



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA
324 EAST PINE STREET
2ND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025
AT 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. August 2025 Meeting Minutes for Approval

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

1. FY 2026 Implementation Actions in the Sustainability Plan
2. Selection of New Committee Chairperson
3. New Appointees and Schedule for 4th Quarter Meetings

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

STAFF COMMENTS

1. EcoFest summary
2. International Day of Peace and Peace Pole Dedication
3. Storm Drain Mural Program Status

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting is open to the public. Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The City of Tarpon Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for access for the disabled. Anyone needing assistance regarding this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (727) 938-3711, fax a written request to (727) 942-5619, or email a written request to cityclerk@ctsfl.us at least two days prior to the meeting. For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at (727) 937-0017 or TarponCode@tspd.us

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
AUGUST 21, 2025

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MET IN THE CITY HALL MEDIA ROOM, 324 E. PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| DENISE MANNINO | CHAIRPERSON |
| DR. CAROL MICKETT | MEMBER |
| SIOBHAN NEHIN | MEMBER |

STAFF PRESENT: HOLLY LANGSTON SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| GUESTS | CRAWFORD FAMILY | OAK HILL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST |
| | ROBIN SAENGER | PEACE4TARPON |

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Denise Mannino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Langston called roll.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2025 MINUTES:

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| MOTION: | DR. CAROL MICKETT |
| SECOND: | SIOBHAN NEHIN |

To approve the minutes of July 2025 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments- all comments held for the discussion section of the meeting.

DISCUSSION

1. Union Academy Neighborhood Concern/Request – The Crawford Family & community members

Reverend Crawford, the leader of the Oak Hill Church of God in Christ Church located on Mango Circle, came to the podium to share issues his congregation is facing. The church has been in existence for over 40 years, and they are looking for advocates. They have a tremendous need for help – there is some hurricane damage as well

Sustainability Advisory Committee

as simply aging issues within the facilities; there is a need for new A/C, bathrooms to be made ADA complaint, a new roof, and parking lot maintenance. The family is seeking any ideas for grants or other funding ideas. Ms. Langston provided Reverend Crawford with the contact for Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF, which is a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution). The SELF contact is Gulf Coast Manager Richard Montoya. Ms. Nehin mentioned the sale proceeds from the Church on the Bayou are possibly being given to community organizations including other churches. The contact information for the church Elder from Church on the Bayou was provided. Staff stated that unfortunately the City doesn't have any funding for this type of assistance, but staff will investigate other community funding resources and be sure to pass on anything that may be helpful. The contact for Reverend Crawford is (727) 269-1107.

Zeb Atkinson also spoke from the Union Academy Neighborhood and announced the "Future of Tarpon Springs" event that will take place on November 1 at the Union Academy Center. He also brought up the idea of having solar infrastructure such as the community in Manatee County that was very storm resilient. (Babcock Ranch)

2. International Day of Peace and Peace Pole Celebration- Robin Saenger

Ms. Saenger was pleased to announce that Tarpon Springs will be celebrating the International Day of Peace with the installation of the City's first Peace Pole near the kayak launch in the open field area adjacent to the Splash Park. The Peace Pole will have "May Peace Prevail on Earth" inscribed on it in eight different languages. There will also be two benches donated by a local company. The Peace Pole has been a collaborative effort between the Tarpon Springs Rotary Club, the City of Tarpon Springs Parks & Recreation Board as well as City Recreation staff. This effort will culminate in a celebration on Sunday, September 21 at 4:00 PM.

3. A Pathway to Preservation- Robin Saenger

Ms. Saenger updated the Committee on an ongoing effort to explore ways to preserve land that is not going to be suitable for development in the future due to sea level rise. Several months ago, Ms. Saenger took Mr. Kiger (Public Services Director) and Ms. Vincent (Planning Director) on a field trip to Aripeka to meet with Leslie Neumann about the successful land conservation efforts that she has been involved with/led in Pasco & Hernando Counties. Ms. Saenger then met with Ms. Vincent to discuss the types of property that would be desirable to preserve and met with the City Manager and Mayor on this topic. She has also spoken with the West Klosterman Preserve Board and will attend their next meeting to hear what efforts they are turning attention to now that the Preserve has been saved. The discussion is how this Committee can begin to move this issue forward, continuing discussion, etc. Ms. Saenger will not lead but she has made the connections and paved the way to create an opportunity for nature to flourish if more pieces of land are preserved and connected.

ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- FY 2026 upcoming Sustainability Plan Actions/ Plan orientation for new Committee Members
- Discussion on the Pathway to Preservation topic presented by Robin Saenger
 - o Invite representatives of West Klosterman Preserve Board or Renea Vincent (Planning Director)
 - o Robin will attend the next WKP Board meeting
 - o Identify lands that would be a preservation priority- who would do this? Ultimately any directives/decisions on spending money to purchase property happen at the BOC level and there are many factors; could there be a way to direct some of the Anclote Harbors money to such uses?
- Coyotes in the City- what are the regulations – FWC representative or turn this into a larger City discussion regarding how to live with wildlife since people build in their habitats

STAFF COMMENTS

- Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF) update - Resolution was signed on July 22 supporting the mission of SELF as a nonprofit lender primarily to low- and moderate-income homeowners; the Resolution supports the promotion and sharing of this resource to all residents of Tarpon Springs
- Building Energy Audits completing the week of 8/25 – through Duke Energy
- EcoFest coming up on September 13 from 10 AM -1PM at the Splash Park/Dog Park on Live Oak Street

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Dr. Mickett experienced the gift of watching a baby sea turtle make its way into the ocean on the East Coast of FL- Cocoa Beach. Ms. Nehin enjoyed some cooler weather in Vermont recently. Chair Mannino expressed the desire for rain and shared a beautiful poem to close the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND: SIOBHAN NEHIN

To adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

DENISE MANNINO
CHAIRPERSON

HOLLY LANGSTON
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's office for the required retention period.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE ACTIONS BEGINNING FY 2026

HOLLY LANGSTON


SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025



2026-2029/2032

IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME

| Action Number | Action | Action Category | Estimated Costs | | Timeframe | Strategic Plan | |
|---------------|--|---|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|---|----------------------------------|
| | | | Cost Estimate | Potential Funding Source | | Aligns with Strategic Plan Goals? | Project Implementation Timeframe |
| 12 | Funding strategy to acquire, create and maintain parklands |  | \$ | O&M, Grant, Capital | SHORT | | 2026 - 2029 |
| 8 | Financing strategies to acquire land or easements |  | \$ | O&M, Grant, Capital | SHORT | | 2026 - 2029 |
| 21 | Retrofits and upgrades to local government buildings |  | \$\$\$ | O&M, Grant, Capital | MEDIUM |  | 2026 - 2032 |
| 19 | GHG inventory at least every 5 years |  | \$ | O&M | SHORT | | 2026 - 2029 |
| 22 | Solid waste recycling rate to a goal of 40% or greater |  | \$\$ | O&M | MEDIUM | | 2026 - 2032 |
| 24 | Education and outreach |  | \$ | O&M | SHORT | | 2026 - 2029 |
| 28 | Create green infrastructure plan |  | \$\$\$ | O&M, Grant | SHORT |  | 2026 - 2029 |
| 33 | Create sustainable procurement policy |  | \$ | O&M | SHORT | | 2026 - 2029 |

ACTION 12: FUNDING STRATEGY TO ACQUIRE, CREATE, MAINTAIN PARKLANDS

ACTION 8: FINANCING STRATEGIES TO ACQUIRE LAND OR EASEMENTS

FY 2026 – The City is slated to begin the process of creating a Parks & Open Space Master Plan

The Plan should incorporate:

- Policies and Financing strategies re: land acquisition & easements (Action 8)
- Park and/or Open Space Master Plan (Action 11)
- Connectivity to Wildlife Corridors/land preservation (Action 7)
- Green infrastructure components (Action 28)

Departments: Planning, Park & Recreation, Recreation, Streets & Stormwater, Sustainability, Floodplain Manager

ACTION 21: RETROFITS AND UPGRADES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Upgrades to local government buildings and infrastructure that will increase energy and water efficiency.

- Awaiting reports from the Duke Energy Facility Audits from 2025
 - Subsequent planning will be made for achievable lighting and systems upgrades
- Procuring energy management software for City facilities
 - will track water and energy consumption
- MEDIUM implementation timeframe (2026-2032)

Departments: Sustainability, Public Works, utilities, other departments as applicable

ACTION 19: GHG INVENTORY EVERY 5 YEARS

Establish timeline and procure professional services to assist

Department: Sustainability with support from other departments as needed

ACTION 22: SOLID WASTE RECYCLING RATE TO A GOAL OF 40% OR GREATER

Collaborate extensively with Solid Waste Division

- Establish and execute steps to achieve this goal
- Coordinates with Action 24 (next): Education and outreach
- MEDIUM Implementation Timeline (2026- 2032)

Departments: Solid Waste, Sustainability

ACTION 24: EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Engage residents, businesses, local organizations, and City staff in topics related to GHG reduction, energy and water efficiency, and waste reduction strategies

Could include:

- School presentations, presentations to community groups and schools,
- Resume Knowledge & Nibbles (applicable topics such as waste reduction & recycling tips, as well as Native gardening for outdoor water conservation)

Departments: Sustainability, Solid Waste, Utilities, and other departments as applicable

ACTION 28: CREATE A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN


Integrate green infrastructure as a core goal of the City's Infrastructure Master Plan.

Departments: Streets & Stormwater, Sustainability, other departments as applicable

ACTION 33: CREATE A SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY

Policy to encourage the use of safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible products in City purchases.

Department: Procurement, Sustainability, other departments as applicable



**Thank you for sharing your
knowledge, ideas, and time!
There is much work ahead on
the path to implementing our
Sustainability Plan Actions!**



International Day of Peace

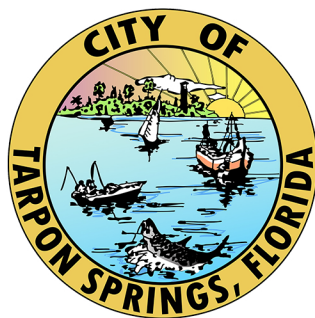
Sunday, September 21, 2025

Join us as we
dedicate our first
Peace Pole!

Presentation begins at 4pm.

508 Live Oak Street
Between the Splash Park and the Anclote River

May Peace Prevail on Earth
Ειρήνη να επικρατήσει στην Γη



Rotary Club of
Tarpon Springs

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

