

**City of New Port Richey Environmental Committee
Minutes for March 28, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm.

1. **Vox Pop** - None.
2. **In attendance:** Present were Committee Chair Dell deChant, Barbara Sullo, Audrey Voss, alternate Cindy Cadle, Secretary Jon Tietz, and City Liaison Doreen Summer. Kira Atkinson, Kacey Atkinson, and Vice Chair Rose Mohr were absent. Guests present were Rob Oman, Elena, Ahmad Fagouseh and MJ Fagouseh.
3. **Vox Pop.** None.
4. **Approval of the minutes from February.** Approval of the minutes was moved to later in the meeting to allow them to be procured.

Business of the Committee - Ongoing

5. **Vox Pop.** None.
6. **City Liaison Report.** Nothing to report other than Environmental Committee meetings will be located at the New Port Richey Library. She also said that the City's Council election will be held on April 12th.
7. **Vox Pop.** None.
8. **Urban Farming.** Audrey Voss said that no new applications have been received.
9. **Vox Pop.**
10. **Library Seed Lending Program** - No new information to be reported.
11. **Lexicon of Sustainability.** Dell said that he would have preferred that the Lexicon have been displayed at the Loquat Festival but that wasn't available. Nothing else to be reported.
12. **Discussion of Fall Quarterly Program.** The quarter's event will be the Grand Opening of the Grand Gardens. The next event will be Arbor Day, and in the Spring there will be the Loquat Festival.
13. **Vox Pop.**
14. **Pasco County Food Policy Council.** Dell said he talked with Todd Engala with the County about the specific categories that might be involved in an ordinance in Pasco County in the future. The committee discussed language from the County's proposed ordinance and discussed the merits of a specific portion about the number of "customer related trips." The City's current ordinance was discussed in the context of that it was reviewed by the Land Development Review Board.
15. **Vox Pop.**
16. **Arbor Day.** Dell suggested turning over the planning of the Arbor Day festivities to the Parks and Recreation Department. The celebration is scheduled for January 15, 2016.
17. **Discussion of Annual Report to Council.** Dell said that a task for the committee would be to produce a list of invasive and preferred trees to provide for reference to the council. Dell said that he would like someone to check with the development department for a list of their preferred or restricted trees. Doreen said that she would provide that. Dell said that an action item for next meeting is to start with Audrey's list and add to it the City's list and start from there. Each committee member will come with two trees each

that are recommended for the area at the next meeting.

18. Urban Agriculture Ordinance. The committee discussed the two proposed Urban Agriculture ordinances which were submitted to the Land Development Review Board (LDRB) whom did not recommend that either of the ordinances be approved by the City Council. The committee discussed the concerns of the LDRB, including amendments that the LDRB made. The committee noted incorrect points in two concerns: Ms. Moran's note that city residents are already permitted to have gardens, which they are not, and Mr. Grey's assertion that it would open the city to commercial use, which the ordinance clearly restricts. Dell said that he wanted to discuss the points and response of the Environmental Committee to the concerns of the LDRB in anticipation of the reading of the ordinances at the coming City Council meetings. Dell wanted to ask that Don Cadle, a member of the LDRB, attend the Council meeting and give voice to some of the concerns and why he disagreed with them. Dell said that he has also asked Frank Starkey to speak on behalf of the ordinance, and he said that Frank had also indicated that he had some research which showed that urban gardening could actually increase property values. Audrey recommended that someone bring compost to the City Council meeting to show that it doesn't smell. Kira said that perhaps in the future the Environmental Committee should make an effort to involve the members of other committees in the work that the Environmental Committee is doing in order to improve their knowledge of the efforts. Audrey said that she just wanted to make a point about the location of the gardens because sometimes the placement of sunlight requires that a garden be in the front yard.

Additional Items Discussed.

19. Adjournment. Without objection the committee stands adjourned at 7:36 PM. The next meeting is April 25, 2016 at 6 PM.