

City of New Port Richey Environmental Committee
Minutes for July 27, 2015

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM**
2. **In attendance:** Chairperson Dell deChant, Vice Chair Rose Mohr, City Clerk Doreen Summers, Barbara Sullo, Audrey Voss, Kacey Atkinson, Kira Atkinson, and alternates Amber Blais and Cindy Cadle. **Guests:** Terry Kline, Dan Callahan, Clay Colson, and Glenn Specter.
3. **Vox Pop:**

Terry Kline, West Pasco Historical Society Administrator, expressed his concern for the fate of a number of Hickory trees that were slated for destruction during the Sims Park redevelopment project. Terry discussed the details of a meeting that had taken place between Dell deChant, Elaine Smith, John Fussell, and Bob Langford to prevent the tree's removal.

Dan Callahan and Clay Colson, members of the West Pasco Historical Society, also showed concern for the Hickory trees in Sims Park.

Glenn Specter wanted the committee to address shading in the new design for Sims Park.
4. **Approval of the minutes from June 22, 2015.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kacey and seconded by Rose. Motion passes (7-0).
5. **City Liaison Report.** Doreen reported that the Urban Agriculture Resolution was adopted on July 7, 2015. In regard to the community garden ordinance 1988, Mayor Marlowe suggested that the new community garden site be at Frances Avenue Park. Councilman Phillips recommended Russ Park as well.
6. **Seed Lending Program-** No report
7. **Lexicon of Sustainability-** No report
8. **The Okra Occasion-** Cindy reserved the library for Monday, August 24. The event will include an okra recipe swap, food samples, a brief history of the vegetable, and a short film on urban farming.
9. **Hickory Trees in Sims Park.** Dell updated the Committee on the tree inventory that was conducted prior to the Sims Park construction project. 12-15 mature trees of value will be taken down during the renovations of the park. City ordinance calls for an inch for inch replacement of all trees destroyed. The Committee will review and assess the findings.
10. City Manager, Debbie Manns, said the decision to remove the trees at the park was not taken lightly by staff. The City has decided to redesign elements of the project to accommodate the Hickory trees. There will be 420 inches in total of trees to be installed in the new park design. A memorial tree for Mrs Langford was slated for removal and the City Manager offered to look into the matter.
11. **Proposal to City Manager.**
 - Add recycling bins and additional trash bins downtown
 - Require a recycling plan for all events in the City
 - Adopt Pinellas County's fertilizer and pesticide use plan
 - Expand urban agriculture ordinance to include market gardens and urban farms , and allow community gardens on public property
 - Invest in training for a City staff arborist
 - Install fishing line disposal bins along river and docks
12. There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Kira Atkinson (for Secretary, Jon Tietz)