

Welcome

Roll Call: Present: Dell DeChant, Committee Chair; Earl Hahn, Development Department Director; Barret Doe, City Liaison; Linda Blake, Secretary; John Kane, member; Rose Mohr, member.

Vox Pop (3 minutes for members of the audience – on items not on the agenda)

Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2020- Unanimous approval

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items: Unanimous approval

Liaison Officer Report: Barret Doe, City Liaison

Barret is asked to brief committee on meeting protocols and policies going forward

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

Agenda Reviewer Report: John Kane reports on any items on upcoming City Council agenda that may be of interest to the Environmental Committee. He said City may build a parking garage on the corner of Main St. and U.S. 19. John Kane suggested alternative ideas and would like the City to take suggestions. With climate change and the possibility of rising seas, we may need to consider how water will be dealt with. Supposedly, there will be workshops on this topic. Earl will look into this.

Update on Committee Membership, and City Policies (Barret and Dell)

Committee Membership Considerations With committee approval, Chair will again contact the Mayor and City Manager with request to allow committee membership by two persons residing outside the city limits, noting that such membership is allowed on the Cultural Affairs Committee and the Library Advisory Board.

Barret and Earl will get an updated Committee Membership list. Our membership expires on specific dates, so we need to stay on top of the forms and applications.

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) See Ordinance attached. Please review and be prepared to discuss. If Earl Hahn attends the meeting he can lead discussion of the ordinance. * We also need clarification if this has gone to Council for first reading.

Urban Agriculture Program (Dell) John Teats has been working on this. Linda Blake is willing to work with this program, as well. Dell is hoping John Teats can get on the Committee even though he is not a city resident.

Library Seed Lending Program - Update on the program (Dell)

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Barret) Linda reported that there are trees at the peninsula that don't look good. Barret said he would go by there.

Tampa Bay Resiliency Coalition (Dell & Barret) See: http://www.tbrpc.org/resiliency-current_members/

See also: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WCcEYJVA9NKBdCQORCJ3NnPhw4fM2Isj/view>

- Routine update on City's participation in this committee of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and any new developments since last meeting.

We haven't heard from them, so at this time, it appears that we didn't get the grant. There seems to be some interest in possibly including local agriculture component in the Resiliency Coalition. Local agriculture and local food systems.

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

Earth Day Events: Report from Committee Chair, Linda Blake. Communication with Andi indicates that no events can be scheduled at this time. Dell mentioned that we might be able to hold some outdoor events at Tasty Tuesday, the market that takes place just outside of the library each week.

Review of Alleys in the city: Chair has not been notified of CC meeting or workshop on this project. CM has reported that the committee's recommendations are included with CC materials on the project. Chari has requested that committee be notified of meeting or workshop on this this topic. No action reported since last meeting

Grey Preserve Phase II, Review: Although our committee input was requested, the Chair has not received material related to planning for Phase II. The Committee has requested that the City continue its policy of not allowing dogs in the Preserve. The Mayor has said that he agrees with this recommendation. The Committee is also recommending that no bike paths be constructed. John saw some materials related to the Phase II project, but it was difficult to understand the plan. Discussion. We want clarification on the plan so we can stay ahead of this issue. Dell will hold a meeting with City officials to get information and ensure that the Committee has timely input.

Monarch Butterfly City: Dell would like to plan some kind of public event about this.

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

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

Proposal to have City Join the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact: There aren't any requirements to do anything in particular, but the Committee would like to do some of the suggested activities. Dell would like to have a meeting at Rose's to go over the Pact.

Floating planter Project (Barret) – No update.

Adopt a Trail Project (Barret) – No updates. We want to be aware of any work sessions on this.

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

Events

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

- As of now all seasonal events in the city are suspended. Chair has requested to be notified by Elaine and Andi (and Barret) when events can be planned. As of now, none are planned

Calendar 2020 – 2021: All events are postponed due to Covid 19 Pandemic, but Dell is in communication with Andi at the NPR Library, hoping we can arrange some small scale outdoor public events at Tasty Tuesdays.

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.

Next Meeting

September 14 6:00 p.m. – City Council auditorium