

**City of New Port Richey Environmental Committee
Minutes for April 27, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 4:08 pm.

1. **Vox Pop** - None.
2. **In attendance:** Present were Committee Chair Dell deChant, Secretary Jon Tietz, Cindy Cadle, Barbara Sullo, Vice Chair Rose Mohr, Rex Phelps, and City Liaison Barret Doe. Guest Penelope Anderson was present. Kira Atkinson was absent. It is noted that Rex Phelps' application was approved by City Council and so he is now an official member of the committee.
3. **Vox Pop.** Penelope said that she has now applied to become a citizen and so will be eligible for the committee soon.
4. **Approval of the minutes from March.** A motion to make amendments to the March minutes was made by Rex Phelps and seconded by Rose Mohr. The minutes will be changed according to a request by Chair Dell deChant to add a section on Lisa Fierce's proposed changes to the urban agriculture ordinance. A second motion was made to approve the minutes with those changes which was proposed by Rose Mohr and seconded by Barbara Sullo. The motion passed.

Business of the Committee - Ongoing

5. **Vox Pop.** None.
6. **Facebook Page Noted.** Cindy Cadle said that she had come across a Facebook page called [Non-toxic Communities](#) that talks about improving and keeping toxins out of populations. Jon said that he had heard about a problem at the Gulf Harbors Association and their purchase of a playground which has come up with a higher than normal amount of arsenic contamination. Rex offered that he thought the Association should look for a "cattle pit" where previous landowners may have used arsenic to cleanse cows of parasites.
7. **Vox Pop.** None.
8. **Community Gardens Ordinance for the County.** Dell said that he had heard from the County that the ordinance he has discussed with them has been approved to be brought before the County Commission. Dell said he has also received a Community Food System Assessment which was provided to the County for free and reviews food acquisition and creation for Pasco County and makes recommendations as to what needs. Dell said that report would be made public soon.
9. **Vox Pop.** None.
10. **City Liaison Report.** Barret Doe said that he has gotten his schedule and the meeting time does not need to be changed. Dell said that his schedule may conflict and Barbara offered that perhaps the committee should meet at 5 pm instead. Dell said that reviewing the membership the committee is now full but there are two alternate positions open which he expects to be filled soon. Dell said that he wanted both Jon and Cindy should move forward with their applications for renewal of their positions as early as possible.

11. **Vox Pop.** None.
12. **Report on Green City Initiative Charette - June 24, 4:00 PM.** Dell said that the green City Charette is scheduled for June 24 and that date is now confirmed for meeting in Council Chambers.
13. **Vox Pop.** None.
14. **Update on “additional responsibilities” for Garden Facilitator.** Barret said that as far as adding a part time gardening manager committee members would need to speak directly with the city manager. Dell said that maybe there was a misunderstanding and that he did not consider the gardening manager position to be a new hire but rather the adding of additional duties.

Action item: Dell is to draft duties for the prospective position of part time gardening manager.
15. **Vox Pop.** None.
16. **Update on “additional responsibilities” as arborist. Action item:** Rex and Jon are tasked with drafting an outline of expected responsibilities for the city arborist. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.
17. **Vox Pop.** None.
18. **Update on Status of Committee’s Recommendations on Landscaping Modifications.** Barret reported that May 15 is the start date for Construction on landscaping modifications in the downtown area. Barret said that as part of that plan, modifications will be made to the “fruit peninsula” on Main Street and Old Main Street. The planter will be built on the fruit peninsula and fruit trees will be added. Barret said that some of the trees are plum trees and some are loquat trees. Jon asked if plum trees tend to do well in the Florida area. Rex asked if those trees will be Florida cultivars. Dell said that trees from Pete Kanaris’. The committee asked to be informed about which nursery the tree are being sourced from so that it can be determined if they are appropriate.

Rose brought up landscaping along Grand Boulevard and the potted plants which were put in and have not been watered and have subsequently died but is part of the adopt a pot program with local businesses taking care of the plants. Barret said that he would look into the agreements.

Barret said that regarding the community garden ordinance including use of public property, Lisa Fierce in the development department has suggested that a draft of rules or procedures would be needed in order to make an amendment. Jon suggested that a public private lease would make the most sense because of economic encouragement. Rex said that it should be kept as simple as possible.
19. **Vox Pop.** None.
20. **Update on Parks Master Plan Steering Committee.** The parks master plan steering committee is meeting on May 2 and Dell asked committee members to look into talking to Elaine Smith at Parks and Recreation about attending the meeting or seeing a copy of the report that is planned to be discussed..
21. **Vox Pop.** None.

22. Urban Agriculture Permits. The additional forms for the program will be tabled for the next meeting.

23. Vox Pop. None.

24. Seed Lending Library Project. No update on this project.

25. Quarterly Events. Dell wanted to outline that the Loquat Festival was a big success. Dell said that the event is tentatively scheduled for March 24, 2018.

Dell said that Arbor day will be in January. Florida's Arbor day is different than other states because of the early spring. The okra occasion is on July 24. Dell suggested some awards for the best recipes. There will be awards for first, second, and third place. The public will be notified that the contest would be open for recipe submissions.

26. Additional Items. The committee discussed testing of soil in the city's mulch program. An action item for Rex was called for in selecting materials to be tested for and the committee will discuss a process for a timeline of testing.

Additional Items Discussed.

27. Adjournment. Without objection the committee stands adjourned at 6:18 PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 4 PM at the New Port Richey Public Library.