

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Agenda
New Port Richey – Public Library
Thursday – November 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.

Meeting Agenda

New Port Richey Public Library

Thursday – November 2, 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; City Liaison, Colin Eichenmuller; Sasha Bartunek, volunteer

Guests:

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

Approval of Minutes September 7, 2023 (Note: there was no meeting in October due to lack of quorum)

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items

Liaison Officer Report: City Liaison

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

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

Urban Agriculture Program (open)

- * Update on Amber's work with Hudson High School (and open AG Teacher position)
- * Chair notes that as of last meeting, the Hudson HS project was suspended
- * Angela Napolitano (if present) report on her milkweed initiative
- * Other updates

Update on inclusion of City Property in Urban Agriculture Ordinance

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

Library Seed Lending Program (Amber)

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.

- ** Report on status of current trees and proposal of possible replacements

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

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.

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

Promotion of Sustainability Projects (Amber, Linda)

- * Amber's report on tour of the waste-water treatment facility.
- * Linda's report on "Outdoor New Port Richey."

Review of City's urban foresting program (Dell & Sasha)

- * Consideration of committee project to mobilize volunteers to inform residents of City's adopt-a-tree program

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.

Drive Electric (September 30, 2023) (Rob)

Report from Rob on the event and proposal(s) for follow up actions.

- * **Discussion of City's Acquisition of old Gulf High School Property and Building** (status of Council's deliberations on use of the property – 8 acres with river frontage).

- * **Discussion of alley easements and tree and vegetation control and trimming** (topic brought to the committee due to concerns with improper removal of trees and vegetation on easements adjacent to residential properties)

Seasonal Events

- * **Sweet Potato Round-Up – November 18. United Methodist Church**

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.

* Next event: November 18, 2023 – Sweet Potato Round-Up
United Methodist Church

Calendar 2023-2024

November 18, 2023 – Sweet Potato Round-Up
United Methodist Church

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)

September --, 2024 – Drive Electric Week, Tailgate event

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 December 7, 6:00 p.m. – Library