

Board Members/ Jeff Shrum;

As the Environmental Advisory Board it essential that at our June 26th meeting with Planning Director Jeff Shrum we are prepared not only to have a full discussion on Elements - Open Space but we have a dialogue on our role in annexed land development and restoring and rehabilitation of buildings within established sections of the city.

Under the Comprehensive Plan there are elements regarding the communities vision concerning preserving quality of life by keeping Venice Beautiful and Eco-Friendly through proper planning. Such guidance is essential for a interconnected framework addressing the types of development, neighborhood characteristics, residential and non-residential with environmental components. A common vision that supports the quality of life, lowers adverse environmental impacts, and improves infrastructure and public service to expansion projects is essential. The greatest future impact is the expansion of city borders and the upgrade and rehabilitation of existing sections.

Initially the environmental movement began addressing global issues concerning climate change. Recently the approach while thinking globally have moved more in the direction of acting locally. Recent studies have shown that 39% of CO2 emissions in the U.S. come from the use of fossil fuels to provide energy for heating, cooling and lighting of commercial and residential building. Commercial and residential buildings account for more than 70% of electricity use in the U.S. More and more counties in cooperation with cities are looking into such concepts such as smart growth. The city of Sarasota has a full time Sustainability officer developing procedural language on environmental impact. These Sustainability programs through the building sector strive to address the environmental issue by reducing the level of consumption by residential and commercial buildings. Such programs as Green Building Council and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) have been created to improve the bottom line on energy consumptions through incorporating more efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, state of the art lighting and optimizing solar energy

1.. Should our LDR's have GBC or LEED language in more of voluntary non regulatory program such as in the Florida department of Environment: "Encourage all aspects of the building community to acknowledge as their obligations and responsibility to create the design, construction and efficient use of residential, commercial and government projects the use of green stands for a balanced social, economic and environmental life now and in the future."

2. Should we formulate a specific concept of Sustainability for the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations? As to specific regulatory language our discussion points may include but limited to:

Residential

Require green building standards for minimum of 40% of the development for increased density

Require sidewalks with shade

Require diversity of landscaping within Florida Friendly Program

Require Florida Water Star program for irrigations systems

Require permeable and porous material for driveways walkways and streets

Provide incentives for developers to provide Energy Star appliances

Commercial

Require GBD, LEED standards for building of over 50,000 sq.

Require 50% of remodeling or demolition to be recycled

Encourage grass swales over curb and gutter when practical

Eliminate storm water fees to commercial building that utilize green roofs and

or rain gardens

Require the use of permeable and porous material for parking lots

Encourage the use of solar

Encourage the use of sky lights and other natural lighting

Government

Require every five years a energy audit on all facilities and analysis for solar

Require all buildings to meet LEED or FGBC standards

Convert all traffic control devices to LEED lightening

Evaluate every three years evaluate electric vehicles along with charging stations

3. Should there be both language that encourage voluntary involvement while providing incentives for specific minimum requirements.

Numerous communities within Florida have joined the Florida Green Building Coalition seeking to provide statewide green building programs with environmental, economic and social benefits. These standards apply for all construction, land development projects and management and operations of future and existing buildings. As the environmental advisory board for Venice seeking to make a difference in the future of our community we must consider language creating a greener and more sustainable process.

Respectfully

Ronald Courtney