



AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024, 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 FEBRUARY 8, 2024, 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.

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
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bandy 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 Lana Bandy, Vice Chair Karen Candler, and Members Craig Thomson and Sandra Krempasky.

Member George O'Brien was absent.

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

IV. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

1. Review of Landscaping Plan for A Street Parking Lot

Foreman Large reported that Public Works will be doing the landscaping and will likely change it from what the plan shows to make it look a lot like the other plazas. Member Krempasky commented that it should look like it belongs with the parkette across the street. Foreman Large noted that A1A Beach Boulevard may be widened right at A Street, so we aren't putting any of the palm trees that were taken out back in yet. Member Krempasky commented that she's not sure about using the Argentine bahiagrass noted in the plan. Foreman Large repeated that this is all likely to change and noted that there is no irrigation in the area, so that grass would not do well. Member Thomson asked for a revised plan to be drafted and to consider ground cover that doesn't require irrigation.

Foreman Large also noted that the dune daisies in the 8th Street Eco Garden have died. The Committee discussed the soil conditions and watering procedures for the area.

Jim LeClare, 115 Whispering Oaks Circle, St. Augustine Beach, FL, stated that he is going to try another native plant, the partridgeberry; that his garden was damaged by manure contaminated with herbicides. He commented that he talked to the City Commission about cleaning up the vines at Ocean Hammock Park and he would like to get a small group of volunteers together that they can start pulling down the rest of the vines. He also stated that he would like to get the state to lower the speed limit on State Road A1A because of the deer crossing.

2. Reforestation and Landscaping Projects

a. Mickler Boulevard

Foreman Large reported that trash has been removed from the area, but mainly they are waiting to see what grows this spring. He noted the bee pollinators are still being used and that he spoke with a few residents who approve of them.

b. Parkette Planning/Green Infrastructure

Member Thomson stated that he would like to develop a Pride in Our Plazas program for volunteers to help maintain them. He would also like to continue with the experimental Eco Garden model and proposed a location on the northwest corner of D Street and A1A Beach Boulevard. He also noted that trees are being scarred by overzealous weed eaters and he would like to make protecting the trees from that part of the project.

Foreman Large commented that they had spoken previously about putting buffers around the trees, but that Public Works doesn't want to add anything more to D Street and A1A Beach Boulevard because the plazas already have matching landscaping. Member Thomson commented that those plazas need regular maintenance, and one goal of this plan is to reduce the needed maintenance. Foreman Large stated that he would bring it up again, but Public Works' current position is that those plazas are already full, and it would be better to spend the time and funding on an undeveloped plaza. He asked for a sketch to present to the Public Works Director and Assistant Director.

The Committee discussed the potential use of tree rings to protect the bases of trees. Member Thomson stated that if they could come up with sufficient ground cover, they may not need tree rings.

Foreman Large reported that the gardener that takes care of the 8th Street Eco Garden is doing a really good job, the Eco Garden sign was put in, and there are now two pollinator boxes there. He noted that he has seen residents stop to look at it, even spoke with him and asked questions. He commented that there are two more signs left. Member Krempasky asked if the Committee still wanted her to create a flyer about the Eco Garden.

c. Urban Forestry

Foreman Large reported that they have southern magnolias, little gem magnolias, and oak trees leftover from the Lowe's donation. He asked the Committee let him know if they had any locations in mind where those could be planted, and he will try to provide a count for next month.

d. Environmental Planning Projects

Member Thomson reported that they aren't getting funds to do any major projects and wanted to know why they aren't pushing for a Climate Change Action Plan and things like clean energy devices, tools, and vehicles.. He also stated that there is a Comprehensive Plan when promoting environmental planting regulations, like using the native plants along the ~~right-of—aways~~. He suggested the Committee members read the Comprehensive Plan and offer suggestions to present to the Commission.

3. Educational Programs

a. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition

Chair Bandy confirmed that they didn't receive any applications in the last month. She suggested sending out letters trying to get people to complete packets. Member Krempasky volunteered to do so.

b. Environmental Speaker and Film Series

Chair Bandy reported that she was planning on showing a film on coral reefs. She spoke with former Committee member Nicole Miller, who is now with NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and she is willing to come and speak on the topic.

Jim LeClare, 115 Whispering Oaks Circle, St. Augustine Beach, FL, stated that we seem to attack the supplier and not the buyer of the sugar cane industry in Florida and that there have been some strides at fighting pollution and over usage of water.

The Committee discussed potential topics such as Florida springs, the relation between oysters and pollution, and manatees and seagrass. Chair Bandy noted that there could be three more scheduled for the year.

c. Newsletter Topics

Chair Bandy reported that there are usually two topics in the newsletter, but they only have one so far, but she said she can always add to please join SEPAC. She stated that she can write about the Eco Garden and asked what the action item would be. Member Thomson said it would be to collect names of potential volunteers.

d. Environmental Education Materials

Member Krempasky reported that she spoke with Derek Sands in the City's Engineering Department about potential materials they might want handed out, so she may have something available for the next film or Arbor Day.

Chair Bandy reported that she will meet with Island Prep, and they are excited to work with us on some projects. She shared the recycling video idea with them, and that it would be a great project for a class or student, and she was thinking that maybe on Arbor Day they would want to help with a booth. She suggested having the kids speaking on a local radio station, being involved in a film for kids at the Library, or even having a green club. She also stated that if they have a library that she and Mr. Thomson have been collecting books, magazines, and newspaper materials on environmental topics, so there could be an environmental section. She also was wondering if they use environmentally friendly landscaping practices, if they have their playground mulched or if they use recycled glass mulch, and that maybe we can call them environmental ambassadors or something like that.

Chair Bandy provided a copy of an email [Exhibit A] and noted that there is a virtual film festival going on.

V. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

The Committee agreed to reschedule their next meeting to March 21, due to the Commission Room being needed for the Presidential Preference Primary election.

Foreman Large reported that Arbor Day will now be on April 26, Friday. He suggested having any interested parties contact Melinda Conlon. He noted that last year the City gave away Florida privet, persimmon, and red cedar and there were none leftover.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Bandy adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Lana Bandy, Chair

ATTEST

Dariana Fitzgerald, City Clerk