

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Agenda Minutes
New Port Richey City Hall
Monday – March 14, 2022 – 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 City Hall

Monday – March 14, 2022 – 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; Barrett Doe, City Liaison; Anita Mukerjee, Guest (Environmental Science teacher at PHSC); Shannon Gary and her son, Stanley Gary (Interested Citizens), Guests.

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

Approval of Minutes February 14, 2022

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items

Liaison Officer Report: Barret Doe, City Liaison

Note: Advice from City Liaison is requested on all items before the committee
Barrett will miss the next two meetings because he is taking classes to become an Arborist.

Business of Committee I – On-going Projects and Events

Vox Pop (VP) for items in this section

CC Agenda Reviewer Report – (open/Barret?)

Update on Committee Membership, and City Policies – if needed (Barret and Dell) Two guests are in attendance who are interested in the Committee's work. We can have seven members and two alternates. Right now we have four members. We are the managers of the Arbor Day celebration. We look for opportunities for making proposals to the City Council for sustainability. FLDOT will make

Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status (Barret) – Update.

Update on inclusion of City Property in Community Garden Ordinance (from annual report/proposals

over several years) (Dell)

Urban Agriculture Program * Committee needs member to manage application process.

* Linda has volunteered for this and will go over process with Dell shortly.

Library Seed Lending Program - Update on the program, if any (open)

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Linda) Update, if any.

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Update, if any.

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

VP for items in this section

Proposal for Prohibition of Polystyrene Containers (Dell & Linda)

* Brief report (Dell)

* Review of Tallahassee Policy, which is similar to our proposal.

* Consideration of proposal update to City Council and City Manager. See attached

Plathe Road Developments (Linda)

* Brief report on Plathe Road Development and Committee deliberation

* See related links:

<https://www.welcometotrinity.com/new-port-corners-pasco-county-florida/>

<https://www.wfla.com/news/pasco-county/new-port-richey-resident-pushback-against-proposed-development/>

<https://www.change.org/p/npr-city-council-stop-the-plathe-road-developments>

The Committee agreed unanimously that we will write a statement to the City Council explaining that we are aware of and concerned about the New Port Corners developments, both in regard to the quality of life and the environment.

Monarch Butterfly City Event (Dell) – February 26, 12:00 to 1:30 NPR PL

- Report from Dell

* Proclamation Reading at CC, February 15

* Limited seating. Reservation required

The event was well-received. Thirty milkweed seedlings were given away.

Promotion of Sustainability Projects (Linda and Dell)

Welcome: Tom Diaz, City of New Port Richey Marketing Director. He missed this meeting but will come next month.

City's Citizens' Academy Report, with focus on Environmental Unit (Barret)

Items remaining from annual Report (presented March 16). * Discussion of follow up and next steps.

Proposals:

1) Promote City's Environmental Programs & Initiatives (Linda and Dell)

2) Promote Food Waste Reduction (open)

3) Commit to 100% Renewable Power by 2030 (Linda)

City Work Sessions on Projects of Relevance to Committee (--) (see also CC Agenda reviewer)

Events

Seasonal Events (Information only) - Note: All events supported and endorsed by Environmental Committee.

Calendar 2021-2022 (all items listed subject to reschedule or cancellation)

The following events are currently in hiatus due to Covid and challenges with organizational leadership and support

March 19-26, 2022 The Florida Loquat Festival, 8th annual (Host Ecology Florida) There will be a variety of loquat-themed events.

August 25, 2022- Okra Occasion August 2022 – 6th annual (Host New Port Richey / ENV COM 6:30-8:00)

October, 2022 – Sweet Potato Round-Up, 5th annual (11:00-1:00) (Host Friendship Farms)

January 8, 2023 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens*, 6th annual (Host Grand Gardens)

January 20, 2023 -Arbor Day, 33rd annual (3rd Friday in January) (Host ENV COM)

Meeting Schedule for 2022 "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 - 2nd Monday, at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – City Council auditorium – proposal to recess