

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

City of New Port Richey

Meeting Agenda

New Port Richey City Hall

Thursday – March 2, 2023 – 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.

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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; Linda Blake, Secretary; Amber Blais, member; Tia Rowe, member; Len Gravitz, member. TBA, City Liaison. Daniella Bernal, City Marketing Specialist

Guests:

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

Approval of Minutes February 2, 2023

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items

Liaison Officer Report: TBA, City Liaison

Note: Advice from City Liaison is requested on all items before the committee

Business of Committee I – On-going Projects and Events

Vox Pop (VP) for items in this section

CC Agenda Reviewer Report – Items on City Council agenda of relevance to Environmental Committee (open)

Update on Committee Membership, and City Policies – for all of us, especially new members

Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status (Dell)

* Committee is asked for comment on continuing committee support of pursuit of Green City certification

* Committee is asked for support of message to City Council, suggesting either (1) no further efforts on GC certification, or (2) renewal of pursuit of GC.

Update on inclusion of City Property in Community Garden Ordinance

* Efforts in the this area will recommence after the Loquat Festival.

Urban Agriculture Program (committee member need for leadership)

* Review of form

Library Seed Lending Program (Amber) - Update if any.

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Linda) - Update, if any.

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Update, if any.

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

VP for items in this section

City-owned parcels *New item (Len) – Report on city-owned parcels suitable for food-production/gardens.

Promotion of Sustainability Projects (Daniella, Linda, Tia, and Amber)

*Linda's report on "Outdoor New Port Richey."

* Tia's update (if any) on contact with schools within the City to promote our Committee's events (Gulf High School, Gulf Middle School, Marlowe Elementary and Richey Elementary).

* Amber's update (if any) on contact with Hudson HS Agriculture Program and integration of committee projects with the program – especially the Monarch City/Milkweed initiative.

* Daniella's report on Marketing activities through her office

Review of Previous Proposal on Alleyway Management Plan (from 2019) (Dell)

* This is under New Projects since it relates to City actions on some of the alleys in the residential areas near the downtown business district. A copy of the original proposal is given here.

- Committee may desire to revisit this proposal and re-submit it to the City Council.

- Committee may desire to update the proposal in light of City actions on some of the alleys and with no information on future plans regarding these alleys.

* **Possible Item for discussion and evaluation (Food Desert Policy)** (Dell) – See attached copy of draft legislation.

City Work Sessions on Projects of Relevance to Committee (--) (see also CC Agenda reviewer)

Events

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

Calendar 2023-2024 *All events are currently moving off Covid hiatus and request organizational leadership and support from community organizations, businesses, and individuals.*

March 12-19 (Festival Day March 18),2023 The Florida Loquat Festival, 10th annual (Host Ecology Florida)

August 26, 2023 -Okra Occasion August 2023 – 8th annual (Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library – and others)

November 2023 – Sweet Potato Round-Up (TBD)

January 2024 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens*, 9th annual (Host Grand Gardens) (TBD)

January --, 2024 -Arbor Day, 34th annual (3rd Friday in January) (Host ENV COM) (TBD)

*Monarch City Event – 1st Saturday of May (May 6, 2023)

<https://www.nationaldaystoday.com/national-start-seeing-monarchs-day/>

* Earth Day – April 22, 2023 (?)

* World Oceans Day – June 8, 2023 (?)

Meeting Schedule for 2023 "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 2, 6:00 p.m. – City Council auditorium