

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

AGENDA

**Meeting of November 23, 2015
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.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. October 15, 2015

D. New/Deferred Business

1. Office of Sustainability Update

a. STAR Communities

i. Data collection in progress

ii. Community Involvement

iii. City Council Involvement

b. Misc. tasks and activities: recycling, green building, bike share, planning

2. Council Member Kennedy's Referral: Tree Canopy Road Program – preliminary information

a. Background

b. Current City activities/Overall Urban Tree Canopy/Shade Program

c. Potential steps and funding needs

3. ENRS Committee discussion/information needs related to BP and other funding for sustainability initiatives

E. Continued Business

F. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Tentative Issues

1. December 17, 2015; 1 p.m.

G. New Business Item Referrals (attached)

1. No new business referrals

H. Adjournment

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 15, 2015 @ 1:02 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant City Attorney Michael Dema, Sustainability Coordinator Sharon Wright, Assistant to the City Clerk Heather Worley.

ABSENT: None

Committee Chair Rice opened the meeting and roll call was taken. Councilmember Nurse requested an addition for discussing resiliency planning as mentioned in Mayor Kriseman's October 13, 2015 memorandum. Councilmember Kornell moved for approval of the Agenda as amended by Councilmember Nurse. All were in favor of the motion. Councilmember Nurse moved for approval of the September 17, 2015 minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with the New Business, Sustainability Coordinator Sharon Wright gave an update on sustainability events within the City.

- I. ICAR (Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience) held an event regarding climate change and sea-level rise. Highlights included discussion of potential for regional impact, analyzation of hazards and vulnerability. An important point of discussion regarded the cost of doing nothing compared to the upfront costs of sustainability.
- II. The Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP) event "Sea Level Rise: What's our Next Move?" held a debate concerning ice sheet melt and acceleration factors, and was attended by Councilmember Nurse, Sustainability Coordinator Sharon Wright, Connection Partners Principal Sharon Joy Kleitsch, Tampa Bay Watch President Peter Clark, Treasure Island Mayor Bob Minning, City of South Miami Mayor Philip Stoddard, resource agencies, county, and state leaders including Representative Darryl Rouson. The event also included presentations on policy issues regarding coastline and shore protection measures.

Councilmember Nurse spoke to the process of raising homes and buildings 1-2 feet as part of the CRS program and FEMA-related efforts. The City does not currently prohibit building based solely on elevation or floodplains, and there should be consideration over time for simply not allowing building at low elevations. This question must be discussed with the need to avoid takings while cutting back on services where streets may repeatedly flood and homes may be inaccessible.

Assistant City Attorney Michael Dema provided suggestions to promote property rights, and stressed the importance of phased approaches to minimize the burden on homeowners. Councilmembers Rice and Kornell emphasized solutions for the issue and focusing on positive outcomes while being realistic and avoidance of provoking fear. For example, the City is currently planning to use Weeki Wachee funds and other existing resources to create a park in a floodplain rather than develop the site.

Councilmember Nurse also suggested identifying a low area as a pilot area for adaptation. Pinellas County Economic Development Director Michael Meidel has previously stated that preparation and adaptation in Pinellas communities is a strong, positive message for economic development. Businesses will want to locate somewhere that has resiliency planning and other measures in place.

Councilmember Gerdes in attendance at 1:25 p.m.

In connection with the new business, Sustainability Coordinator Sharon Wright gave an update regarding STAR Communities. Ms. Wright attended Washington D.C. Training that included training in-person with STAR staff, other leadership communities, and mentor communities.

Councilmember Nurse inquired about whether the STAR Community index will overlap with an existing resiliency plan, or essentially *be* the resiliency plan. Sharon Wright responded that STAR index is an overall baseline for community sustainability; a climate action plan and/or resiliency plan would contribute to the number of points the City will get toward its STAR rating depending on how far along the plan(s) are; gaps identified through the STAR baselining process will be wrapped into new and existing plans because there is overlap.

Councilmember Kornell asserted that there are excellent agencies already in place where actions can begin immediately, and that we want to be cautious to not begin new plans, agencies, or efforts as a result of the STAR process. Ms. Wright responded that the City will accrue points by already having those agencies and partnerships in place.

Councilmember Nurse voiced questions regarding who is currently driving City energy efficiency retrofits programs. Ms. Wright responded that the program in the Mayor's Executive Order and other ongoing energy efficiency efforts within the City are currently being handled by the Mayor with support staff while the City continues to organize the sustainability and public works programs. Councilmember Nurse is also interested in what systems are used to prioritize, budget, and measure energy efficiency retrofits.

Councilmember Nurse requested that part of STAR Communities interactions include lessons from other cities and local entities such as Tampa Bay Water. Ms. Wright responded that there may not be enough time for such entities to be included in the October STAR Presentation, but that it would make sense to include the idea in the ongoing Action Plan for completing the STAR process.

Chair Rice emphasized that the STAR process will also involve the community, including groups like the St. Petersburg Sustainability Council, which is citizen led. Councilmember Dudley offered questions concerning our current place within the STAR Communities process, and where STAR is fitting in to the vision of sustainability as a whole in St. Petersburg. Ms. Wright explained that STAR is a tool helping us to document our progress in sustainability, and that we are approximately two weeks into a six-month process of determining where we are. The cost associated with the STAR Communities Program was previously estimated as \$1,250 a year for six years, including scholarship monies and staff time.

An item from Council Member Kennedy pertaining to a Tree Canopy Road Program has been added to the referral list.

A STAR Communities Presentation with sustainability stakeholders will be held in the afternoon of Day 2, Thursday, October 29 in Room 100 City Hall with all Council invited.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

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

11-23-2015

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	