

**THE NEW PORT RICHEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON JULY 13, 2020 AT 6:00 PM  
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Chairman Dell deChant called the July 13, 2020 Environmental Committee meeting to order at 6:23 pm. Chairman deChant noted that a Secretary for the meeting was needed and Mr. Hahn volunteered for the role. Chairman deChant then called the roll and the following persons were in attendance:

**Members in Attendance**

Dell deChant, Chairman  
Rose Mohr, Vice Chairman,  
Member John Kane  
Member Linda Blake (by phone)

**Others in Attendance**

Barret Doe, Asst. Pub. Work Dir.  
Earl R. Hahn, Dev. Dept. Dir.

**Members Absent**

Member Barbara Sullo

Chairman deChant announced a quorum was present and asked all in attendance to briefly introduce themselves and introductions were made. (Note: Ms. Mohr's membership expired on March 6, 2020).

**II. VOX POP FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.** Chairman deChant opened the floor to the public so that they could address the Environmental Committee on any non-agenda items. There being no public comments, the Chairman closed the public forum.

**III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2020 MINUTES**

Chairman deChant requested a motion to approve the February 10, 2020 meeting minutes. Member Kane moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Mohr and approved unanimously 4-0.

**IV. LIAISON OFFICER REPORT.**

Assistant Public Works Director Barret Doe is the designated staff liaison for the committee. He briefly updated members about the protocol associated with attending committee meetings remotely and noted that the Council

Chambers are large enough to allow members to resume physically attending meetings

V. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. *Agenda Reviewer Report.* Member Kane provided a brief update.
- B. *Committee Membership Update.* Chairman deChant inquired about the status of Jessie Yarborough. Liaison Doe stated that there is an informal policy requiring a person to attend two (2) Environmental Committee meetings before being appointed a member and that Mr. Yarborough had yet to attend a meeting.

A discussion also took place concerning two members who indicated an intent to serve in another or additional capacity but it was unclear whether this operated as a resignation. Chairman deChant said he would reach out to them for clarification.

Chairman Dell also noted the agenda includes a communication from the City Attorney concluding that while there is no legal prohibition against a husband and wife serving on the same committee, such an arrangement could circumvent the Government in the Sunshine Law and, hence, was inadvisable.

- C. *Green City Initiatives.* Liaison Doe reported that due to administrative and technical constraints, progress toward implementing the Green City initiatives has been delayed.
- D. *Community Garden Ordinance Update.* Chairman deChant reported that he had meet with Mr. Doe, Mr. Hahn, and Parks and Recreation Director. Elaine Smith and Assistant Parks and Recreation Chris Bornfleth at Frances Avenue Park about creation of a new community garden. He advised Mr. Hahn had prepared a draft Ordinance in order to allow a community garden in city parks. Mr. Hahn advised that although a draft ordinance has been prepared, it has not been approved and, if approved, could go on the August or September Land Development Review Board agenda. The Ordinance would then require two readings before the City Council before becoming effective.

- E. *Urban Agriculture Program.* Chairman deChant proclaimed the program was proceeding forward but there is a need for a committee member to take change of the administrative duties associated with the program. Member Blake volunteered to accept those responsibilities.
- F. *Library Seed Lending Program.* Chairman deChant stated no update is available. He noted Penelope was involved in the program but her status is unclear. Library Department Director Andi Figart was providing meeting space at the Library but due to the pandemic access is limited. Liaison Doe noted the Library will be undergoing improvements, which will further restrict access.
- G. *Fruit Tree Peninsula.* Liaison Doe stated he drive by the fruit tree peninsula and that the area looks fine, except for one loquat tree. It appears someone has been maintaining it.
- H. *Tampa Bay Resiliency Coalition (TBRC).* Chairman deChant reported the Committee has been monitoring the TBRC activities. Mr. Hahn stated he has attended various Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council functions addressing resiliency and that on Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>, he would be attending a Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP) New Grant Application FY 21-22 Webinar.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. *Backyard Chicken Ordinance.* Chairman deChant noted the agenda package included a copy of the adopted ordinance and he briefly highlighted its contents. He noted the Committee was not asked to review and comment on the Ordinance before it was adopted but that the committee supported it.
- B. *Earth Day Events.* Land Development Code (LDC) § 3.13.02(1) provides one the duties of the environmental committee is to serve as the planning committee for any of the city's major environmental events, such as the Earth Day event and the Arbor Day Celebration. Earth Day is held on April 22 of every year and this year would've been Earth Day's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary but due to the pandemic Chairman deChant reported

the committee's plan were canceled. Further, communication with Library Department Director Andi Figart revealed that no events can be scheduled at this time.

- C. *Alley Management Program Review.* Member John Kane briefly discussed his findings and noted they conflicted with those identified in the Alley Management Plan. Liaison Doe noted the City Council did not support the abandonment of alleys as they were an important City resource. Mr. Doe also stated an application to vacate the alley in Block 156, that is, the alley segment between Grand Boulevard to the east, Franklin Street to the west, Wyoming Avenue to the north and Tennessee Avenue to the south had been tabled by the Council.
- D. *Gray Preserve Phase II Review.* Liaison Doe reported that the Parks and Recreation Department and not the Public Works Department is taking the lead on the project design. Chairman deChant advised it would be appropriate to draft a letter advising that pets and bicycles be prohibited within the park as these can have adverse impacts on environmental resources.
- E. *Monarch Butterfly City.* Chairman deChant noted the application has been approved, that there is a need to schedule formal recognition of this effort, and that committee leadership on this status is needed.
- F. *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP).* Chairman deChant advised that an agenda request was placed on the City Council's last agenda and that the Council approved being a signatory to the MUFPP. He noted that the MUFPP has 211 signatory cities and that the City of Miami, and now New Port Richey, are the only two signatory cities from Florida. He noted that Mr. Hahn has been appointed as the focal person for this effort. Mr. Hahn advised that a meeting has been scheduled with Chairman deChant and Jacob Freid, the City's marketing specialist, to design an appropriate link for international consumption.
- G. *Floating Planter Project Update.* Liaison Doe reported he had no update to present at this time.

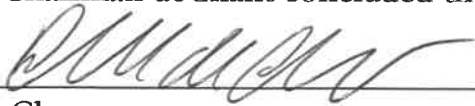
- H. *Adopt a Trail Project Update.* Liaison Doe reported he had no update to present at this time.
- I. *City Work Sessions on Relevant Committee Projects.* Liaison Doe reported that the next few work sessions address Department budgets and that a relevant project has not been scheduled.

**VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- A. *Seasonal events.* Chairman deChant noted all seasonal City events are suspended and that he has requested the Library and Parks & Recreation Departments to advise him when events can resume to be planned.
- B. *Calendar 2020 – 2021.* The scheduled calendar of events are as follows:
  - 1. March 21, 2020: The Florida Loquat Festival, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual (Host Ecology Florida) has been postponed
  - 2. August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020: Okras Occasion, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual (5-8 pm) (Host ENV COM)
  - 3. October 9, 2020: Sweet Potato Round-Up, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual (11 – 1:00) (Host Friendship Farms & FarmNet)
  - 4. January 9, 2021: Collards Festival at Grand Gardens, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual (Host Grand Gardens/New Port Richey FarmNet)
  - 5. January 15, 2021: Arbor Day, 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January) (Host ENV COM)
- C. *2020 Meeting Schedule.* Although LDC § 3.13.06 provides the Committee shall meet once every 90 days, the Committee’s policy has been to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 6 p.m.
- D. *Next Meeting.* The next meeting is scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in the City Council Chambers.

**VIII. ADJOURN.**

Chairman deChant concluded the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

  
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Dell deChant  
Chairman, Environmental Committee

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Date