

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

AGENDA

**Meeting of May 19, 2016
1 p.m. – 2 p.m. – City Hall Room 100**

Members & Alternate: Chair, Darden Rice; Vice- Chair Karl Nurse;
Steve Kornell, Ed Montanari, Lisa Wheeler Brown (Alternate)

Support Staff: Sharon Wright

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes (attached)

1. April 21, 2016

D. New/Deferred Business

1. Office of Sustainability Updates

a. Urban forestry/tree planting

i. CBC formal response to City Council related to “Road” Canopy Program (attached)

1. Review of January formal letter of support for city-wide canopy program (attached)

ii. Resolution for \$500,000 BP Settlement Update – Vote May 19 City Council

b. Energy efficiency retrofits/program scope initiation

c. PACE – progress report

d. Environmental Purchasing Policy – progress report

e. STAR Communities – progress report

E. Continued Business

F. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Tentative Issues

1. June 16, 2016; 1 p.m.

G. New Business Item Referrals (attached)

H. Adjournment

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 21, 2016

PRESENT: Committee Chair Darden Rice; Vice-Chair Karl Nurse; Steve Kornell; Ed Montanari; Lisa Wheeler-Brown (Alternate)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Rick Kriseman; Deputy Mayor Kanika Tomalin; Council Chair Amy Foster; Councilmember Charles Gerdes; Councilmember James R. Kennedy, Jr.; Assistant City Attorney Michael Dema; Sustainability Coordinator Sharon Wright and Office Systems Specialist Paul Traci

ABSENT: None.

Committee Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with the following members present: Steve Kornell, Ed Montanari, Karl Nurse, Lisa Wheeler-Brown and Darden Rice. Chair Rice moved for approval of the agenda. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with new business, Gil Penalosa, Founder and Chair of the Board of the internationally recognized non-profit organization 8-80 Cities, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee regarding the potential design and use of St. Petersburg city streets for sustainable mobility and recreation.

Mr. Penalosa's presentation included examples of successful projects completed by 8-80 Cities. One of these projects included creating over 800 parks in Bogotá, Columbia. Linear parks were included in the design of the parks to connect the rich and poor areas of Bogotá. The parks created 174 miles of protected bikeway networks in three years.

Opening streets to pedestrians and cyclists and closing them for cars on a weekly basis is presented as a way for people of all ages to participate in outdoor activities. Social integration is a positive outcome of closing the streets for pedestrians and cyclists. The reason given for this idea is that we meet each other as equals when we come together in the streets. Mr. Penalosa discusses that we must stop constructing parks as if everyone was thirty years old and athletic.

Adapting and improving upon ideas from other cities is presented as a way to improve St. Petersburg city parks. The idea that there is a perfect storm is given, which combines traffic congestion, climate change, public health crisis, economic crisis, population growth, and living longer. It is important to begin building parks and creating sustainability programs as soon as possible in order to alleviate these issues. Streets are mentioned as being the biggest public space in a city that can be utilized for physical activity and social integration.

Mr. Penalosa discussed how equity and public health are often overlooked in city planning. It is reported that 22% of urban children in the United States live in poverty. Parks are deemed critical for children as they help create and sustain muscle strength, coordination, language skills, and cognitive thinking. Parks are also instrumental in building friendships among children. It is

recommended that every child have a park or play area within one-quarter of a mile by 2020. Playing in green spaces as compared to hard landscapes reduced the severity of ADHD in children.

Chair Rice called for approval of the minutes from March 17, 2016. All were in favor of the motion. Discussion of the tree planting program was deferred to a future meeting.

In connection with new business, Sharon Wright presented the STAR Communities update. Data collection is reported to be in progress. The St. Petersburg STAR Communities Chapter have been invited to perform a mid-year review by STAR Communities National. STAR Communities National will help to make sure that St. Petersburg's Chapter is on the right track as it pertains to the documentation of data. Urban forestry and green fleets programs have been examined and researched for benefits and potential implementation.

The tree canopy road program was discussed. City Council can expect a letter from the City Beautiful Commission Review which will include recommendations to preserve canopy trees, encourage tree planting and street beautification without the need of a formal tree canopy road program. A summary of the BP Settlement funds was given to Committee members. This summary outlined the use of \$500,000 for the establishment and implementation of a city-wide tree planting program.

There being no further business, Chair Rice adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

The next ENRS meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.



CITY BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION
City of St. Petersburg

May 2, 2016

The Honorable Amy Foster, Chair
St. Petersburg City Council
P.O. Box 2842
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-2842

RE: Proposed St. Petersburg Tree Canopy Program

Dear Chair Foster,

The City Beautiful Commission was tasked with reviewing the Sarasota Canopy Road Program and making a recommendation if a similar program can be implemented in St. Petersburg. Commission members called surrounding cities and counties asking if they have a canopy road program and if so, what the guidelines are. The results are listed in the Canopy Road Program Research report that is attached.

The Commission reviewed the programs that are in existence and/or proposed and reviewed the programs' objectives, what protections the programs provide, and how they are implemented. In reviewing these areas, some concerns that came forward are listed below. Additional questions that were discussed by the Commission is attached.

1. If the objective is to enhance tree canopy in the city, this could be established better with a planting program. If the objective is saving large trees because they provide a canopy, protection should be made thru the tree ordinance, instead of a tree canopy program since many of these trees are located on streets that would not qualify as Canopy Street.
2. Since St. Petersburg is already built out, the canopy roads would need to be nominated. Who would review these nominations, and who is allowed to apply for the designation?
3. Would all homeowners on the nominated canopy street have to agree upon the designation? The protection of the trees and additional requirements that may be associated with the program may cause concern for some homeowners who have issues maintaining their property without the additional regulations.
4. It seems the work would require multiple staff members in multiple departments to properly implement and manage this program. Does the city have the staff to do this, or can the objectives still be met in another aspect without using so much man power?

After much discussion at the March 14, 2016 City Beautiful Commission meeting, the Commission felt that the objectives to preserve canopy trees and encourage tree planting and street beautification could be achieved **without** a formal program. A motion was passed declaring that the City Beautiful Commission, at this point in time and with the information provided, cannot

support a canopy tree program; however, the Commission recommends continuing with enhancing the existing tree ordinance and encourages residential tree planting to increase the canopy throughout the city and in neighborhood entrance ways similar to the City of Tampa's beautifying gateways and neighborhoods and free tree program.

Regards,



Natalie Oliver, Chair

cc: Sherry McBee, Leisure Services Administrator
/ Mike Jefferis, Parks and Recreation Director
Phil Whitehouse, Parks and Field Operations Superintendent
Linda Seufert, Park Operations Manager



CITY BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION
City of St. Petersburg

January 11, 2016

The Honorable Amy Foster, Chair
St. Petersburg City Council
P.O. Box 2842
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-2842

RE: St. Petersburg Tree Canopy Initiative

Dear Chair Foster,

As you are aware, the City Beautiful Commission's mission is *to enhance and safeguard the beauty of our natural resources and city landscapes, thereby enriching the quality of life in our community*. One of the duties to aid in achieving this mission is to assist with the formulation and implementation of City statutes and ordinances concerning property maintenance, beautification standards, signage, and natural resources.

At the City Beautiful Commission meeting on November 9, 2015, a motion was passed in support of the City's Tree Canopy Initiative utilizing the Tree Ordinance to ensure tree diversity and planting in accordance with right tree/right place. The Commission understands that the urban forest plays a significant role in maintaining the health and vitality of urban life and trees are a value to the community economically, socially, and environmentally. The City Beautiful Commission is looking forward to the implementation of the Tree Canopy Initiative.

Regards,

Natalie Oliver, Chair

cc: Sherry McBee, Leisure Services Administrator
Michael Jefferis, Parks and Recreation Director
Phil Whitehouse, Parks and Field Operations Superintendent
✓ Linda Seufert, Park Operations Manager

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

5-19-2016

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 forward to the next presentation opportunity.
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	3/17/2016 4/21/2016 5/19/2016	Sharon Wright	City Beautiful Commission (CBC) provided formal feedback recommending that we not move forward at this time with a Tree Canopy <u>Road</u> Program. CBC recommended we continue with the broader city-wide tree canopy program to meet the city's canopy goals.
Police Vehicles/Fleet & Sustainability Initiatives	1/20/2016	Nurse	TBD	Traffic Lieutenant Edward Borrelli & Sharon Wright	Police Department is planning an upcoming presentation as part of a workshop – details pending.

City-wide Green Fleets Initiative & Ordinance or Policy	4/7/2016	Rice	TBD	Sharon Wright & Joe Krizen	Preliminary discussion to date while working with Police purchase.
Change city purchasing policy to require the use of renewable/recyclable products at city facilities and events.	3/17/2016	Nurse	TBD	Sharon Wright & Louis Moore	First revisions under review by Green Team