

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Minutes
New Port Richey City Hall
Monday - October 12, 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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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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Welcome

Roll Call: Present- Dell DeChant, Committee Chair; Rose Mohr, Member; John Kane, Member; Linda Blake, Secretary; Barret Doe, City Liaison; Patty Jackson, new member; Don Blake, city resident; Mike Peters, city resident.

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

Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2020 Unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items

Additional Item: John Kane, Main Street Landing has a levy on the river to control the flow of water from the river, but it allows water to seep into the other side of the levy. It is stagnant water, which presents problems. John will seek info and contact a councilman about this info.

Additional Item: Linda Blake, New Port Richey City Web site needs to be updated to include the many things the Environmental Committee has accomplished (Tree City, Monarch City, Community Gardens and connected events)

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 New member, Patty Jackson, completes required novitiate period, and can be advanced to the City Council for official membership on the committee.

Longtime member and committee leader, Barbara Sullo, has stepped down from the committee. Her loss is a great one for the committee. She is on the membership mailing list for this meeting to honor her work and express our thanks for her years of distinguished service.

Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status (Barret) – Update. Samantha is working on it.

Update on inclusion of City Property in Community Garden Ordinance (from annual report/proposals over several years) (Dell and Barret) With the end of Earl's service, the status of the ordinance permitting gardens on public property is unknown. Barret is asked to give an update. Barret asks Dell to contact him to discuss this further.

Urban Agriculture Program (Dell)

- Two properties submitted for renewal. Approved, unanimously. Barret is given copies to filing. Linda is asked to update the roster of UA properties. Grand Gardens (on Grand Blvd.), East Madison Gardens (on Illinois Ave.)- signatures needed.

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

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Barret) Barret reported that an arborist gave some advice on taking care of the plum trees and there is some improvement.

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.
- Dell DeChant and Patty Jackson report that there is no resiliency for food security in our region. The Coalition has not included this as part of its plans. The Mayor is the City's representative on the Coalition. Dell will contact the Mayor.

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

VP for items in this section

Earth Day Events: No events in the City. We will take this off the agenda until 2021.

Review of Alleys in the city: Any vacating of the alley property will be handled case by case through the Development Department and the City Council. There is no plan right now to do citywide improvement of the alleys.

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. John is asked to try to acquire the materials related to the Phase II project.

* Action by Committee: The Committee agrees that no mechanical vehicles should be allowed in the Preserve.

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

Need to schedule formal recognition of the City's award of MBC status. Need to assign leadership:

* 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. Markets apparently follow City protocols limiting gatherings to 50 persons or less.

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

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) – postponed

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)

Linda reminds the Committee that Gopher Tortoise Day is April 10. Maybe we can do some Earth Day events.

Discussion of the Kaiser/Parking Garage project on the corner of Main Street and U.S. 19.

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: We should each come up with an item for the City Council to take up for 2021.

November 9, 6:00 p.m. – City Council auditorium