

**City of New Port Richey Environmental Committee**  
**Minutes for May 13, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 6:03 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, alternate John Kane, City Manager Debbie Manns and City Liaison Barret Doe. Cindy Cadle and MJ Fagouseh were absent. Guests present were Noah Denny and his parents, Jim and Mary Denny.
3. **Vox Pop.** None.
4. **Approval of the minutes from September.** Barbara made a motion to approve the minutes and Jon seconded. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

**Business of the Committee - Ongoing**

5. **Vox Pop.** None.
6. **Liaison Officer Report.** Barret said that he will have an updated Committee form updated since Lawrence left and he will provide Mr. Kane with a name card as soon as possible.
7. **Vox Pop.** None.
8. **Discussion of Committee Membership.** Dell said that Lawrence had to leave the Committee due to some professional commitments. Dell did want to note that Lawrence had made a contribution in suggesting an all-natural weed control that Barret said he still needed to get the recipe for. Barbara said that she had asked Lawrence and would see about getting that.
9. **Special Item with Rachel Dobbs.** Dell said he wanted to revisit for a future meeting with Ms. Dobbs. Rex said that he would indeed like to have that occur. The rest of the Committee agreed.
10. **Vox Pop.** None.
11. **Straw Proposal.** Noah is present as a guest and is specifically interested in this agenda item. Barbara said that Noah is the one who started to bring the issue up. Noah prepared a statement. Noah said that Mayor Marlowe had expressed support for the measure. Noah said that he wanted to explore polystyrene as well as plastic bans for straws and cups. Noah said that Maine recently passed a future ban on plastics and polystyrene. Noah said also that St. Petersburg has banned single use plastics by 2020. Jon asked Noah about alternative types of legislation that could be considered including policy requirements like not providing straws to customers unless upon request or considerations of disabilities. Rex asked if he could ask Rose about her perspective as a business owner in needing to comply with these new requirements. Rose said that she did think that it was a consideration for businesses with cost but that it would serve to adjust commercial behavior. Rex made a motion to approve and Barbara seconded. John Kane said that he wanted to say that he thinks the City will as a whole gravitate towards this issue rather than the issue of cost because people will see that this is the

correct direction.

**12. Vox Pop.** None.

**13. Florida Solar Proposal.** Dell wanted to table this issue for the next meeting and Barret said that he was waiting on additional information from Duke Energy.

**14. Planters on City Poles.** Barret said that the decorative poles are not approved to hold planters.

**15. Concrete Planters on Walkways.** Barret said that they are looking into that because it was received well.

**16. Vox Pop.** None.

**17. Brochure for the City's Urban Agriculture Program.** Jon said that he needs additional content to complete the brochure with what the Committee would like to highlight and what that should say.

**18. Vox Pop.** None.

**19. Seed Library Update.** Dell said that he has spoken to library staff and that they are planning to hire someone who would take Kayla's previous position to be in charge of this program but that it has not yet happened yet. Dell said a meeting can be started but that it might be better to wait until more news is heard.

**20. Vox Pop.** None.

**21. Senate Bill 82.** This bill was passed that prohibits all local governments from prohibiting vegetable gardens in residential areas. Dell said that this unfortunately would prohibit any positive regulations that may encourage growth especially for community gardens. John Kane said that he wasn't sure it was a negative effect as it would also prohibit any other local governments from prohibiting growing in both the front and back yard.

**22. Vox Pop.** None.

**23. Fruit Tree Peninsula.** Penelope said that she had been out and seen that she believes some trimming needs to be done. She said also that she weeded the garden bed and some of the trees and that she had done some trimming as well. Dell asked if any fruit has been harvested yet but Penelope said not yet.

**24. Adopt-A-Trail Program.** Barret said he still has work to complete and will send it to Jon.

**25. Butterfly City Proposal.** Penelope said that she had a form letter that could be sent to the City Council. Dell said that he believed that the Committee had already approved. Dell would like to review the letter that Penelope brought and see about changing it to the needs of the Committee.

**26. Follow Up on Proposals.** No action.

**27. Pursuit of Arborist on City Staff.** No action.

**28. Vox Pope.** None.

**29. Tampa Bay Resiliency Conference.** Barret said that he and the Mayor went to a conference on this recently. The conference was for mitigation and financing. The workshop talked about examples of what some cities are doing including financing environmentally friendly projects or talking about sea levels rising and natural disasters becoming more extreme. Barret said it was about the consequences of what doing nothing would be versus doing something. He said it talked about relocating wastewater plants at the scale of tens of millions of dollars but there were also smaller scale projects

like sea walls and coastal properties. Barret said a lot of the ideas are already being implemented with capital projects like dredging and stormwater improvements for Orange Lake as well as additional centrifugal removal systems for stormwater.

- 30. Award for Eagle Scout Project.** Penelope suggested that the Committee prepare a certificate for the project completed for a young Eagle Scout who procured and built bat boxes in a city park. Rex volunteered to create a certificate to present him with.

**Additional Items Discussed.**

- 31. Adjournment.** Without objection the committee stands adjourned at 7:25 PM. The next meeting is June 10th, 2018 at 6 PM at the New Port Richey Public Library.