

**City of New Port Richey Environmental Committee
Minutes for May 24, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm.

1. **Vox Pop** - None.
2. **In attendance:** Present were Committee Chair Dell deChant, Secretary Jon Tietz, Cindy Cadle, Barbara Sullo, Rex Phelps, and City Liaison Barret Doe. No guests were present. Kira Atkinson and Vice Chair Rose Mohr were absent.
3. **Vox Pop.**
4. **Approval of the minutes from April.** A motion to make amendments to the March minutes was made by Cindy Cadle and seconded by Rex Phelps. The minutes will be changed according to a request by Chair Dell deChant to change the minutes to reflect that the action item for Dell deChant of drafting duties for the community garden manager to be instead noted as the responsibility of Cindy Cadle and Penelope Phelps. A second motion was made to approve the minutes with those changes which was proposed by Rex Phelps and seconded by Jon Tietz. The motion passed unanimously.

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.** Barret said that the meeting time is confirmed but will be held in the Avery Room at the library due to carpeting work. Barret said also that after going through a second pass on the paperwork, the City still needs to find 35 points to qualify for Bronze status.
- 13. Vox Pop.** None.
- 14. Update on “additional responsibilities” for Garden Facilitator.** Barret said that regarding adding positions or adding responsibilities to an existing position would need to be brought directly to the city manager. Cindy asked for clarification regarding the committee requesting from the city manager rather than from the city council. Dell said that he wanted to clarify that the city council had already seen this and responded positively but now the specifics must be addressed with the city manager. Rex wanted to know regarding proposals and recommendations to the city council whether a mechanism is present to formalize the opinion of the city council on that issue at the time in order to more effectively direct staff.
Dell said that he developed a list of responsibilities for the part time gardener. Dell wanted the committee to comment on the responsibilities. Without objection the responsibilities were approved.
- 15. Vox Pop.** None.
- 16. Update on “additional responsibilities” as arborist. Action item:** Rex Phelps and Jon Tietz developed a list of responsibilities which will be reorganized by Dell for recommendation to the City Manager’s office. Jon will provide a copy of the list of responsibilities at the next meeting. The responsibilities list was approved without objection.
- 17. Vox Pop.** None.
- 18. Urban Agriculture Permits.** Jon provided an updated form including three different types of community garden. After reviewing the documents, the committee approved the new format unanimously.
- 19. Vox Pop.** None.
- 20. Approval of Received Community Garden Permits.** Two applications for renewal of community garden permits were received. The first was for 5721 Grand Boulevard, noted as “Grand Gardens.” This permit was approved unanimously. Dell deChant and Jon Tietz recused themselves as being involved with the property financially. The second permit was for 6119 Illinois Avenue. Dell deChant and Jon Tietz recused themselves as Dell owns the property and Jon is involved with the property financially. The permit was approved unanimously.
Action Item: Jon will file the permits with the City’s development department.
- 21. Additional Items.** None.

Additional Items Discussed.

- 22. Adjournment.** Without objection the committee stands adjourned at 6:06 PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 4 PM at the New Port Richey Public Library.