

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
**City of New Port Richey**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**New Port Richey City Hall**  
**Monday - December 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.

### Meeting Agenda

#### New Port Richey City Hall

**Monday – December 14, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.**

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](mailto: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** Dell deChant, Committee Chair; Linda Blake, Secretary (attending remotely); John Kane, Member; Patty Jackson, Member; Don Blake, citizen; Barrett Doe, City Liaison (attending remotely); Rose Mohr, excused.

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

**Approval of Minutes** – November 9, 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

## Business of Committee – On-Going Projects and Events

**Agenda Reviewer Report** (John) John reports on any items on upcoming City Council agenda that may be of interest to the Environmental Committee. John expressed concern that the Yard Waste to Mulch program might be under threat.

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

New Committee Member, Patty Jackson.

**Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status** (Barret) No update.

**Update on inclusion of City Property in Community Garden Ordinance (from annual report/proposals over several years)** (Dell and Barret) Barret is asked for report on status of this project.

**Urban Agriculture Program** (Dell) No update.

**Library Seed Lending Program** (Dell) No update.

**Fruit Tree Peninsula** (Barret) No update.

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

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

The Environmental Committee unanimously approved (4-0) the proposal, and it will now be presented to the City Council for approval. See attached.

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

**Earth Day Events:** Report from Committee Chair, Linda Blake. Linda will contact Andi regarding future events.

**James E. Grey Preserve Phase II, Review:**

Committee reviewed the report and requested it be forwarded to the City Council (see attached).

**Monarch Butterfly City** (Dell & Barret) - 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>

**Library Market** – Tasty Tuesday Market has resumed. Saturday Market (Second Saturday) also established. 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.

**Promotion of Sustainability Projects** (Linda and Dell) No update from Jacob Fried on Linda's recommended list of additions to the City Web Page.

**Arbor Day Planning** (Dell and Barret) for January 15, 2021

Barret will contact people at the City (Judy) to find out what the requirements are for maintaining our Tree City status, given limits due to the pandemic

Discussion of location and type of tree. John requests a Red Maple.

Recommend support for Pasco County "Drive By" tree distribution in coordination with "Keep Pasco Beautiful" (Kristen King, Director). Pasco County would like to give away 100 trees, 2-foot tall loquat trees in one-gallon pots. They will be placed in the trunks of cars. Discussion about where to do it. Dell will contact the City Manager about the logistics of this.

**Annual Report: Items for Inclusion** Members each offer one proposal for inclusion in the annual report of the committee. Committee asked to set a date for the presentation.

**Linda** – Updating the City of New Port Richey Website so it includes information about Community Gardens, Yard Waste to Mulch program, Monarch City, Tree City and Calendar of Events sponsored by the Environmental Committee

**John** – Suggested we may be able to recycle glass in the City. Possibly having "glass only" dumpsters that could be placed in several locations around the City. John will research the possible options.

**Patty**- Reducing food waste. Partnering with the Tampa Bay Network Against Hunger

**Dell**- Create a position for Urban Agriculture Director

Dell would like to present the Committee's proposals to the City Council in February.

**Dell** presented a book, **Humanity's Last Stand**, as our recommended reading.

## 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 or authorized.

### Calendar 2021:

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

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

March 20, 2021 The Florida Loquat Festival, 7<sup>th</sup> annual (Host Ecology Florida)

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

October 10, 2021 – Sweet Potato Round-Up, 5<sup>th</sup> annual (11:00-1:00) (Host Friendship Farms and FarmNet)

### Meeting Schedule for 2021

"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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, at 6:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

**bbJanuary 11 , 6:00 p.m. – City Council auditorium**