



MINUTES

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 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 6:01 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 Karen Candler and George O'Brien.

Member Craig Thomson was absent.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2023, REGULAR MEETING

Motion: to approve the minutes of July 13, 2023. **Moved by:** Member Candler. **Seconded by:** Vice Chair Bandy. Motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

1. Anastasia Island Environmental Stewardship Awards

Chair Krempasky noted that there were three applications in their packet and that a fourth nomination for Thomas Davis [Exhibit A] was sent to her before the deadline, but City Clerk Fitzgerald's email address was mistyped, so it didn't make it to her until later. She noted that if his nomination was included, then there would be nominees for each category. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that she verified via timestamp that his nomination was sent to Chair Krempasky on time. Chair Krempasky said that Mr. Davis had a new business to try to help people establish native gardens on their properties. She asked if a motion would be needed or could they just have a consensus to include his nomination. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that they could have a consensus.

It was the consensus of SEPAC to include Mr. Davis's nomination.

Chair Krempasky said that we now have someone nominated for each category and that she could order the plaques tomorrow so they would be ready in time for the presentation at the November 13th Commission meeting. Vice Chair Bandy asked if there was any discussion about the nominations or if everyone agreed that they were all worthy candidates.

Individual (Non-Profit): Nana Royer

Group (Non-Profit): Anastasia Island Branch, St. Johns County Public Library

Individual (Business): Thomas Davis

Group (Business): Panache Salon and Spa

Motion: To approve the four nominees in the nominated categories. **Moved by** Member O'Brien. **Seconded by** Chair Krempasky. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Krempasky suggested that SEPAC should push this a little more next year and to put it in the Newsletter more often. Vice Chair Bandy said that she thought she put it on NextDoor, the Newsletter, the City's website, and sent it to some of the environmental groups. Chair Krempasky said that even though we only received four nominations, they are really good, qualified people. She said that Panache Salon and Spa really tries to take care of disposing of the chemicals that they use in a proper manner.

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

2. Reforestation and Landscaping Projects

a. Mickler Boulevard

Foreman Large advised that there is a lot of water out there right now from the recent heavy rains but that Public Works did mow the area. He said that he planned to cut it high so that the wildflower seeds would spread but that he did not get with the crew before they cut it, and it was cut low. He said that they spread the rest of the wildflower seeds and that the Finance Director told him that SEPAC had some money left so he bought more plants from Southern Horticulture and planted those as well. Member Candler asked when that had been done. Foreman Large said that it was the last week in September. He advised that there is more money, so there is an option for SEPAC to do something in the other area on Mickler Boulevard that he and Chair Krempasky visited.

Foreman Large advised that there is some grass filling in from the sides, which needs to be maintained but that Public Works does not have the manpower to do it. He said that there are options that he would talk about at another time when they are farther in to it and that he would like to talk about the person that will be taking care of the ecogarden. He said that there is still a good amount left in there and hopefully the seeds will come back up in the spring. He said that they received a lot of compliments from people walking by when they were out there.

Foreman Large reminded SEPAC that there were a few of the parkette signs left and he suggested putting one in the wildflower area to help protect it from drivers and to let people know that it is a City lot. Vice Chair Bandy liked the idea of helping to keep vehicles out of the area. Member Candler suggested putting a natural border around the area. Foreman Large said that he did not think that SEPAC had ever talked about that. Member Candler said that it needed definition so that people would know that it is a wildflower garden and that she was thinking of something made of wood. Chair Krempasky advised that SEPAC did not have much money this year. She said that \$4,000 was moved to the FY 2024 budget, \$1,800 for the maintenance of the swale, and money for awards/plaques.

Foreman Large said that there is \$6,050 in the budget for SEPAC. Chair Krempasky said that she talked with Foreman Large and emailed the Finance Director and that she had forgotten about the Arbor Day funds and she believed that SEPAC could still pull off the purchase of trees from their budget. Foreman Large said that the trees are purchased when they are very small, and are reasonably priced. Member Candler asked how much was spent last year. Foreman Large said he spent about \$450.

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

b. Parkette Planning/Green Infrastructure

Foreman Large advised that the water truck is up and running but it does not have a pump right now, it has a free-flowing hose on the back that puts out hundreds of gallons of water. He said that he used it last week to water the wildflower area, the ecogarden, as well as the three palm trees.

Foreman Large advised that Leonard's planted three palm trees at 2nd Street and that they really look nice. He said that there was an issue because the root balls are so big and if you do not pack the soil well, there will be air pockets. He said that he found air pockets two weeks after they were planted, and they had to redo everything. Chair Krempasky asked if he did the work or if he had Leonard's come back to fix it. Foreman Large advised that he did it himself because the air pockets appeared while he was watering them. He said that they look great, and the nearby homeowner is very happy with them. He said that the cost was \$1,459.98 and that he thought that they did a great job overall.

Chair Krempasky said that the ecogarden fence is in and there was supposed to be Honeysuckle vines and she asked if they were ever planted. Foreman Large advised that they are there, just small.

Foreman Large advised that Southern Horticulture did the ecogarden, which was \$2,521.50. He provided the list of plants [Exhibit B] and said he counted every one of them. He reported that we have lost about six dune daisies, and he found about four piles of dog feces in the flower bed. He said that he did not know where the dogs came from, but that no one picked up after them and it was all over the place. He said that he talked to his supervisors about possibly putting a dog mitt station there and they are looking into it. He advised that he did not know if that was the reason that the plants died or possibly too much water because when a hundred gallons of water a minute are pouring out, you cannot really see, which plants may be getting too much water. He said Southern Horticulture put the cardboard down and stuff on top of it, so it is hard to tell how wet the soil is. He plans to contact Southern Horticulture to see if they would replant the flowers because they are guaranteed. If they will not replace them, it would cost about \$24 to buy more daisies, which were planted right in the front and should be replaced.

Foreman Large advised that Member Thomson wanted to move the flowerbed ten feet to the south and when he met with Southern Horticulture, they did move it, which changed the design a little bit, but they did a really good job putting it in.

Foreman Large advised that he met with Shayan from Ruah Gardens, and he believed that he would do a great job of edging the swale and making it look nice. He provided the maintenance proposal from Ruah Gardens for the 8th Street ecogarden [Exhibit C] and

said that it was another option to put one of the leftover signs. Chair Krempasky said that we were planning to do some sort of signage there for educational purposes and maybe Lonnie Kaczmarzsky could help with that since he did the sign for the bioswale. Foreman Large asked if he should holdoff on the sign for now. Chair Krempasky said yes. Foreman Large said that Shayan did not start yet because he did not realize that he needed a City business license, so he is in the process of getting that and his insurance. He said that his proposal for 8th Street is \$150 a month and that he would really like to work with the City and do more. He advised that he took Shayan to the wildflower area, and said that he would provide us with a quote. He said that he lives in the City and would like to help beautify it. Vice Chair Bandy asked if his was the only quote that was received. Chair Krempasky said that she got a quote from Southern Horticulture and Native Plant Consulting and neither of them could do it. She said that she contacted The Elegant Gardener who was interested but did not provide a quote. She said that Ruah Gardens contacted her, and she forwarded his information to Foreman Large. Vice Chair Bandy asked how often he would go there. Chair Krempasky said it would be once a month and that he was only charging \$150. She said that he seemed to be very conscientious and would not want his product to look bad. Foreman Large agreed. Chair Krempasky said that if we are displeased after a few months, then we could give him guidance or cancel and try to find someone else. Vice Chair Bandy asked if it would come out of SEPAC's budget. Chair Krempasky said yes, it is from the \$1,800 that SEPAC has in its budget.

Member O'Brien said that what Public Works has been doing around the City has been fantastic and they are always conscientious and have safety in mind. Foreman Large thanked him. Chair Krempasky asked if Public Works supplied the cardboard. Foreman Large said yes, because they did not want to purchase it since they have it in their recycling area at Public Works. Chair Krempasky said that pulling it from recycling saved us money. Foreman Large said that it worked out well.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.3.a.

- c. Urban Forestry
 - d. Environmental Planning Projects
3. Educational Programs
- a. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Recognition

Chair Krempasky advised that SEPAC would recognize the two residents at the November 13th Commission meeting along with the four Stewardship Award winners. Vice Chair Bandy asked if they had been notified yet. Chair Krempasky said no because she was not sure if SEPAC was going to meet tonight. Vice Chair Bandy asked if she should notify her person. Chair Krempasky said yes.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.3.b.

- b. Environmental Speaker and Film Series

Chair Krempasky advised that they would be showing a film called "Protect our Paradise", which is a series that someone in the State of Florida did, and the speaker would be Deirdre Irwin who works for the St. Johns River Water Management District. Ms. Irwin

would introduce the film, which is about twenty-eight minutes long, and then answer any questions, then she may also give a brief presentation. She advised that Ms. Irwin is a water conservationist and may talk about that as well. It will be at the library in Sea Grove on October 26th at 6:00 p.m. and she encouraged everyone to go.

Vice Chair Bandy said that SEPAC needed to talk about the future of the speaker and film series. She said that we could wait to see how this attendance is, but since it restarted this year, it has been pretty bad, and it may not be worth the effort that we are putting into it. Member O'Brien asked what SEPAC is doing to bring awareness to it other than the Newsletter. Chair Krempasky said that the library has an event calendar. Vice Chair Bandy said that the library has their series and they put it on their website and newsletter. She said that we put it in our Newsletter and send it to various environmental groups to help promote it. Member O'Brien asked to have any marketing sent to him because he is on the Board at the YMCA. He said that there are so many individual groups and there was not a lot of collaboration or sharing and there may be an opportunity for us to share across different platforms such as with the schools. He said that he gets emails from the schools asking about different activities for the kids and we could do a PDF or a flyer for the school to send out and then we could decide if the effort is worth it. Chair Krempasky said that before Covid, they were getting about thirty to forty people, so it was successful, but we have not been able to get back to those numbers. Vice Chair Bandy said she was told that all the library programs have been suffering. Member O'Brien said that there have been a lot of people that moved here since Covid, and they probably do not know anything about the series so it would be an opportunity to educate them. Vice Chair Bandy suggested for him to get it from the last Newsletter because they cannot communicate with him outside of a meeting.

Chair Krempasky said that she would hate to see it go away but that she knows it has been a lot of work for Vice Chair Bandy. Vice Chair Bandy said that she liked doing it but that she gets disappointed because some of the speakers drive from Gainesville and only have three people in the audience. She said that this event would be the last one for this year since we would be going into the holidays and that we could talk about it again later. Chair Krempasky asked when she would want to start it back up again. Vice Chair Bandy said that she did not know.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.3.c.

c. Newsletter Topics

Vice Chair Bandy said that she could do something in the Newsletter about the ecogarden and every month they have been doing the Environmentally Friendly Landscaping but have not had any applications lately. Chair Krempasky said that Commissioner George's business property looked pretty good, but she did not think that she should be the person to review the property due to a potential conflict. She said that she was not sure if the majority of her plants were native, so she asked her for a plant list. She said that she also has permeable pavers, solar panels, the right type of mulch, and that she would be a good person to nominate for the Environmentally Friendly Landscape Award. Member O'Brien said that he could nominate her because then there would be no conflict. Chair Krempasky asked if the Vice Chair wanted to go look at the property. Vice Chair Bandy said that she could do that. Chair Krempasky said that she would fill out the paperwork

and have Commissioner George's assistant send it. Vice Chair Bandy asked if she should look at this month or wait until we receive the application. Chair Krempasky said to wait until we receive the application, but that Commissioner George is really interested in it. She said that she talked to her about the Anastasia Island Environmental Stewardship Awards but that she did not think it would be a good fit for the type of people and organizations that we have recognized. Even though she is very environmentally focused, it was not landscaping per se.

Vice Chair Bandy went back to discuss the Speaker Series and said that Member O'Brien talked about coordinating with other groups and that EcoCinema is also doing water conservation. Chair Krempasky said that she got their movies and needed to take a look at them but that they are not really willing to push SEPAC because we do not have a way to push them.

Member O'Brien said that if SEPAC does not want to do the Speaker Series because it takes time, then maybe we could promote the Eco Series in the newsletters and we would have more time to focus on the things that we want to do. Chair Krempasky said that the Eco Cinema Series has an advantage over SEPAC in that you can drink alcohol. Vice Chair Bandy said that they have vendors and groups. Member Candler said that she did not know what they were talking about. Chair Krempasky said that it is from the St. Augustine Film Society, and they have an Eco Series at the St. Augustine Yacht Club. She said that if we are not considering them as competition, then it would be good to collaborate. Vice Chair Bandy said that they have the support of the Amphitheatre and various sponsors.

Chair Krempasky asked the Vice Chair if she had everything she needed for the Newsletter. Vice Chair Bandy said yes and that she could also put something in about a native plant or something.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item V.3.d.

d. Environmental Education Materials

Chair Krempasky said that we do not have any money next year to make flyers but that she noticed that someone from the City had been preparing flyers. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that the Engineering Director has flyers on certain topics as a requirement of some of the grants and certifications that we have. Chair Krempasky asked if they would be in the Newsletter. City Clerk Fitzgerald said that she did not know everywhere that he sent them, but that they were sent out with the Business Tax Receipt (BTR) applications this year, which was roughly five-hundred mailings that were going out anyway. She said that they have been all over City Hall and she believed they were also at Arbor Day.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VI.

VI. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

Member O'Brien discussed his email regarding gutters [Exhibit D]. He said that we get a lot of rain here and a lot of people do not have gutters. He would like to start a dialogue about what could be done to start requiring gutters and downspouts, which is tough to do after someone is living there. He said that there are a lot of people trying to move here and people are making huge profits from their properties. He said that if they want to sell their property and it does not have

gutters and downspouts, then they should be required to install them before they could sell the property. He said that in the municipality that he moved from, any time that you bought a property, it would be inspected, and you would be required to fix things such as cracked sidewalks because they are a tripping hazard. He said that he did not know if it was legal in Florida and that it would be something for the City Attorney to look at. He said that his original comment was to do this for new construction and then it could potentially be required if you sell your property. He said that the feedback was that there was not a lot of new building happening, but if you walk around near 8th, 10th, and 11th Streets, there is a lot being built. He said that his street is flooded, people are going through his yard to avoid the water, and no one has downspouts. He said that there were nine new properties built on 9th Street and only five of them have downspouts and on 5th Street there was only one out of three with downspouts. He advised that a lot of neighboring streets are flooded and that it never used to be like this. He has lived here for three years and never had water like this before.

Member O'Brien said that this was worth putting in the minutes because he was concerned as a homeowner. There is new construction going on and gutters and downspouts are not overly expensive. He suggested that SEPAC should look at this and make some recommendations to the Commission and that he would be attending the meetings to voice his opinion. He said before we throw up our hands, let's find out how legal this is. Chair Krempasky asked if he talked to the Commission about this once before. Member O'Brien said that he referenced it to them. Member Candler asked how it would help the street from flooding because it is the same amount of water coming off the roof whether it goes down a spout or not. Member O'Brien said because it is a control measure to capture the water and direct it to a certain place, such as a rain barrel. He said that a neighboring property has rainwater coming off the roof onto his property because they chose not to capture the water. He said that he cannot do anything about them being grandfathered in, but he would love for it to be something that they would have to control if the property sells. Member Candler said that it is bigger than just gutters, it takes the water and puts it where you want it. Member O'Brien said yes, it is controlling it. He said that up north, if he puts in flexible extensions off of his downspouts, and his water goes onto someone else's property, he would be cited for it. He said that there is one stormwater drain on 10th Street on the public parking side that usually captures the water, but since the lot behind the hotel has been built up, the water cannot go there anymore. He said that the engineers should know these things so that as the City approves development, it could be put in beforehand. He said that he is not an engineer but that he has seen it and there are opportunities to try to control it. He said that his home did not have them but when he redid the exterior stucco, he put in gutters and downspouts.

Chair Krempasky said that it was her understanding that Public Works looked at that for new construction. She said that her house is the lowest spot on her street and there is a three-story house that is two feet above hers and the prior Public Works Director made them put in French drains, gutters, and bury a rain barrel in the yard to keep the water from coming onto her property. Foreman Large said that this was not his area, so he did not know, but controlling the water would be much better than letting it just run off your house. He said that he could ask the Public Works Director and Assistant Director if this was something they would look at. Member O'Brien said that he was not asking for a solution, but he wanted it in the minutes because he was serving on this Committee to make an impact and have a voice, so when he gets in front of the Commission, he could tell them that SEPAC had this conversation and would be happy to continue with it and help them in any way. He said that not doing it and leaving it for the next group to do

was not acceptable to him. He pointed out that there is house near the gas station that controlled their rental property's water into a drain, which he felt was the responsible thing to do.

Chair Krempasky said that after this meeting she would write up a brief description of what SEPAC discussed because the Commissioners do not read SEPAC's minutes and that it would be nice if Foreman Large could start a conversation with Public Works. Foreman Large said that he did not know if it should be Public Works or the Engineer. City Clerk Fitzgerald said that it was previously done as part of the engineering review, which would now be done by Engineer Sparks and the Engineering Department. She reminded SEPAC that they only deal with public property, not private property and that SEPAC does not meet the statutory standards to work in land use, which has financial disclosures, etc. Member O'Brien said that he was fine with that, but he believed that the street in front of his house was public and there are people that park at the public lot and go through his yard with their dogs, etc. and he does not like it, but he accepts it. But when people walk through his property because the road is flooded, it is public, and he will make comments to the Commissioners about it because he wanted his voice heard and he wanted it in the minutes. Chair Krempasky said that just because it is not SEPAC's purview does not mean that he cannot talk to Public Works to ask if they are still doing the same thing.

Member O'Brien said he wanted to bring awareness because not everyone lives on a street that floods. He said that the entire area looks like trash significantly more than in the past because we are not doing enough to control the rainwater. SEPAC has an initiative about rainwater management and most of the water is coming from the houses, which they are not controlling. He said that he was not asking for any regulations, only for it to be mentioned so that future action could be taken by the appropriate people and that he had no problem meeting with City staff and the Commission about it. He said that he was told that this was where he could make comments and start making changes and that is why he was here. He said that he would rather be with his children at their sports programs right now, but that he was here instead because he cares about this community, he loves the work that SEPAC is trying to do, and he wanted it in the minutes so he could talk to the appropriate people.

Chair Krempasky said that she had one more thing to discuss and she asked if there was anything else that SEPAC wanted to discuss. Vice Chair Bandy asked about the budget and whether anything was presented. Chair Krempasky said no and that she believed that SEPAC had \$6,000. Foreman Large advised that the Finance Director and Chair Krempasky took care of it. Vice Chair Bandy asked if it was so much less because SEPAC did not spend it last year or that the City just did not have the money. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that it was for both reasons, the budget was extremely tight this year, plus SEPAC did not make a formal presentation with a list of projects. Chair Krempasky said that SEPAC also did not have meetings in August or September and that she explained to the Finance Director that SEPAC did not get some things done, we did not have the water truck, or the support of the residents, and she was on board with that. Vice Chair Bandy said that SEPAC did a lot in September. Chair Krempasky agreed and said that we spent a good bit of our funds, we had \$4,000 moved to next year, and maybe next month we could discuss what projects we want to take on so we could go directly to the Commission early for their support. She said that A Street is a swimming pool, and if it is still that way in a few days, then we should address that plaza. She also suggested that SEPAC should shoot for D Street because once we see other projects start to flower, we could prove to the Commission that we would be maintaining it even if it costs SEPAC a little bit of money. Member Candler said that it was our goal to complete one or two so that people would realize what we are doing. Vice Chair Bandy said that we need

the sign to educate people about what it is, and she questioned if SEPAC had the money for that. Chair Krempasky suggested to figure out what size sign they wanted and that it should only be a few hundred dollars that we might be able to get out of the next budget. Vice Chair Bandy said that Lonnie designed the sign for the wildflower garden, which was really nice, and he also did the one for the bioswale so maybe we could be consistent and ask him to do this sign too. Chair Krempasky said that Lonnie had back surgery yesterday and he cannot go anywhere for thirty days. City Clerk Fitzgerald said since SEPAC has a limited budget, she suggested to use the next few months to plan their projects and get quotes so they would have a full-fledged proposal to present to the Commission and then they would have a year to accomplish everything. Chair Krempasky agreed.

Chair Krempasky advised that the City Clerk provided a timeline of how this Committee has changed over the past twenty plus years [Exhibit E]. She said that she asked the City Manager what the process would be, and he said that she would need to present a proposal to SEPAC, we would need to vote whether we wanted to take this to the Commission, and then someone would need to speak at the November 13th Commission meeting. She said that she was not sure if the next step would be to do a resolution but that the City Clerk provided her with copies of the prior resolutions, and she asked the City Clerk if she would forward them to the other Members. City Clerk Fitzgerald said yes.

Chair Krempasky said in addition to reducing it from seven members to five members, it would be nice if we could have members from all over the island. She said that the Charter stated that SEPAC members are supposed to be City residents, but most of the people that we nominate for Stewardship Awards are not in the City and it would give us a larger pool of people. Vice Chair Bandy said that she has had some people interested but they did not live in the City. Chair Krempasky said that someone who lives across the street in the Commodore's Club cannot be on a committee that basically affects them since they are right across the street. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that there are some boards in the State that allow certain membership from outside of their city, but it is usually someone with an interest in that city, such as a property owner that lives elsewhere or a business owner, etc. She said that allowing membership on a city-run and/or city-financed board can become an issue because some claim you are using city taxpayers' dollars on people that do not live within the city limits. She said that all our projects are within our City limits because we do not want to spend taxpayers' dollars elsewhere. Vice Chair Bandy said that volunteers do not get money and our projects would still be in the City. City Clerk Fitzgerald said that every time SEPAC meets, it costs the City money for her and Foreman Large to be there, to type the minutes, to record the meeting, to have the lights on, etc. Vice Chair Bandy said yes, but it did not financially benefit someone that lived over there that is coming here. City Clerk Fitzgerald said that the fact that they would be on this Committee would mean that City taxpayers' dollars would be spent on them, and if non-residents became the majority of the members, then it could become an issue, but it would ultimately be up to the Commission with the City Attorney's advice. She recommended against it unless it became absolutely necessary and at that point SEPAC would be better off becoming a club that could allow its members to be anyone.

Member O'Brien suggested going to five members with two alternates and to only allow City residents as members, but that he also thought it would be a good compromise to allow someone with an interest such as a City property owner or a City business owner. Chair Krempasky asked if everyone felt the same. Member Candler said she felt the same. Chair Krempasky asked if SEPAC wanted her to go to the Commission's November 13th meeting and propose a reduction from

seven members to five members. Vice Chair Bandy said yes. City Clerk Fitzgerald advised that at that point, there would be two paths. You could either go to the Commission with a drafted resolution and ask that they pass it on the spot, or you could go to them with the request to try to gauge which way they are leaning and have the resolution at a later meeting. Chair Krempasky said from her own standpoint, she would rather run it past them before we spend any time drafting a resolution that they may not do anything with. Member Candier said that she did not see why they would care. Vice Chair Bandy said that the only reason that they might not care would be if they do not want SEPAC at all. She said that she has been on SEPAC for five or six years and that we have almost always had our meetings until lately. She said that SEPAC would get a new member and they would not last very long, which has been a struggle. She said that she did not see any reason not to go to five members because that is what we have now. Chair Krempasky said that since the focus of SEPAC has shifted to the environment, the Master Gardeners are not lining up like they used to do to be a part of the Beautification Committee. She said that asking the Commission to cut it to five members could lead to the real possibility of them saying that they do not need this Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding how many members were on the other City Boards; whether the Charter Review Committee had all seven members yet; that the Charter Review Committee is only a six-month commitment; etc.

Chair Krempasky said that she would be happy to suggest it at the next Commission meeting. Member Candler said that she would feel better presenting the Commission with a resolution because otherwise you would only be asking for their permission. Chair Krempasky said that she asked the City Manager what the process was, and he said to bring a proposal to the Commission. She said that she has never written a resolution before, and that if SEPAC tried to write a resolution, we would only have two weeks to finalize it and it would be without SEPAC seeing it because it would need to be in the Commission agenda book two weeks before the meeting. Vice Chair Bandy asked what their reason would be for saying no, we are requesting this because there is a limited number of people in this City, and we have tried for many years, but people do not want to make the commitment. Member O'Brien said to get action done, sometimes less is more by having a smaller quorum, and then we could expand it to people with a vested interest. He said that it is a win-win, and they would not say that SEPAC has to go because what we focus on is important and that he assumed that the Commission believed in that. He said that he would attend the meeting and back up Chair Krempasky. Chair Krempasky said okay.

City Clerk Fitzgerald recommended writing a letter or memo to City Manager Royle to go into the Commission's agenda book that would explain the bulk of what SEPAC wanted to do, which would mean less speaking. Vice Chair Bandy said that if we could open it up to business owners, maybe we could get two alternates, which would allow us to be able to have our meetings even if a regular member was not able to attend. Chair Krempasky said okay and asked the Vice Chair if she knew any other Master Gardeners that lived in the City. Vice Chair Bandy said yes. Chair Krempasky asked if she would ask them if they would be interested in SEPAC because beautification equals environmental resiliency. She said that she believed that the projects that SEPAC does. Vice Chair Bandy said that she tried many times to get one lady that is really active, she signed the clean water petition, and every time she runs into her, she says that she is still thinking about it.

Chair Krempasky asked if anyone had anything else to discuss. City Clerk Fitzgerald said that she did not remember if it was discussed at the last meeting, but the City of St. Augustine's glass

recycling is now open and there is a dumpster at R.B. Hunt Elementary School. She said that the City is in the process of talking about the possibility of getting a dumpster in the City, but we are not sure where it would be located. Member O'Brien said that the glass could not be in bags. City Clerk Fitzgerald confirmed and advised that it should be glass only because the opening is small, but it will fit most sizes of bottles. Chair Krempasky said that it is loud when you drop the bottles in, and she wished that it could be padded somehow.

Chair Krempasky moved on to Item VII.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Krempasky adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.



Sandra Krempasky, Chair

ATTEST


Dariana Fitzgerald, City Clerk



**ANASTASIA ISLAND 2023
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS**

Nomination Form

Deadline for nominations is August 25, 2023.

Please complete this nomination form and include any supporting documents you wish to provide (no more than 10 pages). Submissions can be made by mail to:

City of St. Augustine Beach
Attn: Dariana Fitzgerald
2200 A1A South
St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

or by email to:
dfitzgerald@cityofsab.org

Category (Select all that apply):

☐
☒

Individual (Non-profit/Educational)
Individual (Business)

☐
☐

Group (Non-profit/Educational)
Group (Business)

1. Nominated entity information:

Name of entity being nominated: Thomas Davis

Address: _____

Contact Person: Thomas Davis

Contact Phone: 904-377-0294 Contact Email: thomasthecultivator@gmail.com

2. Nominator information: (if the same, skip to No. 3)

Name of nominator: Damion LaPier

Address: 312 D Street

Contact Person: Damion LaPier

Contact Phone: 202-487-5260 Contact Email: syntinia@gmail.com

3. Please explain briefly, how the nominated entity demonstrates significant and measurable achievements that provide a direct benefit to the island's environment in one or more of the following categories:

- Reducing impacts of climate change
- Conserving resources
- Enhancing ecosystems
- Restoring impacted natural resources

Thomas Davis helped us change our front yard into a beautiful permaculture "food forest" environment. Instead of grass that consumes irrigated water and has more of a carbon foot print with regards to maintenance with now grow food and natural flowers. Rarely do we have to water and when we do it still is no significant amount as he helped us pick items that are either Florida native or non-invasive Florida zone capable. This has, with his help, significantly reduced water runoff when we do get rains and helps prevent deterioration of the pavement on the street. Since all maintenance of the property is being reduced to manual, ie shears, for pruning and picking food the carbon foot print is primarily in the negative. It has also increased the availability for a natural habitat for all types of pollenators. We now see hummingbirds, monarch butterflies, and a ton of bees and wasps. He has also guided us on the types of organic fertilizers to use if and when we need to use them so as to not impact the natural water runoff contaminating drinking water.

4. Please explain activities taken by the nominated entity beyond measures required by permit or code that demonstrate responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices:

Part of the next steps with Thomas Davis is to build into our environment a natural way to compost and build our own mulch. He has helped us understand our growing zone and times of when and what to plant where. The sustainable practice in general is something he calls "chop and drop". What this does is, in the pruning process, allow for plant life to feed the continued existence of the rest of the area.

5. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated demonstrates an organizational culture of environmental stewardship:

6. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and growth of environmental stewardship programs:

That truly is his own business model. To use what is native or native capable in a beautiful way.

- 7. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated provides environmental education and outreach:**

Thomas is very upfront with his passion on environmental protection and how we need to create permaculture instead of having grass lawns. He walks his clients through the reasons, process, and approach in creating environmentally sustainable yards. He has been responsive everytime I reach out to him on some random question of advice.

- 8. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated demonstrates innovation and exceptional achievement in environmental stewardship:**

Exhibit A-4
Date 10-12-2023

Southern Horticulture

1690 A1A South
St. Augustine, FL.
Contact: Jordan Whitmire
sohojordan@gmail.com
(904) 471-0440

08/09/2023
City Of St Augustine Beach
St Augustine FL 32080



Landscape Proposal

Scope of Work:

Deliver and install plants with soil amendments and fertilizers. Water in plants, install cardboard and install mulch.

Note--City to make the swale, install fence and provide cardboard.

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
Silver Saw Palmetto 7	7 gal.	1	94.95	94.95
Simpson's Stopper - 7	7 gal.	1	49.95	49.95
Fakahatchee Grass	3 gal.	3	12.95	38.85
Muhly Grass - 3	3 gal.	9	12.95	116.55
Seaside Goldenrod -1	1 gal.	9	5.95	53.55
Spiderwort	1 gal.	7	6.95	48.65
Dune Daisy - 6"	6"	12	3.95	47.40
Gaillardia spp.	1 gal.	3	5.95	17.85
Coral Honeysuckle	3 gal.	3	19.95	59.85
Pine Straw	Bales	15	5.95	89.25
Black Kow - 42	42 lb	5	6.95	34.75
Espoma Holly Tone Organic Fertilizer - 36	36 lb	2	39.95	79.90
Labor	includes delivery, install plants,	1	1,040.00	1,040.00
Labor	for creating the swale and all waste removal and disposal	1	750.00	750.00
	NOTE--Southern Horticulture to have install done by 9/30/23 provided we get enough time to order plants after approval.			

Subtotal:	2,521.50
Tax:	0.00
Total Proposed Amount:	\$2,521.50

Payment by check due upon receipt of invoice

Please don't hesitate to call with any questions!

Exhibit B

Date 10-12-2023

City of Saint Augustine Beach
Garden Maintenance Proposal
Native Swale Garden (8th and Beach)



904-302-3429

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a garden maintenance proposal for our city.

Proposed Site: Native Swale Garden installed by Southern Horticulture on the SW Corner of 8th Street and Beach Blvd.

Frequency: Monthly

Scope: Professional garden maintenance including weed control, prune plants as needed and keep the garden at a show quality level while cultivating into a naturalized/native style garden.

Rate: 150/month

Recommendations: Bi-Annual Pine Straw Mulch Refresh to help with weed control, aesthetics and plant health.

RUAHGARDENS @ GMAIL.COM

SHAYAN K.



Shayan Khatibi
904 302 3429

Exhibit C

Date 10-12-2023

Dariana Fitzgerald

From: George O'Brien <georgeobrien3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 11:29 AM
To: Dariana Fitzgerald
Subject: Fwd: Rainwater

CAUTION: This message originated from outside of your organization. Clicking on any link or opening any attachment may be harmful to your computer or the City. If you do not recognize the sender or expect the email, please verify the email address and any attachments before opening. If you have any questions or concerns about the content, please contact IT staff at IT@cityofsab.org.

Please forward this email to the group today so they have this as a reference for my feedback this evening. The picture would be ideal too but not necessary.

George

----- Forwarded message -----

From: George O'Brien <georgeobrien3@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 12, 2023 at 8:11 AM
Subject: Rainwater
To: George OBrien <contactppillc@gmail.com>

5 of 9 on 8th
1 of 3 on 5th
16 on 5th street and pool in backyard

Exhibit D-1
Date 10-12-2023

Exhibit D-2

Date 10-12-2023





Sandra Krempasky <sandra.krempasky@gmail.com>

Change of Code

Dariana Fitzgerald <dfitzgerald@cityofsab.org>

Thu, Oct 12, 2023 at 11:01 AM

To: Sandra Krempasky <sandra.krempasky@gmail.com>, Max Royle <mroyle@cityofsab.org>

The timeline is:

Resolution 97-04 – Established BAC with 6 members, no alternates

Resolution 00-03 – Added a 7th member

Resolution 03-01 – Added 1 alternate

Resolution 12-01 – Added 2nd alternate

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me.

Dariana A. Fitzgerald, CMC

City Clerk

City of St. Augustine Beach

2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

(904) 471-2122; FAX (904) 471-4108

www.staugbch.com

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From: Sandra Krempasky <sandra.krempasky@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 10:42 AM

To: Max Royle <mroyle@cityofsab.org>; Dariana Fitzgerald <dfitzgerald@cityofsab.org>

Subject: Change of Code

Exhibit E-1

Date 10-12-2023

CAUTION: This message originated from outside of your organization. Clicking on any link or opening any attachment may be harmful to your computer or the City. If you do not recognize the sender or expect the email, please verify the email address and any attachments before opening. If you have any questions or concerns about the content, please contact IT staff at IT@cityofsab.org.

Proposal:

To request the Commission to approve the reduction of the membership of SEPAC from seven with two alternates to five with two alternates.

To request the Commission to approve expanding the required residency of the City of St. Augustine Beach to include Anastasia Island.

Exhibit E-2
Date 10-12-2023