

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
**City of New Port Richey**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**New Port Richey – Public Library**  
**Thursday – January 4, 2024 – 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 – January 4, 2024 – 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'Neill, member; Rob Marlowe, member  
City Staff Liaison, Colin Eichenmuller  
City Library Representative, Tomas Monzon  
City Marketing Specialist, Alexandra Buckman. (welcome to the City and this committee)  
Volunteer Coordinators, Sasha Bartenuk and Connie Jones

Guests:

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

**Approval of Minutes** December 7, 2023

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

**Liaison Officer Report:** Advice from City Liaison is requested on all items before committee

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

### **Business of Committee I – On-going Projects and Events**

**Vox Pop (VP) for items in this section**

**Urban Agriculture Program** (open)

- \* 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, Tom, Colin)

- \* 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).
- \* Tom's report on status of trees as part of replacement proposal
- \* Colin will advise on process for removal and replacement

### **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**

**News Item of Note: 2023 "Earth is finishing up its warmest year in the past 174 years, and very likely the past 125,000"** (Dell) See attached article from *NY Times*. This is for information and your committee files, and to share with others as needed or desired. It may serve as a reminder of the importance of what we do on this committee and what drives our recommendations to the City Council.

### **Moscovy Duck population in the city** (Colin)

- \* Updates if any from Colin
- \* 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 reforestation program** (Dell, Sasha, Colin)

- \* Consideration of committee project to mobilize volunteers to inform residents of City's adopt-a-tree program
- \*\* Confirmation of content for hangtag for information on adopt-a-tree – using cover and content narrative of existing brochure
- \* Colin will advise on process for removal and replacement

### **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.) (See attached article) (Committee of the Whole)

- \* Committee's proposal for use of the property to be finalized for submission to CC

## **Seasonal Events**

**January 6, 2024 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens\*, 9<sup>th</sup> annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens) (Grand Gardens) – Volunteers desired. See Dell if desiring to assist. (see attached flyer)**

**January 19, 2024 -Arbor Day, 35<sup>th</sup> annual (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January) (Host: ENV COM) (Dell, Colin, Alexandra) Framces Ave Park.**

- \* 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.
- \* CC proclamation on January 16 (all come)
- \* See attached PR (Alexandra asked to attach)
- \* See attached program

## **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\*, 9<sup>th</sup> annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens)  
(Grand Gardens)

January 19, 2024 - Arbor Day, 35<sup>th</sup> annual (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January) (Host: ENV COM)

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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 - 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2024** "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 February 1, 2024 6:00 p.m. - Library**

**(major topic: Annual Report - general discussion)**

**(second topic: Florida Loquat Festival - planning)**