

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.

Minutes for Meeting of Monday - February 10, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

New Port Richey **Public Works**

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

Roll Call

In attendance: Dell DeChant, Committee Chair; Barret Doe, Staff Liaison; Linda Blake, Secretary; Penelope Anderson, Member; Rex Phelps, Member; Barb Sullo, Member; John Kane, Alternate; Don Blake, guest; Noah Denny, guest;

Absent Rose Mohr

Vox Pop Reading by guest, Don Blake, from Oswald Chambers.

Approval of Minutes/"summary of actions" – January 13, 2020 – Unanimously Approved

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items - Unanimously Approved

Liaison Officer Report: Barret Doe, City Liaison

Note: Advice from City Liaison is requested on all items before the committee

Special Items:

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)

Committee Membership Considerations update on committee actions and proposals (Dell)

Following up on committee proposals at last two meetings: (1) request for non-city residents to service (note: two city committees allow for two (2) non-City residents to serve). (2) request to allow members of the same family to serve. Update from City Manager is that Linda Blake (spouse of Don Blake) will be appointed to the committee. Don Blake will not be appointed. Request for explanation submitted.

Committee requests a written statement on why the city attorney rejects spouses on the same committee when the Florida Attorney General stated in writing that it is okay. Rex and Penelope are wondering why the application to be on a committee does not include a question about spouses. 4 to 2 vote.

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

Update on inclusion of City Property in Community Garden Ordinance (from annual report/proposals over several years) (Dell) City Manager reports action forthcoming - specifically documents related to use of propriety Frances Ave Park. No action since last meeting.

Barret will meet with the development department

Urban Agriculture Program (Dell) No update

Library Seed Lending Program (Dell) No updates

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Penelope, and Barret) There is a water leak, but it will be fixed this week. Barb commented on how good the peninsula looks.

Tampa Bay Resiliency Coalition (Dell & Barret) See: <http://www.tbrpc.org/resiliency-current-members/>

See also: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WCcEYJVA9NKBdCOORCI3NnPbw4fM2IsJ/view>

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

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

Committee Policy on Communication Devices: Proposal to prohibit use of communication devices at meetings of the committee. Exception: Secretary's communication device. (Dell) Discussion held. 3 to 3 vote. Item dies.

Appointment of Agenda Reviewer: Proposal to appoint committee member to carefully review all CC agendas and report items of relevance to the Committee and to the Committee Chair. Chair's request that City staff contact Committee Chair was not acted upon. Discussion held. We have noticed that our committee is sometimes unaware that an item of interest to the Environmental Committee comes up on the City Council Meeting agenda. Motion to appoint John Kane was approved unanimously.

Arbor Day Event: Dell reported that the 2020 event was a well-attended success. Next one will be on January 15, 2021 Arbor Day, 32th annual (3rd Friday in January) (Host ENV COM). Nomination of committee member to Chair planning committee for 2021 event. Barbara Sullo volunteered to be the Chair of future Arbor Day. Unanimously approved.

Earth Day Event (see also this item in proposals in annual report): Report from Committee Chair, Linda Blake. King Tide Photo Exhibit will be on display at three locations in the City: NPR Rec Center, Gateway Gallery and NPR Library. A series of events leading up to Earth Day will take place at the New Port Richey Library on Wednesday evenings.

Review of Alleys in the city: Review & Proposal approved at November meeting sent to City Manager, City Clerk, Mayor, with copy of ENV COM liaison. Mayor acknowledges receipt. No further action reported. Chair has requested update from mayor and CM.

Review of Pets (Dogs) at Grey Preserve: Review & Proposal approved at November meeting sent to City Manager, City Clerk, Mayor, with copy of ENV COM liaison. Mayor acknowledges receipt. No further action reported. Chair has requested update from mayor and CM. Currently, dogs are banned from the Preserve.

When Phase II for developing the Preserve is imminent, the City Council will revisit the idea of allowing dogs in certain parts of the preserve. John mentioned that the plans include bike trails and additional parking lots. Dell will ask to see the Phase II plans and request an opportunity that the committee comment.

Review of Accessory Parking (2019-2164) (John Kane) Review & Proposal approved at December meeting sent to City Manager, City Clerk, Mayor, with copy of ENV COM liaison. Mayor acknowledges receipt. No further action reported.

Monarch Butterfly City (Dell & Barret) - Application status requested (from Barret) Signs are up! Dell will ask that the City make a formal announcement that we are now a Monarch City. We are committed to give out seeds and possibly seedlings at every event. Penelope is a leader on this. We'll work on getting some press on this.

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

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

Floating planter Project (Penelope and Barret) – no update.

Adopt a Trail Project (Barret) No update.

Annual Report and Proposals to Council: Linda Blake as Secretary has been added. Barret will be our certified arborist. King Tide Exhibit as part of our Earth Day 50th Anniversary event is moving forward. Penelope is working on getting an apiary on her property. We would like to see recycling receptacles in our parks. Ridge Road Extension opposition. A bike trail on Grand Blvd.

Annual Report (for 2018-2019) - date of presentation, February 18, 2020 - Jon Tietz and Dell DeChant will present our Annual Report to the City Council on Tuesday, February 18. Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

- See attached.

City Work Sessions on Projects of Relevance to Committee (Barret)

Events

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

Calendar 2020 - 2021:

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

August 17, 2020 - Okra Occasion, 6th annual (5:00 – 8:00) (Host ENV COM)

October 9, 2020 – Sweet Potato Round-Up, 5th annual (11:00-1:00) (Host Friendship Farms and FarmNet)

January 9, 2021 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens*, 6th annual (Host Grand Gardens/New Port Richey FarmNet)

January 15, 2021 Arbor Day, 32nd annual (3rd Friday in January) (Host ENV COM)

Meeting Schedule for 2020

"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 - 2nd Monday, at 6:00 p.m.

** Library is not available for our meeting in March. Not clear when library will again be available for our meetings.

Next Meeting : March 9, 6:00 p.m. – Public Works

Addendum