

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

City of New Port Richey

Meeting Agenda

New Port Richey – Public Library

Thursday – May 4, 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)

ANY PERSON DESIRING TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE CITY COUNCIL, 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 THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSCRIBE 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. Andrea Figart, City Liaison. Daniella Bernal, City Marketing Specialist
* Potential Member (expected) Tom O'Neil

Guests:

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

Approval of Minutes April 6, 2023

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items

Liaison Officer Report: Andrea Figart, City Liaison

* Welcome Andrea.

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

Establish meeting day, time, location (All)

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 (Andrea)

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

* See list of City Properties (related topic, later in agenda)

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 – Review of city-owned parcels suitable for food-production/gardens.

See attached list. Committee asked to have the file available on computer or phones.

* Andrea asked to printout first page of list.

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

Earth Day – April 22, 2023, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Library. Need program. (Tia & Dell)

(Host: New Port Richey ENV COM & Library - & others)

* Brief review and comment

"A River Runs Through It" Proposed Educational and Action Program on the Pithlachascotee River (Linda)

This is a project Linda is working on. Linda will share report on her work thus far and future plans, including any other groups or individuals involved. Here is a link to a web site from the Springs Coast Watershed on the Pithlachascotee <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/watersheds/springscoast/pithlachascotee-river>

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

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)

March – 2024 – Florida Loquat Festival 9th annual (TBD) (Host Ecology, City of New Port Richey – and others)

Earth Day – 33rd annual (1st 1992) - (April 22, 2024, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Library (Tia & Dell) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library

Monarch City Event – Need to schedule. Note, we missed the National Start Seeing Monarchs Day: the 1st Saturday of May (May 6, 2023)

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

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* 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 June 1, 6:00 p.m. – TBD