

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**City of New Port Richey**

**Meeting Agenda**

**New Port Richey – Public Library**

**Thursday – August 3, 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 – August 3, 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)

## Welcome

**Roll Call:** Dell deChant, Committee Chair; Rose Mohr, Vice-Chair; Linda Blake, Secretary; Amber Blais, member; Tia Rowe, member; Tom O’Neil, member; Rob Marlowe, member; 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate, open; 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate, open; Andrea Figart, City Liaison (excused absence); Stephanie Jones, Substitute City Liaison; Sasha Bartunek, volunteer

Guests:

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

**Approval of Minutes** July 6, 2023

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

**Liaison Officer Report:** Stephanie Jones, City Liaison

**CC Agenda Review:** Items on City Council agenda relevant to Environmental Committee (Stephanie)

\* **Note from Chair:** *From Samantha Hamilton:* Re: “the Tree Forestry budget, the Public Works Department’s Streets & Right of Way Division has **one specific line item for Trees**” and “Public Works budget will be going to City Council through a Budget Work Session August 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.” See item later on agenda regarding tree planting.

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

Update on Committee Membership, and City Policies –

\* 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)**

- \* Report on status of re-commencing work on GC application
- \*\* Committee Action: Decision on proposing renewal of application process

**Update on inclusion of City Property in Urban Agriculture Ordinance**

- \* (4) Report on status of project and meeting with City Manager (Tom)

**Urban Agriculture Program (Stephanie)**

- \* Update on application being posted on City's (or Library) website
- \*\* Members of committee are asked to check the website(s) before the meeting for comment.

**Library Seed Lending Program (Amber and Stephanie)**

\* (5) Update on Amber's work with Hudson Middle School on further development of the Milkweed Seed & Seedling Projects: including continuing to make seed envelopes, and adding two new projects: packing milkweed seeds in the envelopes and starting milkweed seedlings.

- \* Other updates

**Fruit Tree Peninsula (Linda)**

\* (3) Update on Linda's contact with Public Works: on use of herbicides at the Fruit Tree Peninsula with request that herbicides not be used. Request includes posting of signs prohibiting herbicides.

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

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

**VP for items in this section**

**Update on 5538 Montana Ave Report. (Tom)**

\* (7) Report on Tom's proposal for resolution of the 5538 Montana alley issue to be drafted and submitted to the City Council. Draft to be sent to Andrea, authorized by the committee Chair on behalf of the committee, and sent to the City Manager, Mayor, and City Clerk with request to submit to the City Council – with notification of the committee Chair of its submission to City Council.

\* Proposed addition to the Committee's recommendation for policy on City's Alleyway Management Plan. (See attached)

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

- \* (2) Amber's report of contact with Public Works (Robert Rivera) on tour of the water treatment facility.
- \* Linda's report on "Outdoor New Port Richey."

**Accessory Parking Proposal Re-submission (Dell)**

\* (1) Review of "Review of *Accessory Parking Ordinance* With Committee Recommendations." Review of the "Review" requested by committee prior to resubmission of the Review. The 2019 "Review" sent to the committee as an attachment

- \*\* Action on resubmission: (1) resubmit, (2) revision/addendum & resubmission, (3) no action.

**Review of City's urban foresting program (Dell)**

\* (10) Review of City's urban foresting program: budget, number of trees planted, intention to expand the program and increase the number of trees planted. Special meeting for review to be planned.

\* See attached documents, and note: *From Samantha Hamilton:* Re: "the Tree Forestry budget, the Public Works Department's Streets & Right of Way Division has **one specific line item for Trees**" and "Public Works budget will be going to City Council through a Budget Work Session August 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm."

\*\* Committee may desire to make recommendation for increase in tree planning at this meeting for consideration at CC work session on August 8 at 5:00 p.m.

## **Okra Occasion** (Dell and Sasha) (committee member needed for leadership)

August 26, 2023, 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. **The West Pasco Okra Occasion**, 8th annual

New Port Richey Public Library

\* Volunteers needed to plan, develop/promote, manage.

\* See attached flyer and a press release – circulate in your circles, print, cyber, and face-to-face at meetings and with friends

## **Seasonal Events**

\* Discussion item – Tentative outline and calendar

\* (9) Volunteer(s) needed to plan, develop/promote, manage events.

\* Coordination with other events needed – especially considering change in staff in office of City Marketing Specialist)

## **Drive Electric** (September 23, 2023) (Rob)

\* (8) Proposal to add Drive Electric as an event officially supported and endorsed by the Environmental Committee.

\*\* Action

## **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**

August 26, 2023 –Okra Occasion August 2023 – 8<sup>th</sup> annual (Presented by FarmNet & Env Com)

(Host: NPR Library)

November 18, 2023 – Sweet Potato Round-Up (TBD)

(6) Request to Methodist Church for use of outdoor facilities for the event. (Rob)

January 6, 2024 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens\*, 9<sup>th</sup> annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens)

(Grand Gardens)

January 19, 2024 -Arbor Day, 34<sup>th</sup> annual (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January) (Host: ENV COM) (TBD)

March 4-9, 2024 – Florida Loquat Festival 10<sup>th</sup> annual (March 9, 2024) (Host Ecology Florida, City of New Port Richey – and others) (TBD – Sims' Park?)

Earth Day (April 22, 2024) – 34<sup>th</sup> annual (1st 1992) - (City event, April 20, 2024, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Library (Tia & Dell) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library )

Monarch City Day (May 4, 2024) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library )

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

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**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 September 7 6:00 p.m. – Library**