

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
**City of New Port Richey**  
**Summary of Meeting**  
**Monday – March 11, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Committee Chair Dell deChant, Rex Phelps, Barbara Sullo, Penelope Anderson, and Lawrence Liev. Barret Doe, Staff Liaison. Absent: Vice Chair Rose Mohr Secretary Jon Tietz. Guests: Cindy Cadle, Denise Houston

**Vox Pop** – Comments by Denise Houston about challenges with Code Enforcement policies and practices, lack of an abroist on City staff, and listing of meetings of the Environmental Committee and City Calendar.

**Ceremony: Cindy Cadle steps down from committee.** Ritual acknowledgement of Cindy's tireless service and her leadership on the committee. Cindy receives a certificate of appreciation.

**Approval of Minutes** – February 11, 2019 Approved, with adjustments as noted) Adjustments to be given to secretary at next meeting.

**Approval of Agenda and request for additional items**

**Additional Item:** Proposal by Penelope for City to become a Monarch Butterfly City. Decision to proceed with final decision to propose to Council at next meeting. Penelope and Rex to present at next meeting

**Liaison Officer Report:** Barret Doe, City Liaison

**Business of Committee – On-Going Projects and Events**

**Vox Pop (VP) for items in this section**

**Update on Committee Membership, and City Policies** (Barret and Dell)

Membership list is now updated. No action taken

**Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status** (Barret)

- GC certification is nearing approval

**Update on inclusion of City Property in Community Garden Ordinance (from annual report/proposals over several years)**

- Decided that Dell will meet with George Romagnoli to finalize revision of CG ordinance.

**Urban Agriculture Program** (Barret, Jon & Dell) **and Brochure for City Urban Agriculture Program** (Jon)

- No action

**Library Seed Lending Program** -

- Update on the program by Penelope. Discussion of Milkweed seeds in the seed file.

**Fruit Tree Peninsula** (Penelope, and Barret)

- Discussion of the peninsula and its good appearance. Barret asked to update on the "mystery tree," believed to be a plum.

**Straw Proposal** (Barb)

- Discussion of a proposal to limit use of plastic straws in City. No conclusive action taken.

**Business of Committee – New Projects (and projects of limited duration, including annual events)**

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** – discussed

**Florida Solar Co-op Program** (Barret)

- Discussion of project. Will be considered again at next meeting. Review requested.

**Hanging Planter Project** (Penelope)

- Update on the project by Barret and Penelope. Further review welcome. Will be listed on next agenda.

**Floating Gardens** (introduced by Penelope)

- Barret will investigate further.

**Adopt a Trail Project** (Jon)

- No action

**Status Report on follow ups to the annual report (presented to City Council September 4, 2018)****Individual members have been tasked with following up proposals. Updates given here**

- City to *pursue* 100% renewable power by 2030 (Barbara)
- Establish position of a PT Garden Facilitator (Dell)
- Create an Arborist position (Dell )
- City to revise building code to allow for small/tiny houses (150-300 sq feet) (M.J.)
- City to become a nontoxic community – with timetable target (Lawrence)
  - Lawrence delivers on this, with report on use of concentrated vinegar
- City to pursue process of re-introducing the endangered Atlantic Sturgeon (Gulf subspecies) in the Pithlachascotee River (in consultation with NOAA, UF) (Jon)
  - Project is abandoned

**Events**

**Seasonal Events (Information only)** - Note: All events supported and endorsed by Environmental Committee.

**Calendar 2019-2020:**

August 5, 2019 - Okra Occasion, 4<sup>th</sup> annual (5:00 – 8:00) (Host ENV COM)

September 28, 2019 Sweet Potato Round-Up (tentative) (Host FarmNet)

January 17, 2020 Arbor Day, 31<sup>th</sup> annual (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January) (Host ENV COM)

January 25, 2020 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens\*, 5<sup>th</sup> annual (Host Grand Gardens/New Port Richey FarmNet)

March 28, 2020 The Florida Loquat Festival, 6<sup>th</sup> annual (Host Ecology Florida)

**Meeting Schedule for 2019**

-Last note on this: The Committee may desire to review the frequency of our meetings, pursuant of its charter (3.13.06 Meeting schedule): "The environmental committee shall meet once every ninety (90) days unless it determines to meet more frequently."

**Next Meeting**

**April 8, 6:00 p.m. – Public Library**

**\* Rachel G. Dobbs, Pasco County Recycling Director**