to post it yet. Chair Krempasky asked if the Commission was planning a workshop over the summer. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that they said that they would like to do one but that nothing definite has been scheduled.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VI.2.a

2. Educational Programs

a. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition

Chair Krempasky asked the Vice Chair if she had a chance to talk to her proposed recipients. Vice Chair Bandy said yes and that they are good with it, and we are ready for the sign. She said that they would be the first recipients and they are happy for her to take photos and include them in the Newsletter, which would bring some publicity to the program.

Chair Krempasky said that Mr. Lapier at 312 D Street is so sustainably minded and has solar panels, grow their own food, and they have a banana tree with fifty bananas on it. She advised that he would like the recognition but only to bring more attention that it could be done. She said that she did not get finished with the signage and that she would have it ready for next month. She said that she spent about an hour at his property, which is slanted, and the water runs into the street, so he built a wooden retention pond and a rain garden by the street. Vice Chair Bandy asked if he was open to being in the Newsletter. Chair Krempasky said that she made a note to contact him about it and that she was so impressed, that she asked him if he would be interested in doing a workshop.

Chair Krempasky asked if both of the Vice Chair's property owners wanted signs. Vice Chair Bandy advised that the second property owner is selling the house. She said that the first property owner is at 141 Whispering Oaks Circle, they do not have lawn, just mulched areas and native plants, which are vertically layered. Vice Chair Bandy asked if she would bring the signs to the next meeting. Chair Krempasky said that she would do her best to get them as soon as possible. Vice Chair Bandy said that they would probably

want their picture taken with the sign, which would probably be done for the July Newsletter.

Chair Krempasky advised that she updated the Anastasia Environmental Stewardship Award program announcement/nomination form that we put on the City's website [Exhibit D]. She said that this is the fifth year we have done this, and we have used the same form, but she is open to any changes. She said that according to her notes, SEPAC decided to award them in October, so the deadline for nominations would be August 25, 2023, and she asked for it to be included in the July and August Newsletters. Vice Chair Bandy agreed. Chair Krempasky advised that SEPAC would select the winners at the September meeting, notify them by September 18th. She contacted Crafts Trophies and that they need the names by September 13th, which is the day after SEPAC's meeting, and that they could have the plaques ready for the Commission meeting in October. She said that she would request that this be included on the agenda for June and also October.

Vice Chair Bandy asked when the application process would start. Chair Krempasky advised that it could begin now unless you want to change anything on the application. She said that she could send the PDF to the City Clerk to post but that it should also have a press release. Vice Chair Bandy advised that she could do a press release and send it to Ms. Conlon but that there really isn't press anymore at The Record. She said that she has a good contact list and that the Fish Island Community Alliance could possibly get it out to thousands of residents. Member Candler asked about the Beaches News Journal that the City Manager has his articles in. Vice Chair Bandy asked if Ms. Conlon sends anything to the Journal. City Clerk Fitzgerald said that she was not sure. Vice Chair Bandy advised that she would check with Ms. Conlon and ask if she would send information to them. Chair Krempasky asked if the Vice Chair would handle the press release for this. Vice Chair Bandy said yes and that she would also post it on Next Door and other groups that she knows of. Chair Krempasky said that we had a pretty good turn out last year.

Member Thomson asked if we had two designated friendly landscaping recognition awards. Chair Krempasky said yes and said that we could introduce them at the October Commission meeting but that we would get their signs as soon as we could. Member Thomson asked if the Environmental Stewardship Awards would also be during the October meeting for. Chair Krempasky said yes.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if we could start taking applications on June 1st so that she would have a date for the press release. Chair Krempasky said yes and asked if anyone had changes to the application. Member O'Brien said that it looked great. Vice Chair Bandy said that it could go into the June Newsletter as well. Chair Krempasky said that she would send the PDF to the City Clerk. Member Thomson asked the Chair to have the City Clerk forward whatever is sent to the Commission and the City Manager to the SEPAC members. He said that there was Water Warriors and the Fish Island Anastasia group, and they are environmentally interested in what is going on and that he would like to forward this to them.

Chair Krempasky moved on to VI.2.b.

b. Environmental Speaker and Film Series

Vice Chair Bandy advised that the next speaker series is not until the fall and that if we are having less than ten people every time that she is not sure that it is a good use of our time. She said that SEPAC has money set aside for it and maybe we could get a higher-level speaker or film. She advised that the library has not been getting a very good turnout for any of their programs either. Member O'Brien said that he put all of them on his calendar, but it is tough to attend because someone always has a conflict. He asked if there is any way to find content that we really want to present and get links to it so that people could watch at their leisure. Member Thomson and Vice Chair Bandy advised that many of these films were on YouTube. Member Thomson said that the Newsletter could inform people that these are great environmental films. Member O'Brien suggested to find films related to the challenges that we are having here because if his eleven-year-old understood water runoff, then he would know more than we did. He said that the people would not know to watch all these films that SEPAC knows a lot about.

Chair Krempasky said that at the last meeting Vice Chair Bandy gave us a copy of the workshops that the City of St. Augustine was having and that she attended, and that the audience seemed to know as much or more than the speaker. She advised that the City of St. Augustine is also going to start their glass recycling again, which is fantastic. She said that she wished there was a way to get the kids interested because they are the next generation and should be aware of the problems and that maybe there could be a kid's day. Member O'Brien said that they are coming because they care so much about those initiatives but that he is so busy that he does not even know where to begin looking for those sorts of things. He said that after last month's meeting he talked to his kids about the Monarch butterflies and said that others may not know anything about it.

Chair Krempasky asked if the library might be interested in doing something on a weekend in the summer for kids. Vice Chair Bandy said that they do have kid's programs so it may be a possibility. Member Thomson said that it would be nice to tie in with other organizations such as the Music by the Sea, the City's Cultural Arts Center, etc. and to use the Dance Studio to show a film. He said that there is another environmental film series that shows films at the lighthouse park and that they have the Sierra Club and the Beekeepers, and everyone shows up and that maybe we could join forces to support each other since we are getting such little turn out at the library. He advised that we used to have a great program for elementary and middle school children around Arbor Day and that reaching out to other groups is really important such as advertising what is on YouTube this month and keeping that focus.

Member O'Brien advised that he is on the Board at the YMCA and that he would be happy to connect with them and that he would also forward clips to his friends on social media to bring awareness to the things that SEPAC is trying to do. Chair Krempasky advised that if we do decide to have an adult series in the fall that our last speaker, Mr. Tal Coley, had mentioned Deirdre Irwin, who spoke at the St. Augustine workshop about water conservation, which was really interesting. She said that their workshop had very poor attendance and that this was the first year that they have done it in honor of Earth Day. She said that maybe SEPAC could be more proactive next Earth Day and do something here. She said that when Ms. Irwin introduced herself, she said that she would rather

have five engaged people rather than a room full of people that have no interest. Chair Krempasky said that she might contact her to see if there is a movie that she could suggest that is specific to Florida. Vice Chair Bandy suggested to talk again next month about an exact date and possibly getting her as a speaker.

Member Candler said that she saw a picture of volunteers working in the entrance planting. Chair Krempasky advised that there was a picture a while ago of workers in front of the 7-Eleven. Member Candler suggested to get volunteers to help SEPAC redo something and build a community of people that are interested. Vice Chair Bandy said that when we started the film series, that she started collecting emails from people that were interested, and that she has about fifty people so far. Chair Krempasky said that there are liability issues with volunteers working for the City. She said that when she investigated using Native Plant Consulting to weed the bioswales, that she was told that they must have insurance to work on the property, which they do have.

Chair Krempasky advised that we would work more on the speaker and film series, and she moved on to Item VI.2.c.

c. Newsletter Topics

Vice Chair Bandy advised that she has plenty to work with for the June Newsletter topics. She said that we were also talking about trees and that she could write something quickly about the value of trees, such as that their shade saves money, lowers pollution, less flooding, etc. Member Thomson suggested to mention the Urban Forest Plan because the introduction about why we have trees is excellent, which may help them understand proper maintenance. Vice Chair Bandy said that she would run the environmental awards for several months in the summer and then we would have our environmentally friendly landscape award winners. Member Candler said that she would like to see something in the Newsletter about not hurricane cutting the palm trees. Chair Krempasky suggested that Member Candler should write something for the Newsletter. Member Thomson said that it is also in the Urban Forest Plan and that she could get some information from it. Member Candler said that the University of Florida has a very nice description of how you are supposed to cut palms. Vice Chair Bandy suggested for Member Candler to take photos of a good cut vs. a bad cut.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VI.2.d.

d. Environmental Corner

Member Thomson asked Foreman Large if he decided on a location and said that his associate was supposed to come back tonight for the decision. Foreman Large advised that he did look at places where it could go, but that SEPAC needed to cover the cost. Member Thomson advised that Mr. Tredik had already priced it at around \$560, which is the same as the one that is already in the hallway. Foreman Large advised that there is electricity behind the wall and that he met with electricians. He said that Building Official Law advised that if the case is “exactly” like the other one in the hallway located across from the City Manager’s office, that it could go there, but if it is somehow different, that it would go across from that. He said that he did not know what Mr. Tredik had in mind and that he believed that SEPAC was going to look into the types of cases.

Member Thomson asked if SEPAC wanted to authorize the expense of it. Chair Krempasky said no. Member O'Brien asked how many bulletin boards we need or if we could share one of them. Member Thomson advised that SEPAC was going to share it with Public Works and SEPAC would pay for it. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that we already have a flyer shelf and a bookshelf, which are available to use right now. Member Thomson said that Mr. Tredik and the City Manager nixed that idea because they wanted everything to be approved and behind glass.

Chair Krempasky said that in theory it is a good idea but that she did not see SEPAC being able to keep it up to date. Member Thomson said that Mr. Tredik wanted it because of illicit runoff, etc. and to show how it ties into the poster of the tree. He said maybe it is not the best place, but it is as important as the historical sports club memorabilia that is in the hallway now.

Chair Krempasky would like it to be in a place that has more traffic. Member O'Brien suggested one of the parkettes. Member Thomson said that the Vision Plan specifies putting some art in the parkettes and that his idea was to have a parkette at the Cultural Arts Center/Fire Station area and that the County did a gazebo with the same type of display so we could do our environmental corner there.

Vice Chair Bandy said that her neighborhood built a library stand for less than \$100, which houses flyer-type information inside and a planter on top and that we could do something like that on one of the parkettes with information related to environmental issues. Member Thomson advised that we would have to talk to the City Manager about it because anything that we put out there has to be approved. Member Thomson asked to hold off on the environmental corner and to research the library stand. Vice Chair Bandy agreed.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VII.

VII. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC wanted to move the meetings to the second Thursday of each month.

Motion: To move the meetings to the second Thursday of each month beginning in June. **Moved by** Member Candler, **Seconded by** Vice Chair Bandy. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Candler asked Foreman Large if had an update on Ocean Hammock Park. Foreman Large advised that they are moving forward with the plan to beautify the area and that the City must continue to show progress in order to continue the land purchase grant. He said that they have a drawing of the area, which shows picnic tables and a concrete sidewalk going around it near the parking lot area, which will be handicapped accessible, and is almost halfway completed. He advised that the path to the beach walkway is also being redone to be handicapped accessible and that the restroom was put in today and they still need to hook up the pipes. He said that there is a good bit left to do such as putting in a gazebo, a picnic area, etc. and we do not know when it will be open. Member Candler asked if he could share the map with SEPAC at the next meeting. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that the map is on the City's website on the left side of the home page under "In the Spotlight".

Member Thomson left at 7:59 p.m.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if anyone knows what is going on with the blue house at the end of the Ocean Hammock Park boardwalk. She said that they took out all the marsh land between the house and the beach and it looks like they poisoned it or something. They put some grasses in and when we get a lot of rain, it has standing water there. She said that if they poisoned it, that it looks like some of it is going under the boardwalk and into the park land. Foreman Large suggested reporting it to Code Enforcement but that he does know that they had to keep an area clear near there for some reason to access the beach area.

Forman Large advised that Public Works spoke to the City of St. Augustine regarding their glass recycling program and that they want to get it established before they involve us. Chair Krempasky advised that she believed that there were only three dumpster locations and that one was going to be located at R.B. Hunt elementary School, which is pretty close for us. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that they would probably put out a press release.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VIII.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to Adjourn. **Moved by** Member O'Brien. **Seconded by** Vice Chair Bandy. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Krempasky adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Sandra Krempasky, Chair

ATTEST

Dariana Fitzgerald, City Clerk