

City of New Port Richey Environmental Committee
Summary of Actions: October 14, 2019 meeting

Meeting begins a 6:04 p.m.

In attendance: Present were Committee Chair Dell deChant, John Kane, Rex Phelps, Penelope Anderson, Barbara Sullo City Liaison Barret Doe. absent: Vice Chair Rose Mohr (excused), Jon Tiez (excused). Guests: Donald Blake and Linda Blake.

Summary of Actions of September 18 meeting, approved.

Vox Pop: Donald Blake and Linda Blake spoke about their interest in the work of the committee.

Doe reviewed status of Green City initiative. Final submission likely by end of year.

Committee discussion of Community Garden at Frances Ave. Park. Policies for the garden forthcoming for City staff. deChant will review with City Manager and report at next meeting.

Seed Library discussed. deChant reports that new library staff member is charged with the seed library. He will contact that person.

Discussion of Fruit Tree Peninsula. Anderson reports work she has done there. Agreed that work at the FTP will be coordinated with Public Works.

Brief comments on Tampa Bay Resiliency Collation: Committee requests to be kept apprised of City participation in the TBRC. deChant notes that it appears food systems are not included on the TBRC agenda. http://www.tbrpc.org/resiliency-current_members/

Committee evaluated City's *Alleyway Management Plan (AMP)*. With unanimous support, the Committee makes the following recommendations: (1) The City not vacate any alleyways or otherwise allow private property lines or private uses to be extended into existing alleyways. (2) The City not pave existing alleyways. (3) If the recommendation to not pave existing alleyways is rejected, Committee recommends paving be done with pervious materials. (4) Alleyways that have been encroached on by adjacent properties be restored to City use, unless a formal agreement vacating the alleyway is on file. Proposal based on preservation of existing cultural and natural ecologies of alleyways; preservation of current hydrology (runoff and drainage); limiting or preventing unnecessary use of paving materials (especially asphalt); and reducing or preventing use of alleyways as transit routes and commercial dumping sites.

Committee deliberated on the City's accessory parking ordinance (2019-2164). Kane takes leadership of deliberations, with input from all members. Kane will draft a proposal for the Committee's review and approval at the next meeting.

Committee deliberated on the City's consideration of allowing pets (specifically dogs) at the Grey Preserve. With unanimous support, the Committee recommends that the prohibition on pets (especially dogs) at the Grey Preserve be maintained, and that the prohibition be extended to the proposed Congress Street entrance to the preserve. Proposal based on issues related to control of pets relative to preserve patrons, native wildlife, plant communities, and the native ecology in general. Grey Preserve is an ecological preserve and should be maintained as such.

Committee postponed action on revised recommendation on Straws, Plastic, and Styrofoam Proposal. Committee awaits revised proposal from Noah Denny.

Committee reaffirmed support of have the City pursue status as a Monarch Butterfly City. Dell will review this item with City Manger at upcoming meeting.

* Links <http://monarchcityusa.com/>

* <http://monarchcityusa.com/members>

Committee briefly discussed floating planter project

Members given task to each come up with one proposal for the Annual Report to Council

Review of proposals from last annual report (presented to City Council September 4, 2018)

- City to *pursue* 100% renewable power by 2030
- Establish position of a PT Garden Facilitator
- Create an Arborist position
- City to revise building code to allow for small/tiny houses (150-300 sq feet)
- City to become a nontoxic community – with timetable target

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

Calendar 2020:

January 11, 2020 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens*, 5th annual (Host Grand Gardens/New Port Richey FarmNet)

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

March 21, 2020 The Florida Loquat Festival, 7th annual (Host Ecology Florida)

August 17, 2020 - Okra Occasion, 5th annual (5:00 – 8:00) (Host ENV COM)

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.