

City of New Port Richey Environmental Committee
Minutes for February 11th, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm.

1. **Vox Pop** - None.
2. **In attendance:** Present were Committee Chair Dell deChant, Vice Chair Rose Mohr, Secretary Jon Tietz, Rex Phelps, Barbara Sullo, Penelope Anderson, and MJ Fagouseh. Lawrence Liev was absent. Mary, Jim, and Noah Denny were present as guests.
3. **Vox Pop.** Noah Denny presented a proposal to take action on styrofoam and plastic straws in the City. The committee recommended that Noah present to Council at a regular council meeting. Dell asked if Noah had spoken with any elected officials to State of Federal governments, and Noah said that he had had communication with Gus Bilirakis.
4. **Approval of the minutes from January.** Rex made a motion to approve the minutes and Rose seconded. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Business of the Committee - Ongoing

5. **Vox Pop.** None.
6. **Liaison Officer Report.** Barret said he got the application for the urban forestry program for the fruit peninsula submitted. He said it had been received but that the awards have not been distributed as of yet.
7. **Vox Pop.** None.
8. **Discussion of Committee Membership.** Barret said that there were some changes to the name cards for the meetings. Barret said that MJ has been approved as a new member. Dell said that he has invited Cindy to be at the next meeting in March. Barret said that there is still one opening previously filled by Cindy Cadle. Barret listed the dates of membership renewals for all of the current members.
9. **Update on the Green City Initiative.** Barret was not present to give an update.
10. **Vox Pop.** None.
11. **Update on Inclusion of City Property in the Community Garden Ordinance.** Barret said that he is going to have a meeting with the new on this topic this week.
12. **Vox Pop.** None.
13. **Recycling Programs.** Penelope explained that she had a meeting with the County's recycling coordinator and discussed what happens to materials after they are received. Penelope said that they are bundled and shipped them to St. Petersburg where they are put on an open market for bidding. Penelope said there is a company in Englewood that makes plastic park benches and walkways. Dell said that he would like to invite Pasco County's recycling coordinator to come to the April meeting to discuss recycling programs. Jon said that would be great because there seems to be a discrepancy between what the County says is recyclable and what pickup companies say is recyclable and that over time what is acceptable changes and information. Rex made a motion to have Jon contact the recycling coordinator. Jon seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 14. Vox Pop.** None.
- 15. Brochure for the City's Urban Agriculture Program.** Jon said that no progress has been made but that he can hopefully provide a second revision rough.
- 16. Vox Pop.** None.
- 17. Seed Library Update.** No action has been taken.
- 18. Vox Pop.** None.
- 19. Hanging Planter.** Penelope said that she had looked into the hanging flower baskets proposal for around town. She said year-round flowers could be received from a local distributor and there is a proprietor on US19. Penelope said she spoke with him about a few things but that she has had to follow up to see about pricing on wholesale for such items. Rex made a motion to ask Barret to contact Duke Energy about specifications for hanging planters. Jon seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 20. Vox Pop.** None.
- 21. Fruit Tree Peninsula.** No action has been taken.
- 22. Adopt-A-Trail Program.** Barret said that he still needs to get Jon initial information on this project.
- 23. Additional Items.** Dell mentioned
- 24. Follow Up on Proposals.** The committee discussed a proposal for tiny houses which would be a minimum of 150-300 square feet and MJ suggested that perhaps as part of the plot size to make up the difference in space could be an outdoor planned space with a food garden. Dell said that many of this issues are looking for a member to take the lead on and pursue. The committee discussed other options for such a program and variances needed or land use categories that could be designated.
- 25. Pursuit of Arborist on City Staff.** No action has been taken.
- 26. Vox Pope.** None.
- 27. Review of Landscaping Ordinance.**

Additional Items Discussed.

- 28. Adjournment.** Without objection the committee stands adjourned at 7:57 PM. The next meeting is March 11th, 2019 at 6 PM at the New Port Richey Public Library.