



AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 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 JUNE 8, 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 Education Materials
- 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.

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MINUTES

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

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 and Karen Candler.

Member George O'Brien was absent.

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

City Clerk Fitzgerald informed the Committee that Edward Edmonds would be resigning from SEPAC effective today. She stated that his schedule would not allow him to attend regularly and that he wished to convey his thanks to the other members for their efforts.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2023, REGULAR MEETING

Motion: to approve the minutes of May 9, 2023, with corrections. **Moved by:** Member Candler.
Seconded by: Member Thomson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.1.a.

V. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

1. Reforestation and Landscaping Projects

a. Mickler Boulevard

Foreman Large advised that a tree company trimmed trees in the area and ran through the wildflower site. Member Candler said that they did not trim trees, they took them down to the ground. Foreman Large said that he provided cost information to the Building Department to investigate, and hopefully they will be able to get the tree company to pay to repair it. Member Candler asked if he knew which tree company it was. Foreman Large said yes. He said that we are waiting to see what the Building Department finds out and that he would hopefully have that information for the next meeting. Member Thomson asked if the trees were on private property or in the right-of-way. Member Candler noted

that they were outside of the fence. Member Thomson said then they were in the right-of-way. Foreman Large said not necessarily because some of the residents put their fences inside their property instead of right on the property line, which is something that the Building Department would need to look at. Chair Krempasky asked if it would then go to Code Enforcement. Foreman Large said that he did not know the process. He said that he provided the cost, the record of what was done, and the labor that went into it. He said that Public Works recently trimmed on both sides of the wildflower area, which looks really good and that they have received compliments about it. Member Thomson asked if photos were taken of the damage. Foreman Large said yes.

Member Thomson asked if a right-of-way permit was issued. Foreman Large said that he did not know. Member Thomson asked if Public Works or the Building Department would issue that permit. Foreman Large said that he did not know because he is not involved in that. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that Project Manager Adams was doing the right-of-way permits, but since he moved up to Assistant Public Works Director, she was not sure if he would still be doing them. She advised that a whole new department has been created, and there have been two promotions within Public Works. Member Thomson asked what the new department was. City Clerk Fitzgerald said the Engineering Department. Member Thomson said that it sounded like Engineering would be responsible for right-of-way permits now. City Clerk Fitzgerald said that she did not know, and that Mr. Adams is exclusively with Public Works now. Member Thomson asked Foreman Large for a report next month of whether there was a right-of-way permit so that we know. Foreman Large agreed. Member Candler asked if the trees were on private property, would a right-of-way permit be needed. Member Thomson said that it is his understanding that if you do any construction in a right-of-way, you need a permit. Vice Chair Bandy said that if we cannot get anything back from the company then we should go to the homeowner because they were responsible for it.

Chair Krempasky said to wait and see what the Building Department comes up with and follow their lead, and if they were not their trees, then she believed it would be a Code Enforcement issue. Member Candler said that if they were their trees, we would still want to find out if they had a permit. Chair Krempasky said that they were probably not the size trees that would need a permit.

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

b. Parkette Planning/Green Infrastructure

Chair Krempasky advised that our assignments were to visit the parkettes, bring it back for discussion, and provide our choices to the Commission at their July meeting. Member Thomson said this is in the Vision Plan along with the recommendations that we create a plan to develop unimproved plazas with examples of native plants and rain gardens to educate the public about sustainability gardens, which is one of our assignments. Member Candler showed a photo [Exhibit A-1] and said that it was taken standing in Café Eleven's parking lot. Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC thought that it was a good place for a rain garden. Member Thomson said there are dry retention areas, rain gardens, and that a dry retention area could be a rain garden. Chair Krempasky advised that she was looking for places that held water. Member Thomson said that a dry retention does not hold water and that flowers would not grow in a wet retention area. Vice Chair Bandy said that

it is not always wet, only when it floods. Member Thomson said that it is dry until it rains and soaks up the water, but it is still dry. He said that all you would need to do there is scrape off the first six or eight inches of sandy soil and then do what we did on Mickler Boulevard. Chair Krempasky said that based on the original drawings that Jeff did, we were trying to do a palm grove, which could not be done there because of the Avenue of Palms. Member Thomson said that if you go down the street where there is a development and that they saturated the front two lots with palm trees and plants, so there are no restrictions of how many palms can be there as long as they are ten feet apart. Vice Chair Bandy said that we do not have to do both renderings. Member Thomson said that the beauty of this is that they already have the fence [Exhibit A-2 and A-3]. Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC wanted to suggest it as a location to present to the Commission. Vice Chair Bandy said that she was confused because she was looking at what Foreman Large mentioned at 111 11th Street that has the three Cypress trees on the other side of the privacy fence. Foreman Large advised that that is the location that Member O'Brien was supposed to look at. Chair Krempasky said no, it is on the bike path. Vice Chair Bandy said that she was communicating with Jordan at Southern Horticulture and that she did not tell him about that one, she told him about the one at the northwest corner of 3rd Street and 2nd Avenue. Member Thomson said that is a good candidate also.

Member Candler said that she looked at 3rd Street and 2nd Avenue [Exhibit A-4] and that you cannot really tell that the land drops off there. She advised that she was not able to get out there when it was raining and did not know if held water. Member Thomson advised that it does hold water. Foreman Large advised that he has not been there for a while but had noticed water there in the past. Member Thomson said that it satisfied a dry retention.

Member Candler asked what this mess was, and what is happening. Chair Krempasky questioned how this would be described for the minutes. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that she would have to email her all the photos. Foreman Large advised that that is where they are putting in 2nd Street. Member Candler asked if the walkway that cuts through would continue. Foreman Large advised that that would be a question for Engineering but, just like a sidewalk, he would suspect that the street would go to it and then you would have a crosswalk. Member Candler said that a lot of people walk there and that is why she thought that it would be a good one because a lot of people would see it. Foreman Large advised that he did not know the timetable of when it would be done but that it would not be finished by this fiscal year.

Vice Chair Bandy advised that Southern Horticulture said that they were interested but that they are three to four months out and if we give them the go ahead, it would be September. She said that she gave them the locations and that they would work on quotes. Chair Krempasky advised that she could not be here for the next Commission meeting on July 10th and if SEPAC wants this to be presented at that meeting, then someone else would need to do it. Vice Chair Bandy said okay.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if we were changing our process because we are going straight to the Commission with the locations for their approval and not getting resident feedback first. Chair Krempasky advised that what Member Thomson conveyed at the last meeting was to let the Commission pick the location and then we could approach the residents afterwards because checking with every neighbor beforehand was slowing our process

down. Member Candler said that the old house near Café Eleven has a border between there and what we would be doing and that the proposed spot at 3rd Street has a house with a fence. Foreman Large advised that there is no fence.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if there were three locations to share with the Commission. Chair Krempasky said there is one at Café Eleven and one at 3rd Street and 2nd Avenue. Member Candler advised that there is really only one homeowner that could say something about it but that the house is set back pretty far. Member Thomson agreed and said that the fence is in the middle of the parkette, and it is not full size, but it is a good location.

Chair Krempasky suggested to submit D Street as well. Vice Chair Bandy said that there is Café Eleven, 111 11th Street with the Cypress trees, and 3rd Street. Chair Krempasky said to submit four locations then. Vice Chair Bandy asked what the location on D Street is. Chair Krempasky said that D Street has a plan that is fully flushed out with drawings and a list of plants and that is it ridiculous to be held hostage by a few residents.

Member Thomson said that the only reason he suggested A Street and the other areas that already have a recessed area is because they kind of form a dry retention, but that D Street would need to have a recessed area made. Chair Krempasky said that she did not think so because she and Foreman Large walked the area with the landscape designer and the area is great. Member Thomson said that he does not mind doing A Street or 8th Street and that we should present as many as we want because they wanted us to make recommendations to develop unimproved plazas as part of the Vision Plan. He said to be effective, we need get it to the Commission and asked for their input and approval and then have Public Works move forward.

Chair Krempasky said that she wanted to pay \$200 for each site to have plans drafted to show the Commission, but that SEPAC decided not to spend that money and for each Member to look at a parkette and decide which ones we want to present to the Commission, but that the only thing we will have to show the Commission are photos. Member Thomson said that we have the typical planting plans and renderings. Chair Krempasky advised that the plan and plantings would not work for all of those locations. Member Thomson said that it is a design concept that could be presented and then each bidder could do something comparable and more specific for the site they select, which is valuable as an example. Vice Chair Bandy said we are going to go in front of the Commission and show pictures of six locations that we want to put a rain garden in and ask for approval. Member Thomson said that it is comparable to the design that was developed for D Street. Chair Krempasky asked if they felt comfortable doing that. Vice Chair Bandy said that she is not comfortable with D Street because of the public outcry about it. Member Thomson said that it was a design that was developed for Coquina Gables because we developed it for A Street also and we should put A Street on the list. Member Candler asked what it was called in the Vision Plan. Member Thomson read from the Vision Plan that specified the name “rain gardens”. Chair Krempasky advised that the original plan for the D Street parkette does not use the word rain garden anywhere. Member Candler suggested calling it a “sustainable garden”. Member Thomson agreed.

Vice Chair Bandy said that she could show pictures of other rain gardens because SEPAC did a previous PowerPoint presentation about green infrastructure. Member Thomson said that green infrastructure and sustainable garden are good ways to present it because

that was our presentation the last time, and we are trying to get funding down the road for green infrastructure, which would include this type of project.

Vice Chair Bandy said that we have mentioned several locations now. Member Thomson said that five locations would be good. Vice Chair Bandy said that there were three mentioned from our notes last time. Member Thomson said that we previously looked at D Street and A Street. Vice Chair Bandy asked where on A Street. Member Thomson said A Street and 2nd Avenue on the northwest corner. Chair Krempasky asked if the location near Member O'Brien's house was suitable for what we are doing because it could be a big project. Foreman Large suggested to find out the resident's address, which is probably 100 or 102 10th Street.

Vice Chair Bandy advised that she would take pictures of the four locations, talk about them, show the rendering and maybe other pictures of what they could look like, and she asked then what. Member Thomson suggested to say, "that these are our recommendations for providing a demonstration of a sustainable garden/green infrastructure to educate the public in accordance with our Vision Plan and that we are coming to you to help make the decision and to direct Public Works to proceed with the implementation." Chair Krempasky advised that SEPAC would have to do the bidding. Member Thomson said that SEPAC does not bid, Public Works does. Chair Krempasky said that Public Works is not implementing this. Vice Chair Bandy advised that SEPAC has to hire someone. Chair Krempasky said that someone on this Committee has gotten quotes for all the projects that we have done. Member Thomson advised that if it is over a certain dollar amount that they would have to do a request for bids. Chair Krempasky advised that these are going to cost about \$4,000 and that we would need to get multiple bids. She said that the Vice Chair is working with Southern Horticulture and that she is working with Native Plant Consulting, and if we find that there is not a third company that could do this work, then we could use that as an excuse. Member Thomson asked if those quotes would be turned in to Public Works. Chair Krempasky said yes. Member Thomson suggested to get the ball rolling and that Public Works needs to be on board in terms of receiving bids. Vice Chair Bandy said that we have one bid, and that Southern Horticulture is working on another quote, and she asked if we should contact Leonardi's Nursery. Chair Krempasky said sure.

Member Candler asked what is needed from the Commission. Vice Chair Bandy said that that was her question too and she asked if the Commission needed to decide where they want the first one so that we could do it this year. Member Candler said that we already have the money. Chair Krempasky advised that the whole point is that we are letting the residents tell us what to do and if we have the Commission basically telling the residents that we are going to do this model project this year and it is going to be located at 111 11th Street, then we can spend \$200 for a design and then bid it out. Vice Chair Bandy said that the Commission may question why SEPAC is asking them to choose the location and just tell us to choose it. Chair Krempasky said that we have already done this with three locations and the residents have not been in favor of it. Member Candler said that we want the Commission to know what we are doing and to support us. Member Thomson said that the ones on the Boulevard have never been a problem. Chair Krempasky advised that the one in front of Playa Chac Mool was a perfect location. Vice Chair Bandy said that she would like to have their commitment that SEPAC could improve some on the

Boulevard, which would mean that they are not going to use it for parking. Member Thomson said that we need to stress that it is in the Vision Plan.

Everyone was talking over one another, and nothing could be retrieved for the minutes.

Chair Krempasky asked everyone to please stop having multiple conversations.

Member Thomson suggested that when the Vice Chair presents this, to use that page from the Vision Plan, tell the Commission that SEPAC has been working on this for a year, and that we would like their support to improve the parkette in this manner as stated in the Vision Plan and to have it move forward this year. Vice Chair Bandy said that we want them to choose the location. Member Thomson said sure because they are the bosses.

Chair Krempasky advised that the location in front of Café Eleven is not a parkette. Member Thomson said that it is a parkette and he showed that there is an alleyway between Café Eleven and 10th Street. Chair Krempasky said that she thought that parkettes were on corners. Member Thomson said that it is slightly different and that she was right, it is between 10th and 11th Streets.

Member Thomson asked if we are going to ask the City Manager to make it an agenda item. Chair Krempasky said that we are on the agenda and that we need to decide tonight who will be presenting it and to come up with a brief description so that it can go in their agenda books. Member Candler suggested to ask the Commission if they have any input regarding the four proposed locations. Chair Krempasky said that the first thing they are going to ask is if we have resident buy-in, but the residents do not want change, and that is what is frustrating. She said that SEPAC has been tasked with using the parkettes for beautification or green infrastructure models, but we are being held hostage by the residents. Member Thomson advised that some of the businesses have reasons, such as maintenance agreements with the City like Playa Chac Mool. Chair Krempasky said that during our conversation with Playa Chac Mool's owner, he said that they were afraid that the lawn care company would run over the landscaping, and she questioned whether we really think that is possible. She said that he could cut the grass around the garden and then Native Plant Consulting could come in and weed it. Member Candler said that she thought his objection was that it would hide the restaurant. Chair Krempasky advised that a palm tree is not going to hide a restaurant. She said that the other expert that came to the location said that it would be an ideal place for the rain garden.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if there was a parkette on the Boulevard without residents nearby so that we would not have this problem, then the Commission could approve it, and it would not have parking there. Member Thomson said that 8th Street is a good location because the City put a row of parking on the north side by the hotel, which has a depressed area and on the opposite side of the street there is an unimproved plaza. He said that they have a maintenance agreement but that there is a wall with a pool behind it and so they may not want the visibility, and that across the street near the auto repair shop there are suffering red cedar trees that could use some company. Chair Krempasky asked if the Vice Chair wanted to visit that location and then add it at her discretion. Vice Chair Bandy asked Foreman Large if he would have time to go with her so that she does not go to the wrong place. Foreman Large said yes. He advised that the one across the street with the red cedar is so high that it is like a desert, and it would require a lot of

work. He said that he believed that the one at the hotel had said no in the past but that that could have changed. Member Candler said that it is also not an unsightly location. Member Thomson agreed and said that it is slightly improved but not in a sustainable manner with just grass that gets cut and goes into the sewer system.

Vice Chair Bandy said that she really only has four locations. Member Thomson said that near the auto repair shop there is an area that is pretty unsightly, we could put a white fence in to identify it as a plaza, and hollow out a little area to collect water, which would be a sustainable garden and would help feed the red cedar trees. Vice Chair Bandy asked if it was on the west side of the Boulevard. Member Thomson said yes on the southwest corner of 8th Street and the Boulevard. Vice Chair Bandy suggested that location because no one would complain. Chair Krempasky said that her chart does not show a parkette at 8th Street. Member Thomson noted that it was the southwest corner on the Boulevard.

Vice Chair Bandy said that she would present the five locations and tell the Commission that they are locations that SEPAC likes. She asked if she was supposed to ask the Commission to select and approve the location right then on the spot. SEPAC replied yes. Vice Chair Bandy asked what if they do not do it. Member Candler said that you are just asking for feedback on the locations. Member Thomson advised that we want them to agree and to find out if they have concerns, otherwise move forward. Vice Chair Bandy advised that she and Foreman Large would go look at the locations and pick their favorite. She said that if the Commission says for SEPAC to decide, then we will just tell them which location we are choosing. Chair Krempasky said to go ahead but that we still have to get permission from the City to do this. She said that if they say that they do not care which location we choose, that that sounds like they are giving us permission for any of those locations. Member Candler said that we just want to make sure that the Commission does not have any objections to the locations.

Chair Krempasky asked the Vice Chair if she felt like she could do it. Vice Chair Bandy said yes. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that anything that needs to go in the agenda books would need to be turned in two weeks before the meeting and if you are going to do a PowerPoint presentation, that it is better to get it to her before the meeting. Vice Chair Bandy asked if SEPAC wanted to have something in the agenda books and what should it be. Member Thomson said that if you have any photos, then that would be good. Chair Krempasky advised that the City Manager said that the deadline for getting something in the agenda books is June 26th. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that we usually try to start working on the books two weeks before but that one week out is the absolute last chance. Chair Krempasky said that the meeting is not until July 10th. Member Candler suggested to remind them what we are talking about and to use the page out of the Vision Plan and say that after working on the Vision Plan that SEPAC has come up with these locations. Vice Chair Bandy said that we have been working on this for years. Chair Krempasky advised that Public Works told SEPAC to get resident buy-in, which is what we did, but that no residents were buying-in. She said that she finds it hard to believe that the Commission is going to let individual residents dominate what improvements we can make to the City. She said that if the Commission wants an improvement made in that area per the Vision Plan, then they should let us do it. Member Candler suggested that if the Commission asks us about resident buy-in that we tell them that we have had workshops and open forums and that none of these locations received negative feedback.

Member Thomson said that you are never going to get one-hundred percent satisfaction but that we did have supporters of the projects and that the Commission has to determine what is in the public good vs. any harm.

Chair Krempasky advised that D Street had emails from residents in support of it, but that one resident was able to block it. You always want to support your neighbor, but not to the extent that you are not allowing the City to make improvements.

Vice Chair Bandy said that it was not on her list of fun things to do. Chair Krempasky said that it was on her list but that she would not be here for the July meeting and that it could wait until August but that would just put it off another month. Vice Chair Bandy advised that she did not see how we are going to get it done this year if Southern Horticulture cannot do it for three or four months. Member Thomson said that all we need is a bid. Chair Krempasky advised that she would check with Native Plant Consulting to see what their timeline is. Vice Chair Bandy said that if they ask about the weeding/maintenance that our answer would be that it would not need a lot of maintenance, that we have a company that is willing to do it, and SEPAC has the budget to periodically pay to maintain it. Chair Krempasky said yes.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.1.c.

c. Urban Forestry

Foreman Large advised that he did not have an update, that they have not had time to work on the water truck, and that they have not planted anything because they want to make sure that whatever gets planted would survive. Member Thomson agreed that it is not the time to plant trees because it is going to be dry and hot.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.1.d.

d. Environmental Planning Projects

Member Thomson reported that he went to the Commission meeting and gave recommendations and that one of them was to hold a workshop with SEPAC, Planning and Zoning Board, Public Works, and staff. He said that they were going to select a date for the Vision Plan and that he suggested that part of the workshop should address SEPAC's concerns. He said that he would like to have SEPAC's approval to follow up on it and that he put together four questions regarding issues that could be on the agenda for a Stormwater Management System workshop, and he gave the handout to the City Clerk to be part of the minutes [Exhibit B]. He read the first question, "Why is our stormwater system unsustainable and how can it be improved?" He said that he mentioned that the Engineer for the Vulnerability Study indicated that our main retention pond, at periods of high tide, sea level rise, and even heavy rainfall events, would not be able to function and get water out of the City. More importantly, the design criteria for when it would be inundated is a hurricane category 1 or 2 storm surge. He said that if the intercoastal starts flowing back into our City, which we know is going to increase eventually and is not sustainable, that we would need to have flood dams to stop the water from coming in and a dike around the City to pump water out. He said that Fort Lauderdale received twenty-four inches of rain several months ago and that our City has a very high runoff rate, so someone would get flooded. It is not sustainable right now and he questioned

whether Land Development Regulations could help improve it or an engineering solution, which could have an extra outlet to pump water out of the low areas such as Coquina Gables. Member Candler asked where the water would pump to. Member Thomson advised that it would pump over the dike and back towards Salt Run but that they would not want it done over the dunes. He said that there are environmental issues, and it is going to keep rising, which is what happened in Houston. He advised that there are a lot of issues out there and that SEPAC does not have to come up with every solution, but we do have to raise the questions and then the Engineering Department could help solve the problem.

Member Thomson moved on to his second question regarding the environmental impacts of our stormwater system and how to monitor and improve them. He said that Mr. Tredik referenced that there was a new EPA standard of testing stormwater before it is released into natural water bodies with a certain volume that we would have to meet. He said that if we are generating a lot in our stormwater system, that it would have to be treated somehow before it gets released but that he was not sure if the City had the retention to do it. He said that that is what a dry retention area would do and if we could retain the first half inch of rainwater from going into the sewers, that it would protect downstream pollution.

Member Thomson moved on to his third question regarding how improvements to our stormwater management system would be funded and if it would include green and gray infrastructure projects. He advised that SEPAC and Public Works do not have funding unless they ask the Commission and that he believed it should be funded similarly if we can control pollution and runoff with green infrastructure, which may take some convincing. He moved on to question number four regarding how the stormwater utility fee would be based for residential and commercial, such as factoring in how much runoff is produced per property.

Member Thomson advised that he made general recommendations during his presentation but that the Commission did not know what to do. He said that these are items that could be developed into an agenda list and, if SEPAC agrees to the list, then we could distribute it to Public Works, the Planning Department, and the Planning and Zoning Board to let them know that these are items that SEPAC has come up with and would like to discuss at a workshop meeting. He said that a letter could also be sent to the Commission saying that SEPAC has come up with these items that require discussion and ask to schedule a workshop meeting.

Chair Krempasky said that Member Thomson brought this up during his presentation at the prior Commission meeting stating that he would like to discuss the stormwater utility fee at the Vision Plan workshop meeting. Member Thomson said no, not the fee. He said that the Vision Plan states what we are trying to do, which is to reduce runoff and conserve water, which is one of SEPAC's goals/policies and now it is part of the Vision Plan but that the fee would not be discussed until next year. He said that five years ago SEPAC made presentations regarding sustainability and stormwater management and no action was taken. Then Lonnie gave his green infrastructure presentation that showed the comparison and now we have the Vision Plan, which gives us a direction but that we do not really have policies/regulations in place to effectively deal with the issues yet.

Chair Krempasky asked if he was suggesting bringing this up at the Vision Plan workshop meeting or waiting until the Commission addresses the stormwater issue again. Member Thomson advised that SEPAC should continue to gather data, which is what the Mayor asked for, because it is important for the City to get it right. He said that SEPAC has been given the go ahead to do the research and that he has discussed it with the City Manager. He advised that the utility fee is part of it, but it is not the whole problem, but that it would help to fund it. He said that with or without a utility fee that it would have to be dealt with down the road. Chair Krempasky asked if he wanted to bring any of this up at their Vision Plan workshop meeting. Member Thomson asked if a Vision Plan workshop meeting had been set. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that they decided to discuss it later. Vice Chair Bandy said that she thought that they said September or October. Member Thomson advised that this could be part of the Vision Plan workshop and that we should help the Commission and the others understand the agenda that we are looking for and to get some initial research done by Public Works and the Planning Department if we can.

Chair Krempasky asked if it would be something that he would want distributed to the City. Member Thomson said no, that this is preliminary, and that he wanted SEPAC's approval for him to expand on it and come up with specific items related to the four questions. Then, if SEPAC agrees to it as a project, that we could decide to distribute it at the next meeting, set the workshop, and have it be part of the agenda to try to get feedback.

Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC wanted Member Thomson to continue working on it. Member Candler said that there is no reason not to and she asked for clarification of what the County's responsibility is for the whole stormwater issue because so many of the major streets and piping are County owned. Member Thomson advised that there are a few streets that are County owned and that they do the maintenance on the ditches next to those streets but that most of the streets and stormwater pipes/drains are City owned and we do the maintenance. He advised that the County would not pay for our green infrastructure projects, etc. Vice Chair Bandy asked if there is anything that we could learn from the City of St. Augustine and could we work with them on this. Member Thomson said that there is a lot we could learn from them and that the Army Corp of Engineers is looking at their whole drainage basin and flooding issues.

It was the consensus of SEPAC for Member Thomson to continue working on the Vision Plan workshop agenda project.

Chair Krempasky advised that after SEPAC's meeting last month, she sent recommendations to be included in the Commission agenda books. Member Thomson advised that his presentation information was also in their agenda books and that Commissioner George requested that the City Manager make it part of the official record for this issue. Chair Krempasky said that when the Commission comes back to discuss the stormwater issues that SEPAC's concerns would be discussed as part of the record.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.2.a.

2. Educational Programs

a. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition

Chair Krempasky showed the sign draft [Exhibit C]. She said that we could add some butterflies/bees or say, "our sustainable future". She advised that Ms. Conlon found a digital copy of this, and that the resolution was really good. She said that she asked Ms. Conlon to do one with the logos on the outside and that she liked it better. She said that the lower area with the words "fine print" could be changed to reflect contact information or to go to the City's website for more information. Vice Chair Bandy asked if "SEPAC" could be added. Member Thomson suggested to add "SEPAC Award 2023". Vice Chair Bandy advised against adding the year because we want people to continue to use them.

Chair Krempasky asked if they should add "Sustainability and Environmental Planning Advisory Committee". Member Thomson said that it would get a little wordy, he liked the fact that it is friendly, and that there would be press releases on it so the public would get an idea of what we are doing. Chair Krempasky said that the idea is that it would get some recognition after we put the signs in a few yards. She said that she really liked the plaques that SEPAC does for the Environmental Stewardship Awards because they are similar to what the City puts out there anyway and that people hang them on their walls. She said that this is going to be in their gardens and that she wanted it to be somewhat light. Member Thomson suggested that when we make the announcement, there be a paper plaque with SEPAC's name, the resident's name, and the year 2023 nominee. Chair Krempasky agreed with that idea.

Vice Chair Bandy suggested to have a ceremony. Chair Krempasky said that when we do the plaques for the Stewardship Awards that we could also give them a little framed copy of it. Member Thomson said that would be great. Vice Chair Bandy asked what size and material the sign would be. Chair Krempasky said that she was thinking that it should be metal and be similar in size to the sign that SEPAC had made for the wildflower garden, which she believed was 12x18 inches and was \$70. She asked if SEPAC wanted her to get pricing for five signs to try to get the price down. Member Thomson said yes. Vice Chair Bandy said that 12x18 seemed large. Member Thomson disagreed. Vice Chair Bandy said that a smaller sign may be less expensive.

Chair Krempasky asked if they were thinking about using bamboo for the wildflower garden signs. Vice Chair Bandy said yes. Foreman Large said that the signs in the wildflower garden are PVC. Chair Krempasky asked Foreman Large how he thought the residential garden signs should be done. Vice Chair Bandy asked if they make metal stakes to go with the sign. Chair Krempasky advised that she would ask. Foreman Large advised that the City usually puts signs on large poles, which would add a lot of weight. Member Thomson suggested checking into the galvanized stakes like the ones sold at Home Depot. Chair Krempasky advised that those would not last. Member Thomson said that they would last at least a year and then they could apply for a new sign at the end of the year if that one is destroyed. Chair Krempasky asked if they were similar to real estate signs. Member Thomson said yes and that the sign makers know how to make them.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if SEPAC would need to approve funds for this month. Chair Krempasky suggested a budget of \$200 to have two signs made. Member Thomson said that Lonnie did one and he asked how it was attached to the ground. Chair Krempasky advised that Lonnie did it himself and that she would contact him as well. She asked if

everyone was okay with the fonts, etc. Member Thomson said yes that it looked very friendly. Vice Chair Bandy suggested for SEPAC to approve a certain amount of money and to get however many signs you could with it.

Motion: To authorize Chair Krempasky to spend no more than \$250 for sign printing. **Moved by** Member Thomson, **Seconded by** Vice Chair Bandy. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Bandy said that if we do not have the signs in time, that she could just take their photos for the July Newsletter. Chair Krempasky advised that they may be done quickly and that she could drop them off to the City Clerk for the Vice Chair to pick up. City Clerk Fitzgerald agreed.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.2.b.

b. Environmental Speaker and Film Series

Vice Chair Bandy said that she believed that SEPAC had a film scheduled with the library in October and that they asked if we would want to do one in August and that she told them no because they were not getting good attendance. She said that she reached out to Carl Hiaasen and that she had not heard back from him yet but that he is making a presentation in Jacksonville in September and that she offered to add on to his trip. She said that if he does not reply, then Chair Krempasky had mentioned Deirdre Irwin at our last meeting, or we could also take other suggestions because SEPAC still has all its money to spend for this program.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.2.c.

c. Newsletter Topics

Chair Krempasky said that if she is able to get the Environmentally Friendly Landscape award signs done in time that the Vice Chair could put the Whispering Oaks recipient in the Newsletter. Vice Chair Bandy said yes, and she suggested that we could run the Stewardship Award again. Chair Krempasky agreed.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if everyone saw the Stewardship Awards on Page 3 of last month's Newsletter, which was pretty big. She advised that she asked to have it sent to Fish Island and the Matanzas Riverkeeper, Jen Lomberg, and any others that have mailing lists to hopefully help get the word out. She advised that she also posted it on NextDoor.

Vice Chair Bandy advised that she would feature the homeowners of the Environmentally Friendly Landscape Awards and the Stewardship Awards nomination information in the July Newsletter. Chair Krempasky said great.

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

d. Environmental Corner

Chair Krempasky advised that the Environmental Corner is still on the agenda but that we would hold off on it until things settle out in Public Works and the Engineering Department. Member Thomson asked Foreman Large for an update. Foreman Large advised that when we talked about it at the last meeting, SEPAC was supposed to look at the display that is out there and see what you could find out. Member Thomson said that

he believed that SEPAC approved one identical to the one that is out there. Chair Krempasky advised that SEPAC did not approve anything. Vice Chair Bandy advised that we also talked about making a Little Library. Foreman Large advised that at the last meeting it was also discussed to put it at a parkette. Member Thomson asked if that was in the minutes. He suggested to do both a kiosk and do this one in City Hall. He advised that that one would be down the road and that this one was to help Public Works because they need to post things about pollutants going into the drain. Foreman Large advised that Mr. Tredik had talked about it for illicit discharge information and that he also talked about SEPAC finding the display and information and that Public Works could then purchase it. Member Thomson said that he did that with Mr. Tredik and that he came back with a price of \$500. Chair Krempasky advised that SEPAC did not approve that. Member Thomson said that it was sort of a new topic and maybe we could decide if the City wants it and put it in next year's budget. Chair Krempasky said that she believed that it was a project that Building Official Law, Mr. Tredik and you worked on because it was important to Mr. Tredik and that she would like to find out if it is as important to Public Works now that Mr. Tredik is no longer with the City. Foreman Large said that it is not as important at this time. Member Thomson advised that he had been giving Margaret England and the Commissioners multiple emails and articles that were published about climate change, sea level rise, and the sustainable future since 2020. He said that we are leaving this on the desk and that he did not think that it was bad to try to publicize what we are doing as a service to the community and to have a display at City Hall. He said that he did not mind waiting to discuss this next year.

Chair Krempasky asked how many people come to City Hall in a day. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised not many and sometimes there are entire days without anyone because a lot of things can be done online or over the phone. Chair Krempasky asked if we could have displays at restaurants and that maybe it could rotate to different restaurants. She suggested to print up something to leave with people who are waiting in line for a table because a lot of residents go to the restaurants too. Member Thomson said that he goes to the Building Department in Gainesville and that the entire division is called the "Department of Sustainability". He said that their mindset is to make Gainesville more sustainable and when you come in here you get a sports display which used to display elementary school student's Earth Day posters. He said that our image is not going forward and the concept of how the City views sustainability because of that. Chair Krempasky said that he went to their Building Department because he is building something, and she asked if he would have gone there otherwise. Member Thomson said that anyone looking for information about their city would go there too. Chair Krempasky said that most of that information could be found on the website. Member Thomson said that he is not like most people and that is why he went in there.

Vice Chair Bandy suggested making a brochure about SEPAC and the things that people should know about living here such as how to trim your palm trees, when to water your lawn, why it is important to have permeable pavers, etc. and that she has been thinking about this for a long time. Member Thomson agreed and suggested a topic about how to make a rain garden. Vice Chair Bandy said that there could be a whole series of brochures if we had the money to do it. Member Candler said just like the people from the Ocean Woods subdivision that came to SEPAC about the trees being cut down and that we need to let people know that they cannot chop down trees.

Member Thomson asked if SEPAC would want to modify that item because we have \$750 in Environmental Education so where do we go with that money. He said that maybe it could go towards a brochure and that there is a place out in the hallway with brochures or at any other sustainably conscientious business would display them. Chair Krempasky said that the Beachcomber would probably put them out.

Vice Chair Bandy asked if anyone had graphic design skills. Chair Krempasky said no and that is why she asked her friend. Member Candler asked if SEPAC had ever thought about getting a spot at the Wednesday Market to hand out information and try to recruit members. Chair Krempasky advised that they tried to recruit members for two years there during Arbor Day and that they also tried at the library. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that you also have to remember that you could only staff your booth one at a time and that you could not talk about it to each other there. Member Thomson advised that Dr. Sandy Bond is on the Board with the Sierra Club now and that they do events and use “Warriors for Water”, so there are environmental events, and if we had brochures, we could ask the Sierra Club and other organizations to hand them out. He said that those are the organizations that we want to have contact with or to at least have email contact with them. Chair Krempasky said that Water Warriors is great because they cater to kids, they have summer camps on their boats, and that the Rotary Club just bought them some amazing microscopes, etc. Member Thomson said that the Matanzas Riverkeeper also has events and that anything that we could do like that would be good.

Member Thomson suggested to change the agenda item to Environmental Education Displays/Brochures. Chair Krempasky suggested Environmental Education Materials. Member Thomson agreed.

Chair Krempasky said that she could ask her friend if she would be willing to design something and that SEPAC could pay her and send ideas, even though she did it for free this time. Member Thomson said that it would be nice to have someone that could write well, to create topics for her to think about, to have a rough design, and send photos and make suggestions. Vice Chair Bandy said that she has a brochure “A Right to Clean Water” and all we need to do is make a design like this, which she has done in PowerPoint. Member Thomson advised that we have the money to do the layout and make it nice.

Vice Chair Bandy advised that she would come up with a list and bring it to the next meeting and that Member Candler had said that she wanted to do something on hurricane cutting. She advised that Nana Royer contacted her and that she thought that she would be here tonight. She said that Ms. Royer wanted to ask if SEPAC would be willing to say that we support the right to clean water. Member Candler asked if that was the petition that we signed at the library. Vice Chair Bandy said yes. Member Thomson said that we are an advisory committee to the Commission and that he was not sure that we should be signing anything. Vice Chair Bandy said that we are not signing anything and that the City Clerk advised that it would be okay for us to say that we support it because it does not hold any weight. Chair Krempasky asked why Ms. Royer did not go to the Commission for their support. Vice Chair Bandy said that she could recommend that to her. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that the Commission is the only board that could officially support it in writing or in a proclamation. Vice Chair Bandy asked if she could tell Ms. Royer that SEPAC supports it and then she could relay that to the Commission. City Clerk Fitzgerald said yes. Member Thomson advised that if it becomes a Commission item

and/or a proclamation then we could contact Water Warriors and other environmental groups to support it as well. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that in that situation, if the proclamation is going to be on a Commission agenda, that the best thing to do would be to have the Chair write a letter of support for a proclamation.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VI.

VI. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

Foreman Large advised that the City is sponsoring a Beach Cleanup event that will take place along the Boulevard and not on the sand itself from A Street to 10th Street. It is posted on the City's website under "events" with a link to volunteer. Vice Chair Bandy said that the County gives away prizes. Chair Krempasky said that she volunteered last year, but it was not a lot of fun to do by yourself and she suggested to have a partner. Member Candler said that SEPAC members could not be partners because we might talk to each other. Chair Krempasky said that we could if we agree not to talk about Committee issues. She said that a lot of families came out last year and that she enjoyed doing it for the City. She said that in August or September there is an "International Beach Cleanup Day" and for that one day out of the year, the entire world is cleaning up their beaches and weighing the amount of trash picked up. Vice Chair Bandy advised that the County has periodic cleanups and that they just had one near the pier. Member Candler asked if the Riverkeeper was sponsoring this event. Foreman Large advised that it is sponsored by the City and the Riverkeeper. Member Candler said that there is another group called A1A Scenic Highway, which does a once-a-year cleanup too. Vice Chair Bandy said that they may be a big group for us to give our brochures to when we have them. Foreman Large advised that it was a big turnout, that they kept track of how much debris was picked up, took photos, and that the Matanzas Riverkeeper is organizing the volunteers. Member Candler asked if people needed to register. Foreman Large said yes and that it is posted on the City's website under "events" and that there is a link to volunteer.

Member Candler asked for an update on the Ocean Hammock Park. Foreman Large advised that there has not been as much done by the construction company as they were hoping. He said that they did some preparation for the sidewalk area, but the concrete area has not been done. He said that he did not know the timeline and that the Public Works Director and Assistant Director are handling that.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to Adjourn. **Moved by** Member Thomson. **Seconded by** Member Candler. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Krempasky adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Sandra Krempasky, Chair

ATTEST

Dariana Fitzgerald, City Clerk