

## **Environmental Committee**

### **City of New Port Richey**

The Environmental Committee of the City of New Port Richey develops and endorses environmental events in the City, renders annual and special reports as members may deem advisable, and explores new environmental initiatives for the City. The ECCNPR was established in 1989 and recreated in 2011.

## **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, December 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at the New Port Richey Library

Any person desiring to appeal any decision, with respect to any matter considered at any meeting or hearing, will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The law does not require transcribed verbatim minutes; therefore, the applicant must make the necessary arrangements with a private reporter (or private reporting firm) and bear the resulting expense. (F.S.286.0105)

### **Welcome and Roll Call**

**Present:** Committee Chair Dell de Chant, John Kane, Penelope Anderson, Rex Phelps, and Barrett Doe, Staff Liaison. Guests present: Linda Blake, Don Blake

**Absent:** Rose Mohr

**Vox Pop** (3 minutes for members of the audience on items not on the agenda): none  
**Approval of Minutes/** “summary of actions,” from November 20, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Agenda** and request for additional items. The motion passed unanimously.

**Liaison Officer Report:** Community Garden applications will be held by Barrett Doe.

**Committee Membership Considerations and City Policies:** Update on committee recommendations. Action was taken, recommending to mayor and city manager that married couples may serve on the committee. A discussion was held on whether one or two non-city residents be allowed to serve on the committee.

### **Business of Committee – On-going Projects and Events**

**Vox Pop** – Penelope mentioned the possibility that the City might give a \$5,000 budget to the Environment Committee. Barrett and Dell will investigate.

**Green City Initiative:** Update and note of submission status. Barrett will get back to the committee on the matter, as there was a delay.

**Update on Inclusion of City Property in Community Garden Ordinance** (from annual report/proposals over several years: Dell is awaiting a report from the City Manager, specifically, documents related to use of property at Frances Avenue Park.

**Urban Agriculture Program:** Dell reported that it is moving forward, and Public Works will take applications.

**Library Seed Lending Program:** Dell mentioned that we would like to have milkweed seed and seedlings available by Arbor Day.

**Fruit Tree Peninsula:** Penelope has been tending the plants and reported that she recently saw a city worker weeding the area.

**Tampa Bay Resiliency Coalition:** <http://www.tbrpc.org/resiliency>

No update yet on City's participation in this committee of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and any new developments since last meeting.

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

**Vox Pop:** none

**Arbor Day Event:** Dell mentioned that the Committee has been hosting this event for 35 years, and it is in the Committee's charter to do so. Barbara, Dell and his wife Marilyn have been coordinating the event for years. Arbor Day is January 17, 2020 (third Friday in January). A discussion was held on planning the event. A fourth grade class from the local private school, Genesis, will help plant a tree or two, provided by the City. The Committee, advised by the City, decides where the tree will be planted.

**Earth Day Event:** The mayor has asked the Committee to consider hosting an event, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day. Committee members briefly discussed the UN's IPCC report, which states that we now have less than eleven years to begin reduction of atmospheric Carbon Dioxide or face eco-cultural collapse. It was suggested that the Library might work with the Committee on holding a series of events leading up to Earth Day. Linda Blake agreed to contact the Library Director to discuss the possibility.

**Review of Alleys in the City:** The Committee's proposal was sent to the City Manager, City Clerk, Mayor and Staff Liaison. The Mayor acknowledged receipt. A discussion was held on whether the City Council would like public comment.

**Review of Pets (dogs) at James E. Grey Preserve:** The Committee's proposal was sent to the City Manager, City Clerk, Mayor and Staff Liaison. The Mayor acknowledged receipt. The Committee is waiting to find out when this topic comes up on the City Council's agenda.

**Review of Accessory Parking (2019-2164):** (See addendum to the agenda) John Kane submitted a review and proposals for changes in the Accessory Parking ordinances. He spoke at length about the language of the ordinance, the City's implementation of the ordinance, and property owners' resistance to stringent requirements. The Committee accepted the review and proposal and directed the Chair to forward them as recommendations from the Committee to the City Manager and Mayor for submission to the City Council.

**Review of Revised Proposal on Straws, Plastic and Styrofoam:** The Committee may consider including proposal in its annual report.

**Monarch Butterfly City:** Barrett discussed the application's status.

<http://monarchcityusa.com/>

**Floating Planter Project:** no update. Project in planning stage.

**Adopt a Trail Project:**

**Annual Report and Proposals to Council:** Brief planning session. Members each offered one primary proposal and one backup.

**Status Report on follow-ups to the annual report (presented to City Council Sept. 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. ft.) (M.J.)
- City to become a non-toxic community with time table target

**Annual Report (for 2018-2019) - proposed date of presentation, February 18, 2020:**

- City to pursue 100% renewable power by 2030 (Barbara)
- Establish position of a PT Garden Facilitator (Dell)
- Create an arborist position (Dell)
- Host King Tide Traveling Photo Exhibit (Penelope)
- Install apiaries at gardens on City property (Penelope)
- Revised prohibition on plastics (Noah and Committee as a whole)
- Pesticide Free City Campaign (Dell)
- City adopt a resolution opposing the Ridge Road Extension (John)
- City establish bike trail along Grand Blvd: Sims Park to the Port Richey line (John)
- Install recycling receptacles throughout downtown area, (at least ten) (Barbara)
- City will acknowledge the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day (Mayor and Dell)

\* The committee accepted the proposals without objection and will confirm acceptance at the January meeting.

**Calendar for 2020:**

January 11 – Collards Festival at Grand Gardens, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual

January 17 - Arbor Day

March 21 – Florida Loquat Festival, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual

August 17 – Okra Occasion, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Meeting Schedule**

“The Environmental Committee shall meet once every ninety (90) days unless it determines to meet more frequently.”

Committee has determined it is best to meet monthly – second Monday at 6:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** January 13, 2020.

Unanimously approved.

Linda Blake, Recording Secretary