

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
**City of New Port Richey**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**New Port Richey – Public Library**  
**Thursday – February 1, 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 – February 1, 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.  
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** January 4, 2024

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

**Liaison Officer Report & (B) CC Agenda Review:** Advice from City Liaison is requested on all items before committee and (B) 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 update on status of trees as part of replacement proposal
- \* Colin will advise on process for removal and replacement of trees on the site.
- \*\* Committee is asked to make decision on trees to be replaced and recommended trees to be installed **and** request to install appropriate irrigation system to sustain the trees.

**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**

### **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)

- \* Update on committee project to mobilize volunteers to inform residents of City's adopt-a-tree program
- \* Review of draft version of hangtag approved at last meeting (Colin)
- \*\* Review of list of trees recommended for planting in the city – public and private property. Chair notes this list was compiled by the committee and at one time available through public works and the development office – also, possibly the library.

### **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 Schwettman/Gulf High School Property and Building** (status of Council's deliberations on use of the property – 8 acres with river frontage.) (Committee of the Whole)

- \* Committee's proposal for use of the property approved at January 4 meeting submitted to CC (see attached document).
- \* Update (if any) from Colin or committee members

## **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)**

- \* Report: Very successful. Attendance was light, interest was high and sustained.

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

\* Report: Successful. Attendance was very light. Mayor attended. Other CC members did not attend. Committee Chair, deChant, and Committee member, Marlowe, attended. Other committee members did not attend.

- \* Committee members are asked to attend committee endorsed events - (if possible)
- \*\* Colin is asked to confirm that the requisite report to National Arbor Day Foundation.

**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 2024-25

April 1-6, 2024 – Florida Loquat Festival 10<sup>th</sup> annual (April 6, 2024) (Host Ecology Florida, City of New Port Richey – and others) (Sim's Park/Historical Society)

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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August 24, 2024 –Okra Occasion– 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

January 4, 2025 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens\*, 10<sup>th</sup> annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens)  
(Grand Gardens)

January 17, 2025 -Arbor Day, 36<sup>th</sup> annual (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January) (Host: ENV COM)

**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 March 7, 2024 6:00 p.m. – Library**

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

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