

Sustainability
Committee
Update to BOC
March 14, 2023





Introduction

- Committee Members include:
 - Denise Mannino, Chair
 - Dory Larsen, Vice Chair
 - Karen Gallagher
 - Taylor Mandalou
 - Dr. Carol Mickett
 - Robin Saenger
 - Jennifer Bracey
- Staff Liaison: Robin Rives, Sustainability Coordinator
- The Committee has met monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 6:00 pm

Background on the Sustainability Committee

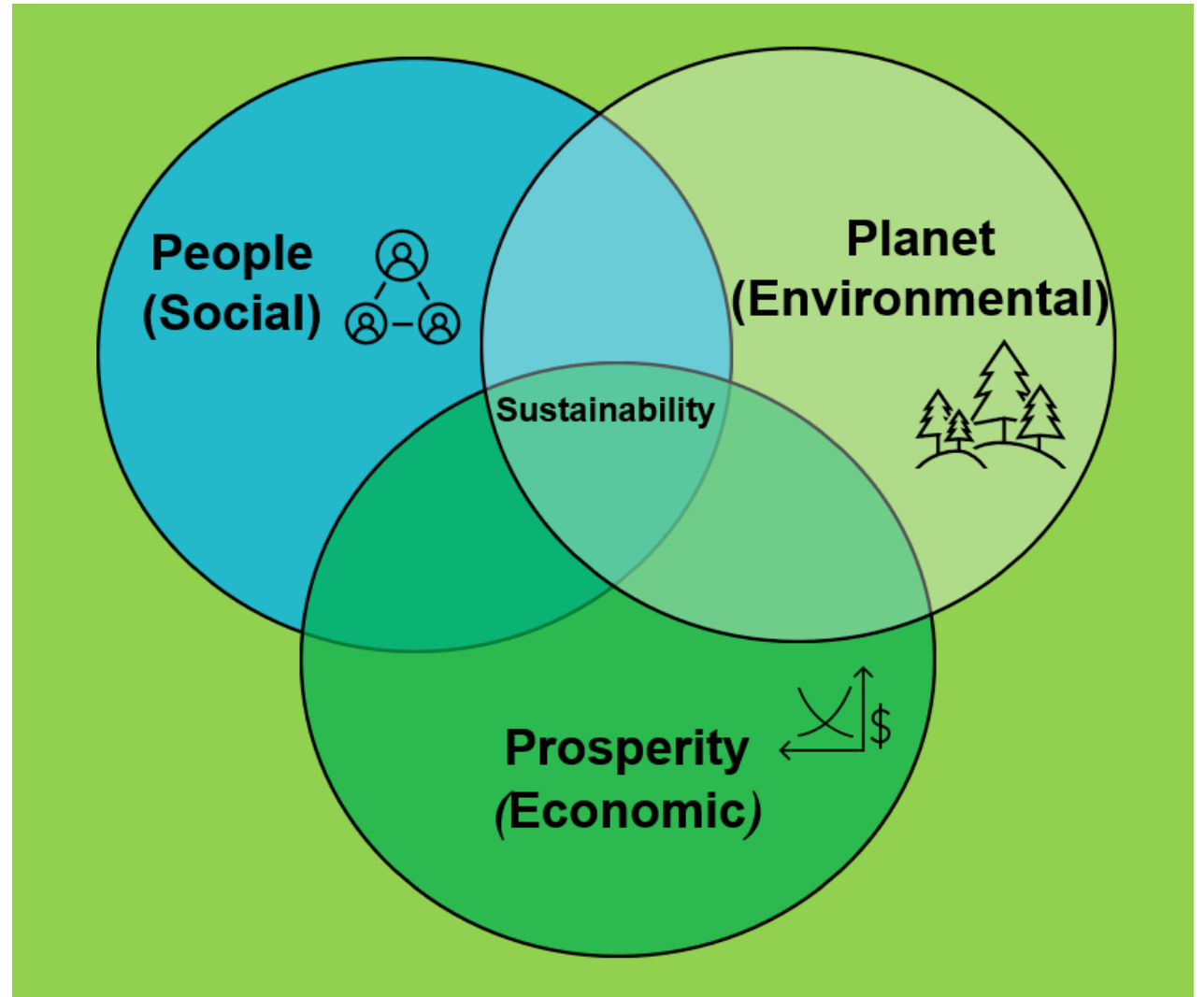
- The Sustainability Committee was established by the Board of Commissioners on May 28, 2019 through Resolution No. 2019-15.
- With broad community support, the City signed a Memorandum of Understanding to join the TBRPC Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition in 2018, which encouraged greater community involvement in resiliency efforts within the City.
- The Committee was tasked with the following: creating a city-wide sustainability plan, to advise and make recommendations to the City Commission that advance the intent of Resolution No. 2019-15, and to explore topics which relate to sustainability and resiliency, considering the Board's priorities.

Background on the Sustainability Committee

- The Committee suggested that the City prioritize hiring a Sustainability Coordinator in our May 2021 presentation to the BOC.
- Sustainability Coordinator Robin Rives was hired in December 2021 and is the staff liaison for the Sustainability Committee.
- Having a full-time sustainability staff member has enabled the Committee to work more productively and has allowed the City to move forward in a timely manner with a wide array of sustainability initiatives including:
 - Vulnerability Assessment & Action Plan,
 - Sustainability Plan,
 - Community engagement, etc.
- Having a full-time sustainability staff member has also allowed the City to qualify for grant programs through the Resilient Florida program with \$191,167 received to date

Sustainability Plan

- Determined a custom framework for the Sustainability Plan
- The Committee selected 50 priority actions for inclusion in the Sustainability Plan, with staff guidance
- The City Sustainability Staff Team reviewed the proposed Sustainability Plan actions list
- The Committee approved the outline for the Sustainability Plan
- Many of the proposed actions will relate to goals outlined in the City's Strategic Plan
- The plan is anticipated to be complete in August 2023



Community Engagement

- The Committee has engaged the public in the past year via:
 - Survey
 - Public Workshops
 - Videos
 - Public meetings (televised)
 - Connect Tarpon
- The input gathered through the public workshops and survey was utilized in the development of the Sustainability Plan actions list
- Goal: Proceed in 2023 with a sustainability communications plan, utilizing multiple media to spread awareness and engage with the community on sustainability topics

PLAN OF ACTION

AREA	GOAL	WHY
Sustainability Communications	Actively involve the Sustainability Committee in the creation of materials for public engagement. Create a plan and schedule for sustainability communications for 2023 to guide the City's efforts and provide a reference for the Committee to help guide their engagement with sustainability communications.	The Committee would like to prioritize planning for community engagement and public outreach in 2023.

ACTION STEPS	DATE	METHOD & METRICS
Major update of the City Sustainability website.	March 2023	The Committee will help to determine the content of the City's triannual sustainability newsletter (published 3 times per year). Two months prior to each deadline, the Committee will begin discussing the content for the upcoming publication.
Facebook posts for Knowledge & Nibbles events and Earth Day event.	February- May 2023	
Create a 1-3 page tri-annually published sustainability newsletter on Connect Tarpon.	June 2023	The 1-3 page newsletter can highlight the City's events, initiatives, progress, Sustainability Committee meetings, website, green businesses and organizations in the community, etc.
Facebook post to advertise new sustainability newsletter.	June 2023	
Next triannual sustainability newsletter published on Connect Tarpon.	October 2023	The City will track engagement with the newsletter and will insert metrics including polls on the Connect Tarpon page to gauge interest. The Committee will set an engagement goal for the year (i.e. average of 50 views per newsletter).
Facebook post to advertise new sustainability newsletter.	October 2023	
Next triannual sustainability newsletter published on Connect Tarpon.	February 2024	The City will track engagement with the Sustainability website and Facebook posts relating to sustainability.
Facebook post to advertise new sustainability newsletter.	February 2024	
Major update of the City Sustainability website.	September 2024	The City and Sustainability Committee will utilize this document as a tentative schedule and guide for online sustainability communications for 2023, while prioritizing the pre-existing timeline for the Sustainability Plan.

Recent Work Completed: Supporting City Initiatives



Adopted a logo for the City's sustainability program

Adopted Rules of Procedure for the Committee

Provided suggestions for ARPA project funding

Reviewed the City's 2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory
Technical Report

Provided input on the Whitcomb Bayou project

Gave input on sustainability budget planning

Participated in two Comprehensive Plan workshops

Recent Work Completed: Outreach and Engagement

Supported the Florida SUN 2022 Pinellas Solar Co-op

Supported the City's participation in the Reduce Your Use campaign

Newspaper article in the Beacon

Engaged with City staff from Economic Development, Planning & Zoning, and Public Services

Engaged with local sustainability departments including the City of Dunedin



Let's go solar together

Join the Pinellas 2022 Solar Co-op

Why join a Solar Co-op?



Expert help
Get unbiased support



Save money
Get a group rate on your solar



Community
Go solar with 50-100 people



Nonprofit
We're not a sales company



Free to join
No commitment to go solar

Join us to learn more!

October 19 @ 6 pm Zoom

October 24 @ 5:30 pm
Clearwater Countryside Library

November 15 @ 6 pm Zoom

December 5 @ 6 pm Zoom

RSVP: bit.ly/FLSUNQ4info



solarunitedneighbors.org/pinellas

Recommendations to the Board of Commissioners

1. Initiate sustainability communications plan utilizing accessible and popular media to foster community engagement with sustainability topics
2. Sustainability Committee will review the draft Comprehensive Plan and provide sustainability recommendations to Planning and Zoning staff
3. Sustainability Committee will review the draft Sustainability Plan prepared by staff and make recommendations to staff
4. Staff will present the draft Sustainability Plan to the BOC for feedback.
 - a) How would the BOC prefer for this to take place (workshop or presentation for instance)?
 - b) Committee requests that the BOC provide feedback on priority items relating to the Sustainability Committee
5. After adoption of the Sustainability Plan, the Committee will make recommendations to the BOC to support implementation

