

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**City of New Port Richey**

**Meeting Agenda**

**New Port Richey – Public Library**

**Thursday – July 18, 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 – July 18 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; Tom O'Neill, member; Rob Marlowe, member  
City Staff Liaison, Colin Eichenmuller  
City Library Representative, Tomas Monzon  
City Marketing Specialist \_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Coordinators, Sasha Bartenuk and Connie Jones  
Monarch Festival CoChair: Deb Morris  
TBRPC Representative, Meghan Blancher

Guests:

### **Preliminary Item: Committee Secretary needed, Recording Secretary welcome**

Scheduling note:

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

**Approval of Minutes** June 6, 2024 (With abundant thanks to Amber!)

**Liaison Officer (A) Advice on EC agenda, and (B) CC items:** A) 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 for committee facilitator)

\* Three renewals received \* Other updates

**Update on inclusion of City Property in Urban Agriculture Ordinance**

### **Wildflower Installation Initiative**

- To be include in proposals in annual report.

### **Library Seed Lending Program (Amber)**

### **Fruit Tree Peninsula (Rob, Dell, Colin)**

- Report on removal of designated trees and installation of 4 new trees: 2 Barbados Cherry, others (?)
- Report on irrigation system or plan

**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**

### **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
- \*\* Update or *last* call: 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. If this no longer exists, we should draft a new one.
- \*\*\* The County has an good list that we can use. (Action?)

### **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)**

- \* Update (if any) from Colin or committee members.

### **Annual Report and Recommendations (All)**

- \* Review report and next actions to advance proposals.

### **Seasonal Events**

## **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**

September 7, 2024 –Okra Occasion– 8<sup>th</sup> annual (Presented by FarmNet & Env Com)  
(NPR Library, 11:00 to 1:30)

September --, 2024 – Drive Electric Week, Tailgate event. (Rob: update on schedule for DEW)

November 23, 2024 – Sweet Potato Round-Up – (United Methodist Church)

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)

April *TBD* (based on Chaso Fiesta, Easter, Passover), 2025 – Florida Loquat Festival 12<sup>th</sup> annual (TB) (Host Ecology Florida, City of New Port Richey – and others) (Sim's Park/Historical Society). Volunteers needed.

- \* CC Proclamation at CC meeting March TBD – attend if possible

Earth Day (April 22, 2025) – 35<sup>th</sup> annual (1st 1992) - (City event, April 21, 2024, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Library (Dell, Colin, Tomas) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library)

**Monarch City Day (May 3, 2025)** (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library) (Deb, Sasha, Dell)

**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, August 1, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Library**