

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**City of New Port Richey**

**Meeting Agenda**

**New Port Richey – Public Library**

**Thursday –June 1, 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.

### Meeting Agenda

#### New Port Richey Public Library

Thursday – June 1, 2023 – 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)

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. Tom O’Neil, drea Figart , City Liaison. Daniella Bernal, City Marketing Specialist \* Potential Alternate Member (expected) Rob Marlowe

Guests:

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

**Approval of Minutes** May 4, 2023

**Approval of Agenda and request for additional items**

**Liaison Officer Report:** Andrea Figart, 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

**Establish meeting day.** Confirming action: Meetings at Library 6:00 p.m., first Thursday.

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

## **Update on Committee Membership, and City Policies** – for all of us, especially new members (Andrea)

- \* Welcome Tom O’Neil
- \* Recommend Rob Marlowe (1<sup>st</sup> Alternate)
- \* Presentation on committee policy on review and recommendation of applicants (draft proposal from Tia)
- \*\* Committee action on proposed policy.

## **Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status** (Daniella)

- \* Comment on continuing support of pursuit of Green City certification
- \* Report on current status and possibility of re-commencing work on GC application (report from Daniella)
- \*\* Committee 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 Urban Agriculture Ordinance**

- \* Report on select city-owned properties for proposed community gardens (report from Tom)
- \* See attached list. Committee asked to have the file available on computer or phones.
- \* Andrea asked to printout first page of list.
- \*\* Committee action on proposal.

## **Urban Agriculture Program** (committee member needed for leadership) \*

## **Library Seed Lending Program** (Amber and Andrea) - Update if any.

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

## **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council** Update, if any. (Andrea and/or Rob)

## **No Mow May** (Dell)

- \* See attached “tip of the week” in the *The Week* magazine.
- \* Committee is reminded that this action was included as a recommendation in our 2022 Annual Report.
- \* Here is the language from our 2022 Annual Report: **A companion proposal establishes a program to allow native vegetation to flower in the spring to nourish insect and bird populations to thrive during breeding season. Dubbed “No Mow May” in other areas, the program encourages property owners not to mow during the month of May to allow native plants a change to flower. Here, we’d probably have to go with No Mow April and May.**

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

### **VP for items in this section**

## **Promotion of Sustainability Projects** (Amber, Linda, Daniella)

- \* Linda’s report on “Outdoor New Port Richey.”
- \* 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

## **Monarch City Event** (Andrea and Dell) (committee member needed for leadership) \*

- \* Set date for event. \* Tomás Monzón (Library Programming Specialist) suggests Saturday, June 17 from 11 AM to 1 n the Magnolia Room.
- \* Date looks fine, but very short notice to make it work. We may want to push into July.
- \* Volunteer needed to plan, develop/promote, manage.  
<https://www.nationaldaystoday.com/national-start-seeing-monarchs-day/>  
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## **Okra Occasion** (Andrea and Dell) (committee member needed for leadership) \*

- \* Set date for event.
- \* Tomás Monzón (Library Programming Specialist) suggests a Thursday August 17, from 3 PM to 6 PM
- \* Volunteer needed to plan, develop/promote, manage.

## Seasonal Events

- \* Discussion item
- \* Volunteer(s) needed to plan, develop/promote, manage events.

**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.

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

### Calendar 2023-2024

? June 17 (11 AM to 1 PM) – Monarch (City) Event – Library, Magnolia Room. TENTATIVE

? August 17, 2023 –Okra Occasion August 2023 – 8<sup>th</sup> annual (Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library – and others)  
TENTATIVE

November 2023 – Sweet Potato Round-Up (TBD)

January 2024 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens\*, 9<sup>th</sup> annual (Host Grand Gardens) (TBD)

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

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

Earth Day – 33<sup>rd</sup> 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

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

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\* World Oceans Day – June 8, 2023 (?)

- \* We will miss this.

**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 July 6, 6:00 p.m. – Library**