



AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, MAY 9, 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 MARCH 21, 2024, and APRIL 11, 2024, REGULAR MEETINGS
- 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, MARCH 21, 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.

City Clerk Fitzgerald noted that this was Member O'Brien's third consecutive absence.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

Motion: to approve the minutes of January 11, 2024, with correction of typographical errors.

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

V. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

1. Reforestation and Landscaping Projects

a. Mickler Boulevard

Foreman Large reported that a new employee had cut the grass low before he could advise them not to, but he has instructed them now. He stated that to make up for it, they planted about 30-40 new wildflowers, including gaillardias, silkweed, and spiderwort. He noted that Public Works is considering a decorative chain to mark out the area, since some neighbors are mowing near the area and people may walk through it. Member Thomson suggested crinum lilies or something natural to mark it and offered to donate a few.

Chair Bandy asked if it was being water and Foreman Large replied that he was a bit worried to do much after what happened with the 8th Street Ecogarden, but he will keep an eye on the area.

b. Parkette Planning/Green Infrastructure

Member Thomson stated that he would like to implement the Pride in Our Plazas project in phases and that the first phase should be killing of grass to establish the Ecogarden and extend the ground cover. Foreman Large stated that Public Works recommend another area that doesn't already have landscaping and asked for the Committee to look at other potential locations. Member Thomson stated that this is not a beautification project, it's for sustainability and resiliency; and he has already discussed this project with residents in that area and have some that are willing to volunteer. The Committee discussed presenting this issue to the City Commission, whether the 8th Street plan could be used in other locations like it could at D Street, and whether reducing the project costs would have an impact on Public Works' stance.

Member Thomson asked to address protecting trees from weed eaters damaging the base. He noted that he is referring to using plastic landscaping edging to create a barrier around the base of the trees, not the rubber rings that Foreman Large previously presented. He would really like to see action being taken to protect these trees.

Member Krempasky commented that Finance Director Douylliez wrote to her that Tree Fund money could be used in the Plazas, so maybe that could be used to finance this project.

Motion: to approve Mr. Thomson's plan for the Northeast corner of D Street and A1A Beach Boulevard as presented. **Moved by:** Member Krempasky. **Seconded by:** Vice Chair Candler. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Krempasky offered to get estimates to present to the Commission, but asked Public Works to reconsider approving the project.

City Clerk Fitzgerald noted that the next City Commission meeting will be on May 6th, which would be the first possible meeting they could be scheduled for, and that the first budget workshop will be on May 13th. She advised that the Committee also start thinking about their budget proposal for fiscal year 2025, since they are talking about long-term maintenance plans and other projects.

c. Urban Forestry

Foreman Large reported that Lowe's donated several trees, and they currently have twenty-nine palms, eleven southern magnolias, thirteen little gem magnolias, twenty-one live oaks, and thirteen laurel oaks at Public Works. He commented that they would like to plant them in areas where residents may help to care for them.

d. Environmental Planning Projects

Member Thomson stated that the Committee should look at the six policies they proposed for the Vision Plan and offer suggestions to the Commission for how to accomplish them. He also suggested looking at the Comprehensive Plan and offering recommendations for a Climate Change Action Plan.

2. Educational Programs

a. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition

Chair Bandy noted that they received three new applications and asked for volunteers to check out the locations. It was decided that Member Krempasky would look at Ms. Royer's property, Member Thomson would look at Ms. Harris' property, and Chair Bandy would look at the Hennig's property and discuss them at the next meeting.

b. Environmental Speaker and Film Series

Chair Bandy reported that the next event would be on June 27th on Florida's springs and that the filmmaker Matt Keene would be there to speak about his film and the challenges that Florida's springs are facing. There was discussion of the audiences remaining small and whether they should consider changing the time, asking for more money to promote it better, or to stop the program.

c. Newsletter Topics

Chair Bandy stated that she had already submitted information on the film series and asking for applications to join SEPAC for the April newsletter. She noted that membership requests and Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition could be re-run for May if there are no other new topics. Member Thomson asked about promoting the Pride in Our Plazas project and Chair Bandy replied that it was generally announced in the March newsletter by asking for ideas or volunteers. City Clerk Fitzgerald noted that she did receive one email related to that offering suggestions of picnic tables, benches, small bike racks, doggy bags, and bins.

d. Environmental Education Materials

Member Krempasky created a brochure to explain the Ecogarden [Exhibit A]. She stated that it could be handed out at Arbor Day, and they could place some in a holder at the 8th Street Ecogarden.

VI. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

Foreman Large reported that Arbor Day would be April 26th and he has ordered 150 red cedars, 100 southern magnolias, 100 Shumard oaks, and 100 winged elms for \$427.50. He stated that he will be handling a recycling booth and asked the Committee for help staffing a table to hand out the trees and information related to them.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Lana Bandy, Chair

ATTEST

Dariana Fitzgerald, City Clerk



MINUTES

**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

Vice Chair Candler called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Chair Karen Candler, and Members Craig Thomson and Sandra Krempasky.

Chair Lana Bandy and Member George O'Brien were absent.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

Motion: to approve the minutes of February 8, 2024, with correction of typographical errors.

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

V. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

1. Reforestation and Landscaping Projects

a. Mickler Boulevard

Foreman Large reported that someone volunteered to donate crinum lilies, but Public Works Director Gatchell did not want to put more landscaping out there right now, so they placed two delineator posts at each end just to help make people aware that is an area they shouldn't enter. He noted that many wildflowers are popping up, such as gaillardia and spiderwort. Member Krempasky asked him to look into maybe wrapping a vine or something around the posts to make them blend in.

b. Parkette Planning/Green Infrastructure

Foreman Large read a memo from Assistant Public Works Director Adams regarding SEPAC's plan for the northeast corner of D Street and A1A Beach Boulevard [Exhibit A]. The memo suggested other locations, such as expanding landscaping on 8th Street, West side, and A1A Beach Boulevard or improving the plaza between 10th and 11th Streets, West side, on A1A Beach Boulevard. The Committee expressed concern with the difficult growing conditions at 8th Street. Vice Chair Candler commented that she would like to see improvement on the reference plaza at 10th and 11th Streets. Member Krempasky stated

that this was supposed to be more about sustainability, not just beautification, and a new design might need to be drawn for that plaza instead of adapting the current plan. The Committee discussed the memo and reiterated their desire to go forward with the proposed plan at D Street and A1A Beach Boulevard. City Clerk Fitzgerald confirmed that discussion of the proposal will be on the May 6th Commission agenda.

Member Krempasky handed out an estimate for the project from Native Plant Consulting [Exhibit B] and noted that she would gather more quotes to choose from. Member Thomson asked for the labor and material costs for Public Works' expenses to maintain the plazas to use as a comparison to any quotes on maintenance.

Foreman Large handed out examples of landscape edging and their prices [Exhibit C] and asked for the Committee's opinion on whether this would be acceptable to go around the palm trees to address the concerns about weed eating too close. He stated that Public Works would purchase it with SEPAC's budget, but they would need volunteers to help install it. Member Thomson suggested purchasing it to use at D Street and A1A Beach Boulevard to see if it would help, if so then potentially installing it in other locations.

Motion: to approve purchase of at least 60 feet of edging. **Moved by:** Member Thomson, **Seconded by:** Member Krempasky. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Urban Forestry

Foreman Large reported that the trees for Arbor Day are ready and would be picked up on the day before. He noted the event flyer that had been handed out with information [Exhibit D]. He confirmed that the Committee members would be set up at a table next to the trees to hand them out and provide information to anyone interested.

He reported that there are several trees available at Public Works, so if there were any residents who would like trees planted in the right-of-way near their property, and are willing to help maintain them, to contact Public Works. Vice Chair Candler suggested having one of those trees at Arbor Day for an example to see if anyone who came was interested.

Member Thomson asked Public Works to look into planting four palms along the east side of A1A Beach Boulevard between 16th and 15th Street by the Sunset Grille overflow parking lot. The Committee discussed whether Sunset Grille should pay the costs to plant them, whether they were required to do so by City Code, if the parking lot qualified as "development" by Code, and if Public Works would have the time/labor to water them.

d. Environmental Planning Projects

Member Thomson noted that they should continue reviewing the Comprehensive Plan, policies regarding environmental stewardship, and climate action plan initiatives, but that the Stormwater Utility Fee is a priority right now. He stated that the Committee should consider making recommendations on the uses of the fee, such as including green infrastructure. The Committee discussed the process involved in developing and setting this fee. City Clerk Fitzgerald stated that at this point the next step would be to pass a resolution on the fee structure and specific uses would be discussed after they can better estimate the revenue.

2. Educational Programs

a. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition

Member Thomson commented that he couldn't complete his review. Member Krempasky noted that she would be conducting a site visit later this month. City Clerk Fitzgerald commented that she did not hear anything from Chair Bandy regarding her review, but that she did receive a new application [Exhibit E]. The Committee asked City Clerk Fitzgerald to send the new application to Chair Bandy since the address was in her neighborhood.

Member Thomson asked about past applications for the Anastasia Island Environmental Stewardship Awards. City Clerk Fitzgerald stated that those were all part of past meeting books and could be provided. Member Krempasky commented that she had used past applications as suggestions for new nominations, but that the contact information for some has changed. City Clerk Fitzgerald noted that the applications having out-of-date contact information has been a problem, and there were a couple winners they were unable to get ahold of to deliver their plaques. Member Thomson commented that he knew one of those winners and volunteered to deliver that plaque.

b. Environmental Speaker and Film Series

Vice Chair Candler stated that on June 27th at 5:30 p.m. there would be a film at the Library on Florida's springs and that the filmmaker Matt Keene would be there. She asked the members to help publicize it and that she will help make a flyer for Arbor Day. Member Krempasky commented that it's important to help support the Library's programs and they recently expanded their hours.

c. Newsletter Topics

Vice Chair Candler noted that Chair Bandy prepared the May newsletter article last month since she knew she would be out. City Clerk Fitzgerald confirmed that it had been submitted.

d. Environmental Education Materials

Member Thomson stated that he has found valuable information from the Arbor Day Foundation and suggested looking into using their budget to purchase a membership. He also noted the Florida Green Building Coalition in Cape Kennedy as a source of information.

VI. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

City Clerk Fitzgerald reported that SEPAC is on the Commission's May 6th agenda to discuss the plaza on D Street and using the Tree Fund money. She stated that any information they wanted included in the Commission books should be sent in at least two weeks prior to the meeting date, which would be the 22nd.

Member Thomson asked that Lonnie Kaczmarzky's past article be shared with the Commission to help explain the purpose of this project. Member Krempasky commented that that article is dense and was concerned that it may be too much information for this presentation.

Foreman Large reported the pollinator boxes were working very well and were nearly full. Vice Chair Candler recommended bringing one to Arbor Day and that she would contact the Boy Scouts to see if they might be interested in making more. Member Krempasky stated that she would contact Dr. Kaczmarsky about them as well.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Vice Chair Candler adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Karen Candler, Vice Chair

ATTEST

Dariana Fitzgerald, City Clerk