

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Agenda
New Port Richey – Public Library
Thursday – February 6, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.





ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

City of New Port Richey

The Environmental Committee of the City of New Port Richey develops and endorses environmental events in the City, renders annual and special reports as members may deem advisable, and explores new environmental initiatives for the City. The ECCNPR was established in 1989 and recreated in 2011.

Meeting Agenda

New Port Richey Public Library

Thursday – February 6, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

ANY PERSON DESIRING TO APPEAL ANY DECISION, WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ANY MEETING OR HEARING, WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. THE LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE TRANSCRIBED VERBATIM MINUTES; THEREFORE, THE APPLICANT MUST MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH A PRIVATE REPORTER (OR PRIVATE REPORTING FIRM) AND BEAR THE RESULTING EXPENSE. (F.S.286.0105)

Welcome

Roll Call:

Dell DeChant, Committee Chair; Rose Mohr, Vice Chair; Amber Blais, Secretary; member; Tom O’Neill, member; Margaret Carswell, member
City Staff Liaison, Colin Eichenmuller
Library Community Engagement Director (Tori Ladd)
City Marketing Specialist (Jesse Brock)
Volunteer Coordinator, Sasha Bartenuk
Monarch Festival Chair: (Deb Morris)

Guests: Amanda Zborek (expected)

Vox Pop (3 minutes for members of the audience – on items not on the agenda)

Approval of “Summary of Actions & Discussion” in lieu of Minutes January 9, 2025 (abundant thanks to Amanda Zborek for recording actions and discussions)

Liaison Officer (A) Advice on EC agenda, and (B) CC items: A) Advice from City Liaison is requested on all items before committee and (B) items on City Council agenda relevant to Environmental Committee (open)

Business of Committee I – On-going Projects and Events

Urban Agriculture Program (Rose Mohr)

Update on inclusion of City Property in Urban Agriculture Ordinance (All)

- Follow up from CC meetings

Wildflower Installation Initiative (All)

- Follow up from CC meetings

Library Seed Lending Program (Amber)

- Update on Hudson HS Ag Teacher and engagement with the committee's projects.

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Colin)

- Report on removal of designated trees and installation of 4 new trees: 2 Barbados Cherry, others (?)

Business of Committee II - New Projects and Topics (and projects of limited duration, including annual events)

Review of City's urban reforestation program (Dell, Sasha, Colin)

*** Review date for tree walk.**

Tentative date of April 12, to be reviewed and confirmed

Consider doing walk in context of Earth Day events planned by Tori Ladd

*** New Tree list: Comments on list**

Colin asked to bring new list

Discussion of City's Acquisition of old Schwettman/Gulf High School Property and Building

- * Update (if any) from Colin or committee members.

Annual Report and Recommendations (All)

- Final report and update from committee members on meeting with City Council members on the Wildflower Ordinance.
- Members will report on the outcome of their meetings with each City Council member and whether the CC member has committed to requesting inclusion of the Wildflower Ordinance on a CC agenda.

Update on Impact of Hurricane Helene & Milton

Review of proposed revision of proposal to not allow *increase in density West of US Hwy 19*.

Language approved at last meeting:

Proposal to CC "*not consider any increase in density West of US Hwy 19 and maintain strict adherence to current zoning classification.*"

Chair recommends approval of revised language for the proposal:

In light of continuing environmental challenges (sea-level, more powerful hurricanes, increased flooding, and intensification of rain events) and the significant threat these challenges pose to sustained habitation in low-lying, flood-prone areas west of US Highway 19 the Environmental Committee proposes the City Council Consider not allowing any increase in density West of US Hwy 19 and maintain strict adherence to current zoning classification.

Fluoride Report (Margaret and Colin)

- Update from Colin on his research

Proposal Allowing Non-residents on Committee (Dell)

- No action reported on proposal to City Council on proposal submitted in December

Discussion Grand View Heights (Tom & Margaret: Tom, environmental expectations; Margaret, alternative vision)

Seasonal Events - Note: Events noted here are supported and endorsed by Environmental Committee.

- * Volunteer needed to plan, develop/promote, manage events.

Calendar 2025

January 17, 2025 - Arbor Day, 36th annual (3rd Friday in January) (Host: ENV COM)

- See report:
- <https://farmnetnpr.com/blog/f/arbor-day-in-new-port-richey---2025>

April 12, 2025 Florida Loquat Festival (based on harvest schedule, Chasco Fiesta, Easter, Passover) – Florida Loquat Festival 12th annual (TB) (Host Ecology Florida, City of New Port Richey – and others) (Sim’s Park/Historical Society). **Volunteers needed.**

* CC Proclamation at CC meeting March TBD – attend if possible

Earth Day (April 22, 2025) – 35th annual (1st 1992) - (City event, April 19, 2025, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Library (Dell, Colin, Tori) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library)

Monarch City Day (May 3, 2025) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library) (Deb, Sasha, Dell)

September 6, 2025 -The West Pasco Okra Occasion, 10th annual

* Location New Port Richey Public Library

November 22, 2025 - New Port Richey Sweet Potato Round-Up 10th annual

* Location First United Methodist Church, New Port Richey

January 10, 2026 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens, 11th annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens) (Grand Gardens)

Meeting Schedule for 2025 "The environmental committee shall meet once every ninety (90) days unless it determines to meet more frequently." * Committee has determined it is best to meet monthly.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 6, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Library