

Board and Committee Membership Application

City of New Port Richey
5919 Main Street
New Port Richey, FL 34652
(727) 853-1016
www.citynpr.org



Applicant Information

Name Beva Stevenson Karay

Street Address 5719 Lafayette Street

City, State, Zip New Port Richey, Florida 34652

Home Phone n/a

Alternate Phone 727-534-5233

E-Mail Address beva1@tampabay.rr.com

(attach copy of DL for residency verification)

Boards and Committees

Please describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee for the City of New Port Richey:

It would be an honor to serve on the "Historic Preservation Board" because it's important to preserve history by teaching others about our past, in order to preserve our future. As the great-great-granddaughter of Samuel & Elizabeth Osteen Stevenson (part of first settlers in this area in the mid-1830s), preservation deserves recognition & appreciation. The latest initiative for historical downtown NPR is the "Tides of Time" visual art experience, that is a step into the future to exploit jewels of our city, such as the 1922 Gulf High School/Schwettman, dear to my heart because my father & 6 siblings all attended this icon in the 1920s, '30s, & '40s (and some of their children & grandchildren)! My grandfather served on the P.C. School Board for eighteen undefeated dedicated years, before having to retire because of poor eyesight. (I still have his extremely thick eyeglasses.) My grandparents' children, mentioned above, became caring hardworking community oriented citizens, just as so many of our pioneer families were, willing to sacrifice to make our community so very unique and special that it is today! May we all work together to preserve our history for our future generations!

Please choose which board or committee you are interested in serving on:

- Cultural Affairs Committee (meets on the third Wednesday of each month)
- Environmental Committee (meets on the second Monday of each month)
- Firefighters Pension Board (meets on a quarterly basis)
- Historic Preservation Board (meets on the second Monday of the month)
- Land Development Review Board (meets on the fourth Thursday of the month)
- Library Advisory Board (meets on the fourth Monday of the month)
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (meets on the second Tuesday of the month)
- Police Pension Board (meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month)

Have you attended any meetings of the board or committee on which you want to serve?

 Yes No (inactive) If yes, how many have you attended? City Council meetings

Previous Board or Committee Experience

Have you ever served on a board or committee with any governmental unit? If so, please describe:

Presently, the only "unit" that comes to mind (although not a committee or board) is that I volunteered for years, before retiring as an educator with former Congressman Michael Bilirakis, beginning in the 1980s, and continued after my retirement with son, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, on behalf of educators, such as tri-county initiative support from educators.

Previous Volunteer or Community Service Experience

Summarize your previous volunteer or community service experience.

Prior to my retirement after teaching forty years, these are a few of my experiences: Florida Council Teachers of Mathematics Board member as a result of Volunteer Coordinator for Ozona Elementary School partnering with Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce to implement a grant that I was awarded, the "Kenneth Kidd" Math Grant named "Math & Careers= A Community Affair". Next was Family YMCA Board Member/also a Karate instructor as a volunteer. And, I was a Pilots Club Member. As a former runner, (but hope to run a 5K in the Fall) I have always had a passion for teaching children the importance of healthy habits through exercising and healthy eating. I volunteered to initiate a "runners" club (1st thru 5th grade, which continued, with the help of many parent volunteers, for eighteen years, until I retired, proud to have had 250+ children. I mention this because I have learned throughout my life, that without volunteers, success could not happen. Presently, I am fortunate to be a West Pasco Historical Society & Museum director on its board and, in the past, volunteered my initial efforts to "clean up/help facelift" the Hacienda Hotel" thus later becoming a member of "Friends of the Hacienda and Historic NPR, Inc.", where I was grateful to have the opportunity to help hang pictures under Mr. Gunderson's expertise before it opened at the beautiful Hacienda Hotel, another jewel even in our high school years.(I fondly remember a black and white photo of crowning of the 1962 Chasco Fiesta King & Queen in the lobby of the Hacienda, with all of us high school girls in formal gowns and the guys in white tuxedos, all vying for the prestigious honor of C.F. King & Queen!)

Special Skills, Interests and/or Qualifications

Summarize special skills, interests and/or qualifications you possess which you feel would be beneficial to the board or committee you are applying for membership to.

Because of the love for our local history, our Gulf High Alumni has created a group called "SOS1922GHS & its Properties for our Community". Our goal is to preserve all of its properties for our future generations as a family setting for all to enjoy. Any of our alumni and community advocates would be proud to be a part of the Historical Preservation Board. I am now retired, after teaching elementary school for forty years. As a graduate of Gulf High School in 1962, (mascot, majorette, and head majorette from 1st thru 12th grade) the love for Gulf High and education seems to be a part of our family "DNA". I am a proud mother of my daughter, Katy, and 3 wonderful granddaughters plus now our 8th generation addition, little great-granddaughter 4 months old. We all love and appreciate our local history and heritage. Family fun includes boating, fishing, and our wonderful outdoors, all to be appreciated right here in our unique walkable, bikeable, boatable City of New Port Richey!

Employment/Experience

Job Title:	Employer:
Elementary Education Teacher (retired 2006)	Ozona Elementary School
Address Line 1:	Address Line 2:
601 Tampa Rd.	
City:	State:
Palm Harbor	Florida
Zip Code:	County:
34683	Pinellas
Work Phone:	
727-724-1589	

Professional licenses held:

State of Florida Department of Education: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education for teaching (now retired.)

State of Florida: Department of Business & Professional Regulation/Broker's Real Estate License updated but inactive status at this time.

Previous employment or experience:

I taught most of my years of teaching where I was married/divorced in Pinellas County, with majority of years at Ozona Elementary, teaching in the historical brick Ozona Elementary until the new one was built and all classes were moved to the new site "across the field". Some of my most fond memories involved teaching swimming to beginner swimmers as well as initiating a runners' club at Ozona Elementary and after eighteen years, upon retirement, had 250+ runners, who ran on a make-shift track with cones, with music blasting to "Who Let the Dogs Out" but we changed the words to "Who Let the Runners Out", with parents involved by marking the runners' hands with dots, competing against only themselves, ending each session with a healthy snack, made by parent volunteers, for each child to start a healthy happy school day. God bless volunteers! And, my job as their coach had NO extra pay but the rewards for me were priceless! Preserving history is priceless, too!

Memberships in professional, civic organizations or government boards or committees:

Presently: "West Pasco Historical Society & Museum" and "Friends of the Hacienda & Historic New Port Richey, Inc."

Personal References

Please provide three (3) references other than relatives. List name, phone number and relationship to you.

Name (printed)	Phone Number	Relationship
Jeff Morgenstein	727-774-3300	Professional friend
Gary Vitacco-Robles	727-698-0149	Friend
Erika Grace	727-543-5356	Bilirakis Staff & friend

Eligibility Verification

To serve on a City Board or Committee you must either be a current resident of the city or own a business within the city limits. You must also be a registered voter. Please check all that apply.

- I currently live within the city limits.
- I am a registered voter in Florida

- I own a business within the city limits
(attach copy of voter identification card)

Have you ever been convicted, pleaded guilty or no lo contendere to any criminal offense? (A yes answer to the above question does not automatically preclude you from being considered. The circumstances, timeframe and relevant factors are considered on an individual basis.)

Yes No

If yes, please explain (including date):

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a Board or Committee member, any false statements, omissions, or other misrepresentations made by me on this application may result in my immediate dismissal.

Name (printed) Beva Stevenson Karay

Signature

Beva Stevenson Karay

Date

July 21, 2024

Selection Process

Once your application has been reviewed and your eligibility to serve has been verified, you will be contacted by the City Clerk to appear at an upcoming City Council meeting so that Council may address any questions they may have regarding your application. Applications are valid for one year from the date they are submitted.

Our Policy

It is the policy of this organization to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in volunteering with us. Please return the completed form back to Judy Meyers, City Clerk, City of New Port Richey, 5919 Main Street, New Port Richey, Florida, 34652. You may also send it via e-mail to meyersi@cityofnewportrichey.org. If you have any questions or need any further information please contact the City Clerk's Office at (727) 853-1021.

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Date Application Received:

Type of Application: New Member

Renewal