



AGENDA

**SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 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 JULY 13, 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.

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."

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AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, 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

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, and it was noted for the record that this was his second absence in a row.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2023, REGULAR MEETING

Motion: to approve the minutes of June 8, 2023, with corrections. **Moved by:** Vice Chair Bandy.
Seconded by: Member Candler. Motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

1. Reforestation and Landscaping Projects

a. Mickler Boulevard

Foreman Large advised that they reached out to the company that ran through the wildflower garden and provided them with cleanup costs. He said that the area had some growth, which looks really good, and that the area seemed to be doing better with all the rain. He said that it could possibly be reseeded in October and mowed again in January. He said that we had also talked about weeding the area but that his research showed that most States/Counties with wildflower areas do not worry about weeding, instead they let the seeds drop and then mow the area so that new flowers come back up. Vice Chair Bandy advised that the problem is that the weeds will overtake the bare areas, but once the flowers are up, we will not have to weed it.

Foreman Large advised that they would rake the area and estimate a cost, which would not be a significant amount because the rain has helped to level it out and we would not

have the expense of putting plastic down. He advised that they did have a permit to trim a tree and that you do not need a permit to take out palm trees. Chair Krempasky asked if palm trees were all that they removed. Foreman Large said yes, two palm trees. Chair Krempasky noted that the Code states that an individual can remove ten palm trees a year. Vice Chair Bandy asked if it was on that individual's property. Foreman Large said that they did not tell him but that he assumed it was since they had a permit for it. Member Candler suggested putting a border around the area to discourage people from going through it. Foreman Large said that orange construction fencing was up for a long time to protect it and when it was removed, no one thought that anyone would drive through it especially with signage there.

Vice Chair Bandy suggested to even the area out, put more seeds down, and possibly buy more plants from Southern Horticulture to fill it in because some of the other plants did not survive. She said that we would need a little bit of money but that she would not know how much to ask for because she, her husband, and Lonnie, spent twelve hours weeding. She said a resident donated her blanket flowers but that the resident was not involved with putting them in because we do not want volunteers working on their own on City property. Foreman Large advised that it is because of insurance. Chair Krempasky noted that she had to sign a waiver of liability to pick up trash on the Boulevard two weeks ago. Foreman Large commented that the cleanup event went very well. Chair Krempasky said that she personally picked up 4.6 pounds of trash.

Vice Chair Bandy said that the neighbors in that area are very active because when she was there working, several of them stopped by and she learned that someone had called the City, but while someone was driving through the wildflower meadow, no one came for seven hours. Foreman Large advised that he went there when he was notified but that they had been working somewhere else and did not know about it until later.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item 1.b.

b. Parkette Planning/Green Infrastructure

Vice Chair Bandy gave a PowerPoint presentation [Exhibit A] which showed the locations for potential rain gardens. She said that 111 11th Street was also another location that had been discussed but that she went there with Lonnie, and he said that it was already doing its job, that it was dug down too deep, and that we would have to fill it in by about six inches to get it to the level that we needed, so he did not think that it was a good location. She showed the location near the auto repair shop [Exhibit A-1] and she advised that it should say 8th Street, not A Street. She said that she liked this location because it is large and there is already some drainage there. She said that at the Commission meeting they said that the River to Sea Loop would widen the sidewalk and if that did happen that there would still be space for an eco-garden. Chair Krempasky said that she thought that they changed their minds and were going to run the Loop through Mickler Boulevard. Foreman Large said that he believed that they changed it again. Member Candler said that she went to the Property Appraiser's website and tried to pull up surveys that showed where the County property ends and the plaza begins, but unfortunately, they called all of it "11th Street". Foreman Large said that this is 8th Street. Member Candler said that it did not matter because they were all called "11th Street" and that there were no surveys, it just showed little squares and no dimensions.

Foreman Large said that it was not discussed at the Commission meeting that the 8th Street parkette was already designated for parking and had been in the budget for this year, but that it was cut because of finances. He said that we do not know if they are going to try to do it again next year. Vice Chair Bandy advised that it was brought up at the meeting and that Commissioner George said that this is just a pilot program, but she did not know if that was implying that the eco-garden would be removed if the City decided to use it for parking but that they approved this location for an eco-garden.

Foreman Large said that the County right-of-way is located behind the powerlines, and it would probably be around the two cedar trees. He said that the sidewalk shown in the PowerPoint goes down 8th Street and that the sidewalk on the Boulevard would go back to the County lines so that it would be on City property but that you cannot see the telephone poles in the photo. Member Thomson said that he is looking at Google Maps and that the cedar trees are on the back side of the parkette and if it is a fifty-foot parkette, then there would be approximately thirty-feet from the right-of-way to those cedars and that we are only looking to do a fifteen-foot planting bed. He said that from his assessment, there would still be fifteen feet in front of those trees, so we would not be affecting their root structure. Foreman Large said that it would probably be about fifteen feet from the powerlines to the Cedar trees. Member Thomson said that it is more like thirty feet.

Discussion ensued regarding the footage from the cedar trees; someone showed a picture of the powerlines [Exhibit B]; whether the trees are twenty feet or thirty feet apart; even if it is twenty feet, you are still not in the cedar trees.

Foreman Large said that it was just over sixteen feet away. Member Thomson said that sixteen feet would be fine as long as you are not in the tree canopy. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that the powerlines are right at the property line. Chair Krempasky said that we do not have to design it as 15 x 40 foot. Member Thomson said that you could stake fifteen feet from the property line based on the utility poles. Chair Krempasky said that the design that we have may not work because there is no shade there and that she does not think that we should get hung up on the dimensions. She said that if we still want to get Native Plant Consulting (NPC), that we could go to the site with Foreman Large and just let them know. Foreman Large advised that Public Works would like to have a survey done to make sure where everything is. Chair Krempasky agreed. Member Thomson said that a survey would cost money and how are you going to get a surveyor out there. Foreman Large advised that the Public Works Director wanted a survey done so that it does not get put in the wrong spot. Member Thomson asked if he thought that was reasonable. Foreman Large said yes because of the issues that we have had at other locations and to make sure that it is off of the County right-of-way. Member Thomson said to look at the aerial which showed the parking for the repair shop and that he is sure that they are not on the right-of-way. Foreman Large advised that the Public Works Director looked at it today and said that he wanted to make sure that we are inside of the parkette so that we do not have an issue.

Chair Krempasky asked if we would need a survey for any location because the one between 10th and 11th Streets is on the right-of-way [Exhibit A-2]. Foreman Large advised that a survey would not be needed for that location because it is in the County right-of-way and all that you would need is a diagram of how it would look and then get the

County's okay. Vice Chair Bandy said that if they widen the sidewalk to twelve feet, then there would be nothing left. Member Thomson agreed and said that he did not know if the sidewalk would ever go in but that the plaza at 8th Street is a better location. Vice Chair Bandy questioned whether a survey would have already been done since the City was thinking of using the plaza for parking. Foreman Large said that he did not know.

Chair Krempasky said that she was looking at the Planning and Zoning Board's suggestions for new parking and that they planned to use almost that entire 8th Street area for parking. Vice Chair Bandy advised that the Commission said that we could move ahead with either of these two locations. Chair Krempasky said what is the point of spending \$4,000 on something that is going to be ripped out in five years. Member Thomson said that it may not be ripped out because you can have a rain garden and parking. Chair Krempasky agreed and said that we should have been planning that from the beginning. Vice Chair Bandy said that we are not going to be able to design it, buy, and install the plants before the completion deadline of September 30th. Member Thomson said that if Public Works is willing to go stake out 15 x 40 foot in that plaza, and NPC says that we could do the plan there, then we could move forward. Chair Krempasky said that a survey could cost upwards of \$700. Member Thomson said that we should not have to pay for a survey and that he would discuss that with the Public Works Director. He said that it is obvious where the adjacent parking lot is, you know that they are not parking on the right-of-way, and there would also be a corner stake on that property identifying the right-of-way. He asked if Foreman Large had a metal detector. Vice Chair Bandy said that she has a metal detector. Member Thomson said that that is all you need to locate a corner stake. Foreman Large said that he would ask the Public Works Director if we could just stake it out. Member Thomson said that we could be conservative and stay five feet inside the right-of-way if that is what he wants.

Member Candler asked if there would still be enough space for parking if we do the eco-garden there. Member Thomson said that it is the same as other parking lots that we put landscaping on but that it might be reduced a little bit. Chair Krempasky said that the City said that once something was beautified that they would not tear it up. Member Thomson said that they would also be tearing out the red cedar trees which is a decision that the City would need to make. He said that they have given SEPAC approval to develop and build an eco-garden on this plaza and that the only holdup is staking it out, getting the bids, and getting it done.

Vice Chair Bandy said that SEPAC has \$8,000 to do two parkettes this year, and we have not done any, and it looks like we may not be able to have this one done by the end of September. Chair Krempasky said that NPC has the first week of August available, we could have their designer look at the space and design something in a few hours, but that she did not know if their timeline would allow for them to do the work before the September 30th deadline. She said that if they could do it sooner, then we could get it done. Member Thomson suggested to stake it out as long as the Public Works Director knows that all we need to do is take about six inches of the topsoil off. Foreman Large asked if the bids included prepping the area. Vice Chair Bandy said that Southern Horticulture had prep work in their bid, but Leonardi's did not. Chair Krempasky said that NPC included prep work as long as we pay for the cardboard which would only go around the plants. Member Candler advised that this site would need to be dug out and she asked

if that is part of the prep work. Member Thomson said that Southern Horticulture's bid stated that they would remove the existing grass and soil as needed to create an appropriate size swale. Vice Chair Bandy said that the problem is that they cannot get it done by the September 30th deadline. Chair Krempasky said that she thought that they could have until October 30th. Vice Chair Bandy said that the Finance Director said that the work must be done by September 30th but that we had until November 30th to pay for it and if it is not completed, that it would require a budget resolution to pull the funds into fiscal year 2024. Member Thomson said that it is not that much and if we do not get it done, they could just move it forward and that should not stop us. Chair Krempasky agreed. Vice Chair Bandy asked what the requirement of a budget resolution meant. Member Thomson said that the Commission authorizes budget resolutions at every meeting. Vice Chair Bandy said then it would possibly not need to be done by September 30th. Chair Krempasky said that every effort should be made to have it done by the deadline and then we can see how it goes. Member Candler agreed.

Member Thomson said that he thought Southern Horticulture could contract it out. Vice Chair Bandy said that she asked about it and that she got a message from them today and they said that they could not get it done by then and asked if there was a way that we could get it underway and do the work later. She said that she had not replied to them yet because she did not know the answer to their question. Member Thomson said that it was a lot of work for them to prepare these proposals, etc. and if we do not move forward, then we are just spinning wheels and taking up a lot of people's time. Chair Krempasky said that she thinks we should try it. Member Candler agreed. Chair Krempasky said that Leonardi's was the most expensive. Vice Chair Bandy said that they also did not include the prep work, but that they could do it right away. Chair Krempasky said that is a plus because the quote that she got for the palm trees was from Leonardi's which would add another \$2,400. Vice Chair Bandy said that she thought that we did not need the palms. Foreman Large advised that Public Works has palms. Chair Krempasky said that this location has no shade and if we have the designer look at the location that we would need a new plan which may change things and if Public Works has the palms, we could just pay someone to plant them. Vice Chair Bandy said that Jordan from Southern Horticulture asked to see if the City had any flexibility on the deadline or if they could prepay, which they have had other entities do before. Chair Krempasky said that it is not the payment that she is worried about, it is the work. Member Thomson said that we need to select the site and the initial bidder, have them stake it out, and look at their proposal. Then they would need to decide if it needed to be modified and if we wanted to go with them.

Member Thomson asked if Public Works would write the contract, that normally they do it for anyone doing work for the City if it is over a certain dollar amount. Chair Krempasky said that if we select one of these bids, then Public Works could get things started by writing the contract. Vice Chair Bandy said that NPC is the least expensive. Chair Krempasky said yes, but that digging out the space did not have to be done on the original site. She said that 8th Street is the location that she would like to do because the other one is too small. She said that if we use NPC again, that a design would cost \$195, and they could come out the first week in August and maybe she could send the plan to the City Clerk to forward to Foreman Large to contact them. Member Thomson asked what the price difference was for NPC. Chair Krempasky said that the bid was \$1,617. Member

Thomson asked if they all had the same plant list. Chair Krempasky said yes but at that time, she did not realize that the City had the palms. She said that this is a totally different site, so they would come back with a different estimate and different plants. Member Thomson said that they are all based on a 15 x 40-foot design. Chair Krempasky said yes. Vice Chair Bandy said that NPC is the least expensive and they are probably the most knowledgeable about eco-gardens.

Vice Chair Bandy said that we are really going to have to expedite everything if we want it done by the end of September. She suggested to get it in the works and for SEPAC to approve up to \$4,000.

Foreman Large said that SEPAC talked about a company that would maintain it and pull weeds, etc. Chair Krempasky said that it was NPC. Foreman Large said that Public Works would like to get more information from them such as a maintenance agreement, the frequency that they plan on doing maintenance, whether costs have gone up, etc. and let them know that the maintenance agreement could be done at the same time as planting. Vice Chair Bandy said that theoretically it would not require a lot of maintenance because we do hardly do anything to the bioswale, and it is fine.

Member Thomson said that he was comparing the NPC bid to the Southern Horticulture bid and that the difference is that there is a dollar figure for removing and disposing of soil to a depth of nine inches in a 15 x 40-foot area for a total volume of 16 cubic yards and that the price difference is \$1,750, which would reduce it. Vice Chair Bandy said right, but we need to add that to the other one. Member Thomson said either way if you add it to that, it would be in excess of the Southern Horticulture bid. Vice Chair Bandy said that Southern Horticulture also cannot do it that quickly and they cannot design it, that the goal was to get it done by September 30th. Member Thomson suggested to narrow it down to NPC and Southern Horticulture, but that they should both look at the site and then recommend any adjustments to the plants. Chair Krempasky said that that is what the designer is going to do and that we are using NPC for the design. Vice Chair Bandy said that NPC did a neighbor's yard which basically has swales with plants. Member Thomson asked if they wanted to say that NPC is the leading contender and we want the site to have exactly what is on the quote such as removal of the soil, etc. He said that they also want to improve the subsoil and we should have them look at that requirement, look at the site, make any changes, and provide a final price. Chair Krempasky asked to confirm that this is the site that we are choosing, you authorizing her to spend \$195 with NPC to get a new design, and once we have the design have each of the companies provide new quotes. Member Thomson said that he does not think we need to do that and to make the decision for a certain amount and that NPC has been selected. He said to ask them to modify their bid for this site, to include creating the swale, and any other plants that they would rather substitute.

Foreman Large noted that if it is over \$1,000, you need three bids, which you received [Exhibit C]. Chair Krempasky asked if a motion was needed. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised yes, if you are going to authorize Public Works to move forward and spend the money. Foreman Large said that they are just going to spend \$195 for NPC right now. Member Thomson advised that we are selecting NPC to do the work based on the proposals that we received, to modify their proposal for this site as he had mentioned earlier, and assuming that it would be \$4,000 or less, to authorize Public Works to form a contract.

Chair Krempasky asked if we need a motion for that portion. City Clerk Fitzgerald said yes, and she advised to word it similar to the way we phrase motions for Request for Proposals (RFPs).

Motion: to authorize Chair Krempasky & the Public Works Department to negotiate with Native Plant Consulting (NPC) to modify the design and proposal to proceed with the eco-garden on the southwest corner of the 8th Street plaza, not to exceed \$4,000. **Moved by:** Member Thomson. **Seconded by:** Member Candler. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC would talk with the businesses in that area. Member Candler said that she would talk to them and simply advise them about what SEPAC is doing. Chair Krempasky said that we do not need their permission because they would have no responsibility for it, and it would not be in their way. Vice Chair Bandy asked if they needed to stake it out. Chair Krempasky said that she would discuss that with Foreman Large to see if he thought it would be better to do it before the designer or just let them know the parameters the day that they are there. Foreman Large advised that he would ask the Public Works Director, and if he says it is okay to stake out a 15 x 40 area, that he would do that in front of the cedar trees. He said that if the answer was something different, that he would let SEPAC know. Chair Krempasky asked if they wanted the garden to incorporate the cedar trees. Foreman Large said that it would depend on where the trees fall when he stakes out the area. Chair Krempasky asked if Foreman Large would email her after he stakes the area. Foreman Large agreed.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item 1.c.

c. Urban Forestry

Foreman Large advised that they have been working so much at Ocean Hammock Park that they have not had time to repair the water truck.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item 1.d.

d. Environmental Planning Projects

Member Thomson advised that the minutes indicated that he should continue with questions about sustainable stormwater management and that he improved the questions that he presented last month. He said that what he was hoping to do with environmental planning projects would be to identify specific projects that we are working on as an advisory committee and that we already gave our priorities for areas of concern. He said that what everyone received today is a memo titled *SEPAC: Notes on Climate Change and Sustainability Planning Projects* [Exhibit D]. He would like to have these four projects listed as Environmental Planning Projects that we are working on but that they would not need to have a monthly report.

Member Thomson said that one of his concerns in the presentation was that SEPAC is not considered a planning organization that gives input, which we have done all along for such things as the Comprehensive Plan and the Vision Plan. He said that he believed that SEPAC's purpose and duty as an advisory committee was to keep working on these big issues that are affecting the City and to advise the Commission accordingly, but we do not need to send this memo to the Commission.

Member Thomson read his memo and said that he would take on the first item, “Sustainable Stormwater Management Research and Study Project”, and that he has already made one presentation to the Commission and would like to propose working with the Engineering Director, Jason Sparks.

Member Thomson moved on to item two and said that he saw the need for a “Climate Change Action/Adaptation Research and Study Project”, which was one of our goals and that there would be a member working with the Planning Department. He moved on to the third item, “Urban Forestry Management Research and Study Project”. He said that there is a lot of planning and specifics and that a member could work with the superintendent of the Public Works grounds department. He asked Foreman Large who the superintendent was. Foreman Large said that he is the Foreman of that department and that Public Works Director Gatchell is his supervisor, and that Assistant Public Works Director Adams would also be included. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that Ken Gatchell is the Public Works Director, Russell Adams is the Assistant Public Works Director, and then all the Foremen, which Foreman Large is the Grounds Foreman. Member Thomson said that he did not know if anyone would be interested in making a quarterly report or whatever.

Member Thomson said that the fourth item is “Natural Resources Conservation and Recycling Research and Study Project.” He said that members could work independently with City staff and report findings monthly or quarterly to SEPAC, which could then make a report and presentation to the Commission on a yearly basis. He said that we do not have to reinvent the wheel, but we could look at what other cities our size are doing and then advise the Commission annually with recommendations. He said that we could do other improvement projects but that the planning projects are important too.

Member Thomson advised that SEPAC could either mull over this or agree that this be on the agenda under the Environmental Planning Projects topic and have members step forward and take the lead and decide by next month.

Chair Krempasky said that she is kind of in step with this and she asked if she should leave Vice Mayor Rumrell’s comment alone. She said she felt that his comment was inappropriate especially while two Members were making a presentation and to put them on the spot like that. Vice Chair Bandy noted that it was in the middle of their presentation that was being broadcast live stream. Member Candler said that she thought about emailing him herself to say that she was offended and that she believed SEPAC offers a lot to this City but that she was not sure if it would be appropriate to do that. Chair Krempasky said that you are allowed to speak for yourself and that she was personally offended too.

Vice Chair Bandy said that a lot of things happen, and it is clear that we spend a lot of time talking and writing up things that may not even get looked at or considered. Member Thomson said that this is the third time that he heard about eco-gardens and that one Commissioner did not seem to even want to deal with it or would rather have a garden club go out and do it.

Chair Krempasky said that she appreciated what Member Thomson was trying to do but in terms of advisory, this Committee has been the most active working with the

Comprehensive Plan during workshops and the Vision Plan and we have also been asked our opinions, so they know that we are here and that we are more than just doing projects. Member Thomson asked if they really know what our concerns are such as adaptation to climate change. Vice Chair Bandy said that she worked many hours on extensive reports each month to the Commission regarding what we were doing. Member Thomson asked if it was policy direction that they could use. Vice Chair Bandy said that she worked fifteen to twenty hours on the Vision Plan outlining everything that we wanted, and that the majority of our suggestions were not taken. Member Thomson said that he believed that they were modified and that the Vision Plan has five or six of SEPAC's goals in it which they asked us to help develop.

Chair Krempasky said that during Member Thomson's presentation to the Commission regarding stormwater, that Commissioner George asked the City Manager to retain SEPAC's concerns to be brought back when it is discussed again, so she believed that the Commission knows what SEPAC is trying to do. She said that it is not that she does not want to do this, because it is good, but she needed to know if Member Thomson wanted her to follow up with the City Manager. Member Candler said that she thought that she should follow up. Vice Chair Bandy said that you could also take it another way because the Vice Mayor said that SEPAC has great ideas but that it was too bad that you cannot get together to work on them to get them done quicker. Instead, we have to abide by all of these rules, which are slowing us down. Member Candler agreed. Chair Krempasky said that is not what is slowing us down, the residents not supporting the project is what slows us down. She said that it did not matter to her because she would love to be able to talk to everyone between meetings. Member Candler asked how the Vice Mayor knew when SEPAC did not have a meeting because we did not have a quorum. Vice Chair Bandy said that it is in the reports.

Chair Krempasky said that, as the Chair, she could leave it alone and that Member Candler could write something herself if everyone was okay with that. Member Thomson agreed that it was sort of an affront and that they gave a wonderful presentation but that this was the third presentation, and he still does not think that they get it, or some do not want to get it. He said that he believed that it was a personal statement that the Vice Mayor made and that you should do what you need to do. He said that he would not want us to lose sight of the forest through the trees, we do these little projects and work our butts off. Chair Krempasky said that they are not little projects and that they spent a lot of time on the Vision Plan this year. Member Thomson said that we spent maybe two or three meetings because they wanted the information. Vice Chair Bandy said that she spent a lot of time outside of the meetings combing through every word, making comments, and PowerPoints. Member Thomson said that he initiated getting our priorities listed and that he does not want to lose sight of the planning advisory work that we are supposed to be doing. Vice Chair Bandy said that they ask us when they really want advice from SEPAC, such as with glass recycling.

Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC could have a month to mull this over. Member Thomson agreed and he said that an advisory committee could be proactive as well. Vice Chair Bandy said that we are trying to be proactive on all of our projects but that she does not have time to dig deeply into scientific areas. Member Thomson said that we do not have to reinvent the wheel but that we did mention we were going to do assessments of some

of this. Chair Krempasky said that her only other hesitation is that the City staff seems pretty overworked right now and that they probably do not need more added to their plate and that maybe we should sit down with the Supervisors. Member Thomson said that he does not want to overwhelm the Commission or staff and that is why they are long-term planning projects.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item 2.a.

2. Educational Programs

a. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition

Chair Krempasky advised that she had been dealing with Quick Signs for about two weeks because they were trying to give her advice on how to put the signs in the ground. She said that during her vacation she found pigtail sign stakes [Exhibit E] and that you would need two of them for the sign to go in between. She said that two of them would cost \$4 and that they are perfect for 8 x 12 signs, which is what she ordered. She advised that SEPAC is getting ten 8 x 12 aluminum signs for \$200 and the hardware for mounting it in the ground, which will look pretty. She said that she was going to buy four of the sign stakes this time so that we could do the two signs and see how it goes. She said that she would probably try to buy them before July 20th if the Vice Chair wanted to set something up with her award recipient. Vice Chair Bandy asked if she would want to drop them off to the City Clerk for her to pick up. Chair Krempasky said that she already sent the other recipient information about what the sign looks like and he is very excited to display it in his yard and that the Vice Chair could forward it to her recipient as well. She said that she just really wanted someone else's feedback whether they really wanted this in their yard. Chair Krempasky said okay, and that we can hopefully get these in the ground this month and see if we get a positive reaction.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item 2.b.

b. Environmental Speaker and Film Series

Vice Chair Bandy said that she had not heard back from Mr. Hiaasen and that she had another idea. She said that we have \$750 in the budget for this topic and that we have not spent any of it. She found another Florida author, Jeff VanderMeer, who wrote a Time Magazine article about environmental issues in Florida, and he lives somewhere in Florida. He has written several books and she is going to reach out to him to see if he would do it for a certain amount of money. She said that there may be other local people that we could try if this does not work out. The event at the library is October 26th but we would need to spend the money by September 30th and the library could also get us in on September 14th if we wanted to do that. She asked Member Candler if she would still be able to get a hotel room if need be. Member Candler said yes. Chair Krempasky said to contact Mr. VanderMeer and she asked if it would just be him or a prior film. Vice Chair Bandy said probably just him and since he is an author, it would be great for the library too. Chair Krempasky said that if this falls through that she could contact Deirdre Irwin. Vice Chair Bandy said that she also had someone else that she could contact if we decide to continue with this, which she believed was something that needed to be discussed. Member Candler said that she has a distribution list for all of the garden clubs and that she would send out a notice that we are doing this to all the members.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item 2.c.

c. Newsletter Topics

Chair Krempasky said that the Newsletter would be the Environmentally Stewardship Awards and the photos of the Environmentally Friendly Landscape Award winner's yards. Vice Chair Bandy said yes. Chair Krempasky said that she would hopefully have the signs to her in a few days and that you would have the information to give to Ms. Conlon by the 20th.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item 2.d.

d. Environmental Education Materials

Member Thomson asked were we ended up with this and did we decide instead of the Environmental Corner that we would do some flyers. Vice Chair Bandy said that we talked about her bringing a list of things that she could make a brochure about such as: when to water your lawn and why it is important not to overwater, the importance of hiring an arborist for your trees, that you should not hurricane cut your palms or use edgers around the bottom because it scars the trunks, why native plants and mulch are important, and if you hire someone that they are required to remove the debris instead of leaving it for the City to haul away. Foreman Large said only for hired contractors. Vice Chair Bandy said that a contractor will lower their price but if the resident wants it hauled away, they charge them extra, so few people would want to pay extra for that. Member Candler asked if that was for construction and yard debris. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that it is for anything that you hire a contractor to do for you. Member Candler asked why Public Works picks it up. Vice Chair Bandy said that Public Works would not know whether the homeowner did the work or not, but in our own neighborhoods we would know. Member Candler said that her yard guy puts a pile out every two weeks and Public Works picks it up and that she had no idea. Vice Chair Bandy said that if we put it out in our brochure, then people would know. She said that she did not know if all this information would fit in one brochure or not. Member Candler said that they should be separate brochures. Member Thomson suggested to include something about the eco-gardens as a means to control stormwater runoff. Member Candler said that the Vice Chair could just use her current PowerPoint material. Member Candler said that they would not need to be all at the same time.

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

Chair Bandy said that she would bring it to a future meeting because she would not be at the August meeting. Chair Krempasky said possibly for the September meeting. She said that we have an audience at the Arbor Day event and so we could add it to the bags of information that we put together. Member Thomson said just like Public Works put the illicit discharge flyer with the Arbor Day packet this year. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that Ms. Conlon does several events throughout the year, and you could ask her if she has a table or somewhere that she could set them up. Vice Chair Bandy said that it would be nice to get some done this year so that we could pay for the printing, etc. out of this year's budget so that we do not let so much money go to waste.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VI.

VI. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

Vice Chair Bandy said that she would like to talk about the budget because we need to finish up this fiscal year and plan for next year. Chair Krempasky asked when the first budget meeting was scheduled for. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that it is scheduled for July 31, 2023, which is being worked on right now.

Member Thomson asked if the Vision Plan had been posted to the website and would there still be a workshop. City Clerk Fitzgerald said that she believed that they were still planning a workshop but that they have not said when. Member Thomson said that it was adopted. Chair Krempasky said that if it is approved that it would be nice if it was available to see somewhere. Member Thomson asked if there was a procedure for viewing it once it has been adopted. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that she has not received final approval on the draft changes that she made according to what the Commission asked for, it was then handed it over to the City Manager and that she does not know if it was acceptable or not. She said that the Commission has not asked for it to be publicized anywhere. Member Thomson asked if it would be near the Comprehensive Plan if it were to be published. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that it would be posted to the website and listed alphabetically wherever it falls in the list of documents.

Vice Chair Bandy showed last year's budget and said that SEPAC received a total of \$13,100 [Exhibit F]. She advised that SEPAC spent less than \$1,000 and has \$12,273.40 left. She said that we bought some plants for \$430, and we did the wildflower signs, which need to be put out sometime. Foreman Large agreed and said that he looked at them the other day but has not had time to put them out. Vice Chair Bandy said that we spent some money with Native Plant Consulting, Quick Signs, and for something at Tractor Supply. Foreman Large advised that he bought the hay for the wildflower area at Tractor Supply. Vice Chair Bandy said that hopefully we would be spending the \$4,000 for the eco-garden and the signage.

Chair Krempasky said that if we have \$8,000 to spend to improve several parkettes and this first one costs \$4,500, then we would not get two done this time. Vice Chair Bandy said that the detail said that it was \$4,000 per parkette but that she did not know how strict they would be about it. Chair Krempasky said that we would go with \$4,000 for now because we do not have time to do two at this point and that we would probably need to get with the Finance Director to do a budget resolution and move the other \$4,000 to next year. Member Thomson said that in the past we have authorized contractors to continue with the Avenue of Palms in the areas where it is needed. Vice Chair Bandy asked if that would fall under the Urban Forest Management Plan. Member Candler asked if we would be able to get someone to do it. Foreman Large advised that when that money was put in the budget it was because we talked about buying more trees for the areas that Charlie's group had talked about, but without being able to take care of them, it would not be wise, which is why the money has not been spent and that he did not foresee them needing to buy anything. He said that there are still a lot of trees at the Public Works nursery that they have not been able to plant yet including the trees from Lowe's, such as Magnolias, so we have plenty of trees for the future.

Member Thomson said that what he is proposing, which SEPAC has done in the past, is to hire Leonardi's or Southern Horticulture to plant palm trees. Member Candler asked if they would be able to do it before the end of September. Member Thomson said that he did not know. Vice Chair Bandy said that Leonardi's probably could. Member Candler asked if we could get them to water the trees until we get our water truck repaired. Chair Krempasky said that their palms are around

\$750 each. Member Candler said that we are not buying palms. Chair Krempasky said that she thought that we were saving the palms. Foreman Large said that we have about twenty-three palms at Public Works. Chair Krempasky said that no one is going to just plant the palms for us. She asked if he wanted to spent \$1,850 for the labor. Member Candler said that they planted the palms at B Street. Foreman Large said yes, but that Public Works watered them for a year and half with the water truck. Member Thomson asked Foreman Large to look at the Avenue of Palms on the east side between 2nd Lane and 3rd Street, which has a plaza and that he believed that there was a well and a pump put in. He said that recently some shrubs have been put in that area and it would be nice to have palms in that stretch. Foreman Large said that it is not in service now but that there was one there twenty years ago. Member Thomson asked if Foreman Large would check to see if it could be hooked back up. He said that the residents in that area have just put in some shrubs and that they are irrigating them. Foreman Large said that he knows exactly the area that he is talking about and that he could look into it. Member Thomson said that there is room for eight palm trees so the question would be whether Leonardi's could plant eight palm trees before October. Vice Chair Bandy said that she did not think that they could plant eight palms for \$1,850. She said that Leonardi's installation cost of a "customer-owned" Cabbage palm would cost \$350 each so we could have five palms planted. Member Thomson said that we have borrowed money from other places before. Foreman Large advised that they have moved money before but that they would need to talk to the Finance Director first. Member Candler asked how we would water them. Member Thomson said that there seems to be irrigation in the area. Vice Chair Bandy said that the neighbors in that area already bought something that they are watering. Foreman Large advised that the homeowner is working on that area now and they are putting rock and plants in and that it looked like they have irrigation.

Member Thomson said that eight palm trees are what the Code requires to complete the Avenue of Palms and that we should get a price for planting eight palms from Leonardi's. Chair Krempasky asked Foreman Large if he worked with Leonardi's the last time they planted the palms. She asked if the Vice Chair's discussion about the budget was how to finish FY 2023 and not discussion of FY 2024. Vice Chair Bandy said that we barely spent \$1,000 and if we do not spend some money, then we would not get much in the future. Chair Krempasky said that she believed that we could justify the fact that we cannot plant anything without a water truck. Foreman Large showed the area that Member Thomson was talking about and that the palms would go in the right-of-way.

Chair Krempasky said that the \$250 for the Environmental Stewardship Awards plaques should have already been spent. Vice Chair Bandy said that the information that the Finance Director sent her did not include anything about the plaques so it would probably be for this year's plaques. Chair Krempasky said that we would definitely spend that money because if we choose someone by August 25th, then she could spend it in September and do the presentation in October.

Foreman Large advised that you would only be able to get about three palms in the area. Member Thomson suggested to put them closer together. Member Candler suggested taking money from the \$8,000 for the parkette improvements. Chair Krempasky said that the funds are earmarked for a plaza. Vice Chair Bandy said that at the meeting she told the Commission that SEPAC would probably be asking to move that money to next year to do another parkette. Chair Krempasky said that we should just get the one done so that we have a model.

Vice Chair Bandy asked how many trees they decided on. Member Thomson said that Foreman Large believes that it would be less than eight. Foreman Large said that he would have to measure the area. Member Thomson would like to use some of the remaining money from the plazas and

move it to be able to plant eight Sabal palms. Chair Krempasky asked what would be wrong with just planting the five that we can afford and adding the others later. She explained that if we are able to move that \$4,000 forward to do another parkette project that we would not want to deplete any of it and wind up not having enough to do the project. Foreman Large advised that if you do this and it is over \$1,000 that you would need to get three bids so you may want to keep it under \$1,000. Vice Chair Bandy said that they already have three bids because all three companies were going to plant City owned palm trees for the eco-garden, but that Southern Horticulture probably could not do it in time. Chair Krempasky advised that NPC does not plant palms. Member Thomson said that they could be phone bids if the amount is under \$5,000. Foreman Large agreed and said that you would still need to have them. Chair Krempasky said that there are only two companies that can do it. Foreman Large advised that you would still have to have a third company tell you that they cannot do it. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that you still need to have three bids and that you could call a company and if they decline to bid for whatever reason, you can still note that you made the attempt for three or more bids. Chair Krempasky said okay. Vice Chair Bandy asked if we could just use Leonardi's. Foreman Large said that you would need an updated quote to make sure that the price would be the same for this new project.

Motion: To authorize installation of up to five palms on the east side of A1A Beach Boulevard between 2nd Lane & 3rd Street. **Moved by** Member Thomson. **Seconded by** Member Candler. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Bandy said that she also wanted to point out on FY 2023's budget request that we asked for \$1,500 for part two of the Mickler Boulevard landscaping project, which would have been the butterfly garden to the south of the wildflower meadow. She said that she and Foreman Large could go buy the plants and put them in. Chair Krempasky asked if you would need to prepare the land. Member Thomson said that it would be part of the process, but you could just scrape the topsoil off. Vice Chair Bandy said that she believed that we could do that for a butterfly garden or do the cardboard method. Chair Krempasky said that it would depend on Public Works too. Foreman Large said that they are on a deadline for Ocean Hammock Park and most all their working hours are trying to get it finished. Member Thomson suggested asking NPC. Chair Krempasky said that she would check with them tomorrow. Member Thomson said that it was good to review the budget but that we probably should have done it six months before. He asked if there was anything else that had not been spent yet. Vice Chair Bandy advised the \$750 for the film series guest speaker and she asked if anyone had ideas how to spend the money. Member Candler asked about the money for the flyers. Chair Krempasky said that it may be a project for next year. Member Thomson said that it is educational, and he asked if the money could be transferred for the expenses for the flyers and get working on it. Chair Krempasky said that the Vice Chair has a full-time job. Member Thomson said that maybe it could go forward for next year.

Vice Chair Bandy asked to discuss SEPAC's August meeting because if there are only three members, then there would not be a quorum. Member Thomson asked when the Vice Chair would be back in town. Vice Chair Bandy advised that she would be back August 14th. Member Candler asked if SEPAC's August meeting could be put off until the 17th. Chair Krempasky said that we could ask the City Clerk if that is manageable to do that. Member Thomson advised that he may be leaving on August 15th. Vice Chair Bandy suggested August 3rd. Member Candler said that she would be gone that week. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that we really would like to avoid moving these meetings around as much as possible. Chair Krempasky asked the City Clerk to

contact Member O'Brien to let him know that we need him to appear to have a quorum so that we can get things fine-tuned before the end of the year. City Clerk Fitzgerald agreed.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VII.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to Adjourn. **Moved by** Member Thomson. **Seconded by** Vice Chair Bandy. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Krempasky adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Sandra Krempasky, Chair

ATTEST

Dariana Fitzgerald, City Clerk