

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Agenda
New Port Richey – Public Library
Thursday – December 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 – December 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; 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 November 2, 2023

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.
- *** Last time this will be on the agenda, unless otherwise desired by membership

Urban Agriculture Program (open)

- * Angela Napolitano (if present) report on her milkweed initiative
- * No new registrations received
- * 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 proposal for signage, irrigation for the fruit trees and Butterfly Garden, and replacing unproductive fruit trees with productive trees (perhaps Mango, Avocado, Barbados cherries, Starfruit, and additional Loquats).

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)

- * Terri Maluk (if attending): update (if any) on discussions with City leadership
- ** Last meeting for this topic on agenda, unless otherwise desired by membership

Muscovy Duck population in the city (Dell)

- * See attached recommendation approved at our last meeting. Submitted to City Officials
- * Further discussion, if desired.

Promotion of Sustainability Projects (Amber, Linda)

- * Amber's report on revised date for 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.

* **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.

- * Committee's proposal to be discussed and completion of draft assigned for January meeting.

Seasonal Events

- * **Sweet Potato Round-Up – November 18. United Methodist Church**
- Successful event despite lighter than usual attendance.

January 6, 2024 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens*, 9th annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens) (Grand Gardens) – Volunteers desired. See Dell

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

- * **Assign planning team and development of plans with PW and P&R**

** **Note: This is a major assignment for the Committee. Colin is asked to report status of planning at PW.**

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 2024

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

Sweet Potato Round-Up – November 23, 2024

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 January 4, 2024 6:00 p.m. – Library
(major topics: Arbor Day Planning; Collards Festival)
(secondary topic: Annual Report – general discussion)