

**ST PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

**Meeting of September 17, 2015
1:00 p.m. – City Hall Room 100**

Members & Alternate: Chair, Darden Rice; Vice- Chair Karl Nurse;
Bill Dudley, Steve Kornell, Charlie Gerdes (Alternate)

Support Staff: Sharon Wright

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Agenda**
- C. Approval of Minutes (attached)**
 - 1. June 11, 2015**
 - 2. August 20, 2015**
- D. New/Deferred Business**
 - 1. Increased mobility overview – presented by Cheryl Stacks, Transportation Manager**
 - a. FYI – Updated Land Development Regulations (LDRs) will be presented to DRC 10/7/2015: bicycle parking requirements**
 - b. Bicycle parking requirements (summary attached)**
 - 2. STAR Communities Leadership & Quick Start Programs awarded to City and starts September 2015-what does it mean? presented by Sharon Wright**
 - a. Review select STAR challenges and opportunities**
 - i. Green infrastructure**
 - ii. Poverty prevention & alleviation**
- E. Continued Business**
- F. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Tentative Issues**
 - 1. October 15, 2015**
- G. New Business Item Referrals (attached)**
 - 1. Review and re-prioritize referral list**
- H. Adjournment**

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CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 11, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Chair Darden Rice; Vice-Chair Karl Nurse; Bill Dudley, Steve Kornell, Charlie Gerdes (Alternate)

ALSO PRESENT: Public Works Administrator Mike Connors, City Attorney John Wolfe, Building Official Rick Dunn, Construction Services and Permitting Planner II Noah Taylor, Grants Officer Shrimatee Ojah-Maharaj, City Council Administrative Officer Cindy Sheppard, Office Systems Specialist Cortney Phillips.

ABSENT: None

Committee Chair Rice opened the meeting with roll call and moved for approval of the Agenda. All were in favor of the motion. Council Member Gerdes moved for approval of the minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

FEMA Update

In connection with the new business, Noah Taylor gave an update presentation on the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. Taylor spoke on the City's current FEMA Community Rating System score. He explained how the scores were broken down, and that the City is currently a Class 6 rating. The CRS takes into account various criteria when rating a city, such as Outreach Projects, Flood Protection, and Storm Water Management. St. Petersburg Construction Services and Permitting is currently researching ways to bump us into a Class 5 city, which will offer us substantial savings in flood insurance premiums. Mr. Taylor stated that as a Class 6 city, we save 20% on flood insurance, and that as a Class 5 we would save 25%. Currently, the 20% we save translates to over \$8,000,000. This breaks down to about \$218 savings per policy holder. As a Class 5 city, policy holders would save about \$272.

Mr. Taylor explained some of the current projects the City is undertaking to improve our CRS. These projects include a Program for Public Information, Grant Opportunities and Flood Protection Assistance.

Karl Nurse offered questions to Mr. Taylor concerning our base flood elevations standards. At present, St. Petersburg has mandated that properties be built one foot off of the ground. Mr. Dunn stated that if St. Petersburg were to regulate a two-foot minimum build height, the payback for citizens would be in about 18 months, which is a great opportunity.

Next on Mr. Taylor's presentation was an overview of the changes in the National Flood Insurance Program. On April 1, 2015, the NFIP implemented changes into its system. These changes affected premium increases, surcharges, policy fees, etc., all of which will raise premiums for residents. The CRS is helping to offset these fees by raising discounts within the city. Residents were notified of these changes by inserts in their utility bills. November 1, 2015 there will be a 25% rate annual rate increase for all businesses.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Dunn fielded questions from Council concerning their presentation. Mr. Nurse proposed different ways we might be able to improve our score without much cost. He suggested condemning “blighted” properties, and flood-proofing houses.

Mr. Nurse moved that the ENRS committee create an ordinance to recommend to City Council raising the residential building height regulations from one foot to two feet. Mr. Dunn requested that he speak with contractors prior to an ordinance being brought to Council. The ordinance will be brought to Council on August 6, 2015.

100 Resilient Cities Update:

Mike Connors gave an oral report on the 100 Resilient Cities Grant. The grant is a program administered by the Rockefeller Foundation to award monies to employ a Resiliency Officer over a three year period, as well as support services. In September, 2014, St. Petersburg submitted our second application for this grant. We were passed over both times for the grant.

Karl Nurse questioned Mr. Connors on what we could do differently in the future to be awarded the grant. He suggested taking a look at the successful grant applications to see if we could use any of their strategies. Mr. Connors stated that our first grant application was very close to the approaches of the winning applications. Our second application was more innovative. Mr. Nurse expressed displeasure at Jacksonville being awarded and wished to know what their application contained that set them ahead of St. Petersburg. Shrimatee Ojah-Maharaj spoke with Jacksonville’s grants officer, and their Mayor has a connection with Bill Clinton, one of the judges for 100 Resilient Cities. She further spoke to the fact that many of the awardees have had disasters in their city, and in a sense we should be thankful that we have had none, only “stresses” such as crime and poverty.

Mr. Connors announced the transfer of Sharon Wright to Public Works Administration, in the Directors of Sustainability Office.

ENRS will be canceled in July, with the next meeting taking place on August 23, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00p.m.

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 20, 2015 @ 1:17 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Chair Darden Rice; Vice-Chair Karl Nurse; Bill Dudley, Steve Kornell, Charlie Gerdes (Alternate)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Rick Kriseman, City Councilmember Jim Kennedy, Public Works Administrator Mike Connors, Sustainability Coordinator Sharon Wright, Assistant City Attorney Michael Dema, Office Systems Specialist Cortney Phillips.

ABSENT: None

Committee Chair Rice opened the meeting and moved for approval of the Agenda. All were in favor of the motion. The minutes were not included with the agenda, and will be reviewed at the September 17, 2015 meeting.

In connection with the new business, Mayor Kriseman read a newly created Executive Order focusing on the Office of Sustainability. This Executive Order strives to enhance our Green initiatives Citywide; reducing our energy consumption, waste, and emissions. This Order also plans to protect green space and shade, conserve water, and grow a healthier City. Mayor Kriseman also thanked Chair Rice for her services in these efforts.

Councilmember Nurse highlighted comparisons between our city and Boulder, Colorado. Like Boulder, our City is comprised of approximately 35% rental properties, and the vast majority of these properties are poorly insulated and have inefficient toilets. He stated that St. Petersburg needs to find ways to incentivize energy efficiency changes to these rental properties. Boulder accomplishes this by instating minimum efficiency standards on rental housing. In the early stages, Boulder's power company would pay half of the cost to install R30 insulation in an attic, and Boulder would pay the other half. Councilmember Nurse expressed his wishes to use this Executive Order as a means to combine environment, economy, and equity in the future.

Chair Rice thanked the Mayor for signing the Executive order and providing an important precedent for leadership in sustainability for the City. She stated that sustainability is not a "stand alone" issue, and it relates to many other areas including housing, transportation, equity, and economic vitality.

Councilmember Nurse and Chair Rice both recalled the efforts made 10 years ago with becoming a Green City, and look forward to working toward becoming a STAR City, which will be an important leap in our commitment to sustainability.

In connection with the new business, Chair Rice introduced Sharon Wright, the new City of St. Petersburg Sustainability Coordinator. Ms. Wright gave an update on initiatives taken on by various departments throughout the City, as well as business partnerships and local schools. Many outside organizations such as the St. Petersburg Sustainability Council and the Chamber of Commerce have also showed interest in working with us to move forward as a community.

Ms. Wright gave a presentation on STAR Communities. STAR (Sustainability Tools for Assessing & Rating Communities) is a national certification program aimed at recognizing sustainable communities. STAR focuses on a comprehensive look at municipal governments to identify strengths and weaknesses

in their sustainability and resiliency practices. The areas STAR considers include art, health, equity, safety, and economy. To start on our goal of becoming STAR certified, we must subscribe and participate in STAR training. Data must be collected from a wide range of criteria so that we can self-assess our readiness to be verified by STAR. This is the longest portion of the process, as it requires extensive data collection and organization. This data is then submitted and verified by STAR, and then a STAR level will be awarded.

Ms. Wright applied for a STAR Communities scholarship and was awarded 60% of the Leadership Program fee. At \$4,500, there only remains \$3,000 to cover for the program. STAR requires that a membership be maintained, at a minimum of \$500 a year. While \$3,000 is a one-time fee, we must recertify every three years to maintain our certification. This estimates a total of \$7,500 every six-year cycle, or \$1,250 every year.

Councilmember Nurse questioned if the data-gathering phase of the certification process can also be used to put immediate improvements in place. Ms. Wright stated that the data-gathering itself will bring many facets of sustainability together in partnership, and new ideas will come forth. The new Executive Order will also go a long way in implementing direct changes to our community; such as green space and shade. Ms. Wright spoke to new initiatives being taken on by USFSP, partnered with the City, involving shared technology with lighting end energy. Mike Connors further expressed that the process of looking into our policies will garner more ideas for the future.

Chair Rice proposed that the committee look through STAR's website to find ideas on where we can get started for new projects, and bring these project ideas to the next ENRS meeting. Ms. Wright noted that one meeting may not be enough time to cover these projects, but that there are highlights she has already considered that she can bring forth to the next meeting.

Chair Rice and Mike Connors both spoke to STAR as being the most comprehensive program to rate our City against local governments across North America to achieve useful data and real results. While we have researched dozens of programs throughout the United States, STAR has the most holistic approach, and thus, is the program that was selected as our focus. Chair Rice added that ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) is another program we are looking to be a part of, but it deals more with green-house gasses and emissions as opposed to a full spectrum of sustainability.

General discussion took place on potential projects.

Councilmember Gerdes asked what direct benefits becoming a STAR certified community has. In example, the FEMA Community Rating System directly offers lower flood insurance rates with a better community rating. Mr. Connors remarked that although a STAR certification offers a great addition to our résumé as a green city and brings us unique opportunities in grant funding, it does not directly furnish benefits in the same manner as FEMA.

Councilmember Nurse noted that in speaking with leaders from certified cities, he found that STAR certifications have gone a long way as revenue generators for municipalities.

In connection with new business item referrals, Chair Rice asked if any members would like to add or discuss new items for the referral list. Councilmember Kornell was interested in discussing Great Bay Distributors, Lockheed Martin, and upcoming Penny for Pinellas projects. Councilmember Dudley requested that the committee look further into LED street lighting.

General discussion took place regarding the current status of LED street lighting within the City.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

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Land Development Regulations - Bicycle Parking Elements
DRAFT Summary of Proposed Changes for ENRS Committee Meeting 9/17/2015

Bicycle parking - Applicability

- Remove the administrative discretion to lower or waive the bicycle parking requirements
- Remove the note that the bicycle parking requirements only apply to new construction, therefore the standards shall also apply to the new use or portion of enlarged buildings or structures
- Exemptions
 - No bicycle parking required for less than 2,500 s.f. of floor area
 - Introduced a payment in lieu option for locations that cannot meet the minimums due to documented site constraints, with funds collected to be used specifically for adding public bike parking in the right-of-way
 - Payment in lieu option not allowed for new construction or if the site can physically accommodate the required bicycle parking

Minimum number of bicycle parking spaces required for various land uses

- Increase the requirements for long-term bike parking at multifamily residential to match the observed demand at existing buildings.
- Minor increases in the minimum parking requirements for several land uses
- Added a few land use categories including transit centers, medical centers, personal service, civic, and assembly (museums, theaters, etc.)

Development standards

- Short-term bicycle parking requirements: Mounted in the ground, outside
- Long-term bicycle parking requirements
 - Must be covered and secure with noted specifications
 - May be provided in lockers, or racks mounted in the ground, wall, or ceiling
 - May no longer be combined with short-term
- Standards for all bicycle parking.
 - Rack types must support frame in at least two places for stability and secure locking, without damaging bicycles
 - Added specifications for spacing between racks and clearance from any obstructions
 - Be reachable by an ADA accessible route

Add two more categories of Administrative Adjustment to reduce the motor vehicle parking minimum if bicycle parking or space for a bike share station are provided.

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**ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES & SUSTAINABILITY
PENDING / CONTINUING REFERRALS**

8-20-2015

TOPIC	DATE REFERRED	REFERRED BY	RETURN DATE	STAFF RESPONSIBLE	SPECIAL NOTES
SE Florida Climate Change – Regional Compact & 2012 Regional Climate Action Plan	2/13/15	Rice	TBD		Speaker or information – overview and recent updates?
Great Bay Distributors – Solar installation and federal tax credits	2/13/15	Kornell	TBD		1.5 MW Great Bay contact: Ron Petrini Solar Energy Mgmt: Scott McIntyre Contact to hear story from Great Bay and/or Solar Energy Mgmt?
Evaluation of the merits and budget considerations of utilizing 1) the STAR Community Rating System, and 2) ICLEI Membership	5/7/15	Rice	TBD	Sharon Wright	Research and summary in progress