

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Agenda
New Port Richey – Public Library
Thursday – September 5, 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 – September 5, 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; Amber Blais, Secretary; member; Tom O'Neill, member;
Margaret Carswell, member
City Staff Liaison, Colin Eichenmuller
City Library Representative, Tori Ladd
City Marketing Specialist _____
Volunteer Coordinators, Sasha Bartenuk and Connie Jones
Monarch Festival Co-Chair: Deb Morris
TBRPC Representative, Meghan Blancher

Guests: (possibly Amanda Zborek as guest of Margaret Carswell)

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

Approval of Minutes July 18, 2024 and August 1, 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

Urban Agriculture Program (Rose Mohr)

Update on inclusion of City Property in Urban Agriculture Ordinance (All)

Wildflower Installation Initiative (All)

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 (?)

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Update, if any.

Business of Committee II - New Projects and Topics (and projects of limited duration, including annual events)

Review of City's urban reforestation program (Dell, Sasha, Colin)

- * Colin is asked to have updated version of the list. Noted here as New (original) list.
- * Update on committee project to mobilize volunteers to inform residents of City's adopt-a-tree program
 - First "tree walk" October 26 (10:00 to 2:00) Second TW, January 18, 2025 (day after Arbor Day)
- ** Discussion and Decision on New (original) List:
 - See revised New (original) List (from Colin)
 - Fruit and Shade division of trees
 - Additional trees (from Margaret)
 - Modification of list (from Tom)
 - Decision on final version of list
 - **"Big 8" Trees that should never be planted**
 - <https://treevitalize.com/invasive-trees-in-florida/>
 - **Lists – category 1 and category 2 invasives**
 - http://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/fleppc/plantlists/2019/2019_Plant_List_ABSOLUTE_FINAL.pdf

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)

- * Brief report from members on meeting with members of the City Council on Committee's recommendations form the Annual Report
 - Tom & Rose, Sasha, Margaret, Dell, Amber

Seasonal 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– 9th annual (Presented by FarmNet & Env Com)
(NPR Library, 11:00 to 1:30)

- See attached flyer. Copy and circulate

September 21, 2024 – Drive Electric Week, Tailgate event – Railroad Square

November 23, 2024 – Sweet Potato Round-Up, 9th annual – (United Methodist Church)

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

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

April 12, 2025 (based on Chasco Fiesta, Easter, Passover), 2025 – Florida Loquat Festival 12th 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) – 35th annual (1st 1992) - (City event, April 19, 2025, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Library (Dell, Colin, Tori) (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, October 3, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Library