

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting MINUTES
New Port Richey City Hall
Monday - September 14, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.





**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.

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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)

Required text from City Clerk: Due to the Novel Coronavirus, the Environmental Committee will be conducting its meetings through the use of Communications Media Technology (CMT) until further notice. The City Council chamber will NOT be open to the public for these meetings. During the meeting, comments may be emailed to doeb@cityofnewportrichey.org or you may call (408) 650-3123, access code: 206-817-797. Please keep in mind that access to the meeting by phone may be limited and email access may be delayed. By waiting until the meeting to make a comment, you may not be able to participate in the meeting. The Environmental Committee reserves the right to proceed on any item whether public communications are delayed or otherwise obstructed.

Required text from City Clerk: For those of you attending in person, you will be required to follow social distancing guidelines. Currently, the Chamber is set up in a work session format for Council so there are a limited number of chairs available at the tables. If you have more people show up than chairs available, you may use the gallery seating but maintain a 6ft. distance between seats. For example, we have been putting Department Heads at the ends of each row and then alternating every other row. Barret will need to coordinate with Chris Fitch to have someone in the lobby to take everyone's temperatures before proceeding to the Council Chamber.

Note from Chair: As of composition of the agenda, the Chair does not have additional information on accessing the meeting via electronic technology. Original information is as follows:

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE. Meeting MINUTES - September 14, 2020

Roll Call: Dell DeChant, Committee Chair; Rose Mohr, Vice Chair; Linda Blake, Secretary; Earl Hahn, former City of NPR Development Director; John Kane, member; Patty Jackson committee novice (first session), Brian Weed, IT Director for City of NPR; Don Blake, citizen guest;

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

Approval of Minutes – August 10, 2020

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items

Liaison Officer Report: Barret Doe, City Liaison - excused absence

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) John reports on any items on upcoming City Council agenda that may be of interest to the Environmental Committee.

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

Committee Membership Considerations With committee approval, Chair has contacted 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.

Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status (Barret) – Update. No update due to Barret's excused absence.

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 information on when this will go to Council for first reading.

Urban Agriculture Program (Dell) – Linda will take over keeping track of the people who have plots in the Community Gardens.

Library Seed Lending Program - No update on the program (Dell)

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Barret) No report due to Barret's excused absence.

* Managing and maintaining the planter.

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

See also: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WCcEYJVA9NKBdCQORCI3NnPbw4fM2IsJ/view>

- Routine update on City's participation in this committee of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and any new developments since last meeting.
- Earl explained that a study is planned for the area west of River Road, which tends to flood. The focus is on sea level rise.

- Dell thinks Resiliency should include Food Resiliency.
- There will be a 350-car parking garage constructed on the corner of Highway 19 and Main Street. The construction of the college is for the economic benefit of the City (tax revenue, knowledge base increase, bring more people to the City businesses, increased parking allows more access to City businesses). Discussion about whether the City addressed environmental issues, like cement structures creating heat, energy efficiency, green spaces, etc.

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

VP for items in this section

Earth Day Events: Report from Committee Chair, Linda Blake. Communication with Andi indicates that no events can be scheduled at this time. Linda suggested that the City recognize April 10 as Gopher Tortoise Day. Dell and Linda will work on this.

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. Chair has requested that committee be notified of meeting or workshop on this this topic.

- Earl said that it appears that the City Council wants to preserve the alleys, as they are an asset to the City.
- Dell reminded the Committee that we request that if there is any paving of the alleys, it should be done with pervious material.

Grey Preserve Phase II, Review: Although our committee input was requested, the Chair has not received material related to planning for Phase II. Absent materials, input will be only general in nature. Committee may desire to offer general recommendations.

Action by Committee: Draft general recommendations on Gray Preserve Phase II

- Earl said that we should request a presentation from the City about the plans for the Preserve.

Monarch Butterfly City (Dell & Barret) - Application approved.

Need to schedule formal recognition of the City's award of MBC status. Linda and Dell will work on planning this when we can hold public events once again.

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

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

Floating planter Project (Barret) – No update.

Library Market – Tasty Tuesday Market has resumed. There are reports of a Saturday Market also being initiated. Chair has received no official information on the Saturday Market. Markets apparently follow City protocols limiting gatherings to 50 persons or less. Observation of a Maker's Market already happening downtown on Saturday evenings.

City Work Sessions on Projects of Relevance to Committee (John and Barret) No updates.

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:

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)

March 20, 2021 The Florida Loquat Festival, 7th annual (Host Ecology Florida)

August 16, 2021 - Okra Occasion, 6th annual (5:00 – 8:00) (Host ENV COM)

October 10, 2021 – Sweet Potato Round-Up, 5th annual (11:00-1:00) (Host Friendship Farms and FarmNet) Even though our event is cancelled, the organic, locally grown sweet potatoes will be available at Wright's.

Patty Jackson has to attend a couple of meetings before she can officially become a member of the Environmental Committee. She introduced herself. She has a plot at the community garden and is involved with providing high quality food into the hands of people in need.

John Kane said that all of the little things we do add up to an important contribution to the environment. Thanks to Brian and Earl and the rest of the Committee for volunteering their time.

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

October 12 6:00 p.m. – City Council auditorium