

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

AGENDA

**Meeting of October 15, 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. September 17, 2015

D. New/Deferred Business

1. Office of Sustainability Update

**a. Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR Event at USFSP) -
Summary and Next Steps**

**b. Sea Level Rise: *What's Our Next Move?* convened by the Institute on Science
for Global Policy (ISGP) in partnership with the Institute for Strategic
Policy Solutions at St. Petersburg College –Summary and Next Steps**

c. STAR Communities

i. Summary of Washington D.C. Training

ii. Draft Action Plan (tentative)

iii. October 28 & 29 2-day charrette: overview and expectations

E. Continued Business

F. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Tentative Issues

1. October 15, 2015

G. New Business Item Referrals (attached)

1. Tree Canopy Road Program referred by Council Member Kennedy

H. Adjournment

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

10-15-2015

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? Share information from 9/23/15 iCAR event at USFSP for Oct 2015.
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	STAR complete; ICLEI pending
Tree Canopy Road Program with the potential of funding the program by directing revenue from the Tree Ordinance be used to cover the costs of planting, caring and inventory of the trees as well as tracking the program.	9/24/15	Kennedy	TBD	Sharon Wright	

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 17, 2015 @ 1:05 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Transportation Manager Cheryl Stacks, Sustainability Coordinator Sharon Wright, Mayor's Chief of Staff Kevin King, Assistant City Attorney Michael Dema, Office Systems Specialist Cortney Phillips.

ABSENT: None

Committee Chair Rice opened the meeting and roll call was taken. Councilmember Dudley moved for approval of the Agenda. All were in favor of the motion. Councilmember Nurse moved for approval of the June 11, 2015 and August 20, 2015 minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with the new business, Transportation Manager Cheryl Stacks gave a presentation regarding bicycle parking. The City currently has proposed Land Development Regulations (LDR) amendments relating to bicycle parking. In 2003, the City released a mission statement relating to bicycle and pedestrian programs:

“St. Petersburg will be a City with a balanced transportation system designed to move people safely and effectively. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities shall be designed, encouraged and celebrated as indicators of a healthy City.”

Increased bicycle and pedestrian traffic is extremely pertinent to the Mayor's recent Sustainability Executive Order, in that it promotes less energy consumption and a healthier community.

Currently, businesses can contact the Transportation Department and request for bike racks to be put on the public right of way. The City can provide two bike racks, as well as installation. Councilmember Kornell proposed a scenario in which the business sits further back from the street, and safe parking in the right of way is too far from the entrance. Ms. Stacks stated that Transportation will work with the business to find the optimal location for close, safe parking.

The proposed LDR changes include required short-term and long-term bicycle parking for both new business construction and change of use for a space. Short and long term bike parking will also be required over a certain threshold for businesses undergoing renovation. Code language will also specify rack types and dimensions.

The proposed changes to short-term bicycle parking include:

- Specify inverted-U racks (or comparable)
- Mounted in the ground
- Located outside
- Located at sidewalk grade or reached by an ADA accessible route.

The proposed changes to long-term bicycle parking include:

- Covered areas
- Secure
- May be provided in lockers or racks mounted in the ground, wall, or ceiling
- Be reached by an ADA accessible route
- May no longer be combined with short-term
- Permanent
- Designed to protect the bicycle from rainfall
- Cover is at least 7 feet above the ground

The proposed changes to minimums by land use include:

- Increase minimum for long-term multi-family residential.
- Added short-term minimums for dormitories, schools, and child care centers.
- Minor increases in the minimums for several other land uses to match contemporaries.
- Several added land use categories: Medical Center, Transit Terminal, Assembly, etc.

Chair Rice questioned if the Mayor's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee had been presented the changes. Ms. Stacks confirmed that the committee had seen the proposed LDR changes and that they were very supportive. Chair Rice also offered questions concerning the safety of bicycles in long-term parking in regards to theft. Ms. Stacks stated that visibility is a key concern when selecting a location, and sight-lines are an important theft deterrent, as well as proximity to the entrance of the business.

Councilmember Dudley had questions concerning Bike Share in regards to parking. Ms. Stacks answered that Bike Share parking will largely be within the right-of-way.

Councilmember Nurse inquired about bicycle registration initiatives. He also suggested brochures or cards to be placed widely in high-traffic bicycle areas. Ms. Stacks noted that registration is available online and in two local bike shops, but will consider the brochures as well. General discussion took place on possible ways to communicate bike security to the public.

Councilmember Dudley spoke to concerns regarding riding on sidewalks. Stacks addressed future development opportunities in the Downtown area for shared lanes and roadway changes to cyclists can feel more comfortable riding in the streets.

Ms. Stacks asked if the Committee would make a recommendation to the Development Review Commission to bring the proposed LDR changes to City Council for approval. Councilmember Dudley moved to recommend the proposal. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with the New Business, Sustainability Coordinator Sharon Wright gave an update on the STAR Communities Program. Sustainable Tools for Assessing & Rating Communities (STAR) is a community rating system to determine sustainable practices and promote social, economic, and environmental progress. St. Petersburg has been selected as one of two cities to participate in STAR's Quick Start Program, which allows us to achieve certification in a shorter timeline and allow for more prioritization and alignment of efforts post-certification. Councilmember Rice questioned if STAR's selection of St. Petersburg can be seen as their eagerness to participate with our City. Ms. Wright stated that they were interested that administrators from St. Petersburg were involved in the development of STAR, and encouraged by the Mayor's Executive Order for sustainability.

Councilmember Dudley had questions concerning whether STAR funding was at State or Federal level. Ms. Wright stated that in her research she found that the funding is sourced from Funder's Network, but that Funder's Network may obtain some of their funding at the State or Federal level. Part of our being accepted into the Quick Start Program grants us staffers from Global Green USA to come assist with a 2-day charrette in St. Petersburg from November 4-6, 2015. Councilmember Kornell pointed out that these dates conflict with Council's trip to National League of Cities. Date may be rescheduled.

Ms. Wright and Planner Cate Lee will travel to Washington D.C. for staff training. Upon their return, Ms. Wright will share her training and findings with Council for discussion.

Councilmember Nurse spoke to concerns regarding housing stock, and what might be done to improve that area of our economy. Ms. Wright shared that she can send this and any information Councilmembers might have for research to be done by STAR before the training in Washington D.C. Councilmember Nurse was also interested to know how we begin looking at all projects through "a lens of sustainability", and to choose options that will uphold in the long run. Ms. Wright finds that her charge in her position, and has many ideas to create a culture of sustainability for the city. Councilmember Nurse suggested life-cycle costs as an important factor to consider.

Chief of Staff Kevin King spoke to innovation being on its own path in line item review in the future, and that Ms. Wright will be a part of the process during budget negotiations to take sustainability into account.

Ms. Wright laid out a few challenges that we will see in the near future with becoming STAR certified, such as percentage of greenspace and wetlands, and poverty prevention and alleviation.

An update on the Chamber of Commerce's sustainability group has been added to the referral list.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.