

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Agenda
New Port Richey – Public Library
Thursday – September 7, 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 – September 7, 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; 1st Alternate, open; 2nd Alternate, open; Andrea Figart, City Liaison; Sasha Bartunek, volunteer

Guests:

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

Approval of Minutes August 3, 2023

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items

Liaison Officer Report: Andrea Figart, City Liaison

CC Agenda Review: Items on City Council agenda relevant to Environmental Committee (Andrea Figart)

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.

Update on inclusion of City Property in Urban Agriculture Ordinance

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

Urban Agriculture Program (Andrea Figart)

- * 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 Andrea)

* Update on Amber's work with Hudson High 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.

- * Chair notes that as of last meeting, the Hudson HS project was suspended
- * Angela Napolitano (if present) report on her milkweed initiative
- * Other updates

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Linda)

* Update on Linda's contact with Public Works on use of herbicides at the Fruit Tree Peninsula and 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 Terri Maluk

Update on 5538 Montana Ave Report. (Tom)

* 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)

- * Terri Maluk (if attending): update (if any) on discussions with City leadership

Promotion of Sustainability Projects (Amber, Linda)

- * 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)

* Review of "Review of *Accessory Parking Ordinance* With Committee Recommendations." The "Review" was approved by committee for re-submission to the City Council, with an addendum proposed by Rob (and unanimously approved) as follows (from 8/3/23 minutes): "*On a ny property that has never had a paved driveway, the property owner may request permission to install a pervious driveway.*"

- ** Rob is asked to review this rendering of his addendum and correct if necessary.
- ** Action on resubmission after Rob's review.

Review of City's urban foresting program (Dell)

Committee's recommendation for increase in tree planning submitted to the City Council. See attached.

* City Manager reports her intent to add an additional \$2000 to reforestation budget for additional trees and utilize residual funds from tree-related projects specifically for additional trees.

Wildflower Installation Initiative (Tom).

Tom updates on review of ordinances and other public policy instruments to allow and encourage planting native Florida wildflowers by property owners and the City. See also attached sample ordinance.

Okra Occasion (Dell and members who attended) (committee member needed for leadership)

August 26, 2023, 11:00 – 1:00 p.m.

- Event was very successful. Amber, Tia, Rob, Tom, Sasha)

Seasonal Events

- * Discussion item – Tentative outline and calendar
- * 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)
Updates from Rob.

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

September 23, 2023 – Drive Electric Week

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*, 9th annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens)
(Grand Gardens)

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

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

Earth Day (April 22, 2024) – 34th 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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August 24, 2024 –Okra Occasion August 2023 – 8th annual (Presented by FarmNet & Env Com)
(Host: NPR Library)

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 October 5, 6:00 p.m. – Library