

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

AGENDA

**Meeting of December 17, 2015
1 p.m. – 2 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. November 23, 2015**
- D. New/Deferred Business**
 - 1. Council Member Kennedy’s Referral: Tree Canopy Road Program – preliminary information**
 - a. Overview of St. Petersburg tree programs**
 - b. Overview of other programs**
 - c. Mayor Fischer’s Program**
 - d. Next steps**
 - 2. STAR Communities Update**
 - a. Action Plan**
 - b. Highlights from recent data collection**
 - 3. Look ahead: 2016 ENRS Committee Meetings/Workload**
 - a. What topics, actions, and projects will the committee focus on**
- E. Continued Business**
- F. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Tentative Issues**
 - 1. January 21, 2016; 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

November 23, 2015 @ 9:30 a.m.

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

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

ABSENT: Steve Kornell, and Bill Dudley

Chair Rice opened at 9:34 a.m. Councilmember Nurse moved for approval of the agenda, all were in favor of the motion. Councilmember Gerdes moved for approval of the minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting, all were in favor of the motion.

In connection with New Business, Chair Rice introduced Sustainability Coordinator Sharon Wright, who gave updates on STAR Communities progress and miscellaneous city and community sustainability program updates. Currently, STAR Communities data collection is underway. Community engagement includes metrics work with SPSC, Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Task Force, and an upcoming outreach meeting with CONA that will likely be held in January. Ms. Wright suggested reaching out to City Council and advisory boards on the diversity topic and policy as a starting point for engagement. Chair Rice recommended that Ms. Wright meet with City Council members one-on-one to discuss their personal topics of interest. Chair Rice has printed Technical Guides to distribute to all Councilmembers during the December 3, 2015 City Council meeting.

Chair Rice inquired regarding a timeline for data collection as well as actions or projects that may require additional resources and changes to the CIP would occur. Ms. Wright responded that an Action Plan for STAR certification was forthcoming and that the estimated timeframe for identifying key gaps to work on would be in the February/March 2016 timeframe. Councilmember Nurse mentioned the Boulder, CO program for energy efficiency in rental housing, and inquired about how quickly we could update energy audits and priorities for energy retrofit money. Chair Rice suggested that it is leadership's job to communicate updates of STAR activities before taking on too much work in committee.

Councilmember Gerdes voiced question regarding staff workload, and requested the committee be informed when bottlenecks and limits become an issue.

Sustainability Coordinator Wright provided the committee with updates regarding the forthcoming Bike Share program. Selection committee has ranked the consultants as such: CycleHop at #1 (unanimously), and Bicycle at #2. CycleHop has more potential for regional application with the ability to park bicycles anywhere, not just at docking stations. The selection committee noted that CycleHop had a local fit and feel to presentation. The next step is to enter into negotiations with the #1 ranked firm.

Councilmember Nurse voiced concerns regarding phasing and size if desired funding is not available, as well as option to amend downtown CRA as a potential funding source. Chair Rice mentioned need to review bike share through an equity lens. Ms. Wright responded that the ranked

firms have programs they currently use for members that do not have bank accounts or cannot afford the membership fees. Councilmember Gerdes questioned when City Council will be formally involved. Once negotiations are complete, City Council will be asked to approve the contract.

Ms. Wright gave a short update presentation regarding Green Building Projects, including Albert Whitted Airport, Fire Station #7, St. Petersburg Police Department, and the Pier District. Councilmember Nurse mentioned landscaping as a key sustainable design feature, and stated that the City needs to include lifecycle costs as part of designs.

Other updates included:

- Recycling: waste to landfill decreasing, recycling contamination rate is better than expected resulting in additional payment from processor to City.
- Marty Sorrentino, the City of St. Petersburg Duke Energy Liaison, is working on street light negotiations with Duke, as well as working with DOE and Better Buildings Programs and other lighting strategies for the City.

In connection with referrals, the Committee took up discussion on the Tree Canopy Program referred by Councilmember Kennedy. Background was an interest in seeing a Tree Canopy Road program that designates streets that meet established criteria, using Sarasota's program as an example. There may also be an interest to use tree removal permit funding for a program. Currently, tree removal permit dollars are deposited in the Environmental Preservation Fund that was started based on interest from the previous sale of a sod farm. The entire existing Environmental Preservation Fund is currently slated to purchase a Boyd Hill property, with 2016 projected revenue from tree removal permits at approximately \$28,000. Discussion included reviewing a Road Program as part of an overall urban canopy program. Chair Rice stated the need to have an inventory to carry forward any tree canopy goals.

Councilmember Nurse inquired what the City's tree canopy/cover goals are, and what the needs are for ongoing plantings to keep a status quo with removals. He also stressed the importance of early maintenance for tree plantings based on experience with neighborhood associations. Follow up items will include contacting a potential speaker about their Tree Canopy Road Program and to determine how Councilmember Kennedy's referral relates/coordinates with Mayor Fischer's efforts.

The next Energy, Natural Resources and Sustainability meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

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

12-17-2015

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? Reached out to SE contacts – no responses yet.
Great Bay Distributors – Solar installation and federal tax credits	2/13/15	Kornell	TBD	Sharon Wright	1.5 MW Great Bay contact: Ron Petrini Solar Energy Mgmt: Scott McIntyre Contacted Scott and he is looking to come in January and bring a business owner.
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	Research and evaluation in progress.