

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
MINUTES
New Port Richey City Hall
Monday - January 11, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.





ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE Minutes

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:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/206817797>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: **+1 (408) 650-3123**

Access Code: 206-817-797

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Dial in or type: 67.217.95.2 or inroomlink.goto.com

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Welcome

Roll Call: Dell deChant, Committee Chair; Rose Mohr, Vice-Chair; Linda Blake, Secretary; John Kane, Member; Patty Jackson, Member; Barrett Doe, City Liaison; Amber Blais, Novitiate (1st of 2 meetings); Lexi Lombardi, Novitiate; Noah Denny, Guest.

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

Approval of Minutes – December 14, 2020

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items

Liaison Officer Report: Barrett Doe, City Liaison -

Barrett 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

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. There are issues with the Yard Waste to Mulch program in the City Council. Our Committee greatly supports keeping it.

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

* Barret created a certificate for Barbara Sullo who has left the committee after many years. Two more members will be joining the Committee.

Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status (Barret) – Update. A few more details still need to be presented to get approval for our City to be granted Green City status.

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. In process.

Urban Agriculture Program (Dell) Community gardens, market gardens, residential gardens.

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

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Barret) Update if any. Linda has committed to checking on the Fruit Tree Peninsula at least once each month. If there are any immediate problems, she will call Barret. John said he went by there and is concerned about the mulch in the raised beds. John made a motion that the Committee recommends that the City use City-produced mulch rather than commercial mulch wherever the City has plantings. We will include information about the benefits of using the City-produced mulch. The motion was approved unanimously. Barret said he doesn't know much about the reasoning behind the City's decision.

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

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

* Dell: At regular meeting of City Council (1/5/21), the council approved ENV COM resolution calling for inclusion of food systems in TBRPC's "Resilient Regional Action Plan (RRAP)" This is a real success.

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

VP for items in this section

Earth Day Events: No public events scheduled at this time due to the pandemic.

Grey Preserve Phase II, Review: Updates (Barret). Comments (All). No action or update.

- Dell: Item to be removed from future agendas, unless and until further action is taken or warranted.

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

Monarch Butterfly City (Dell & Barret) – The City has made the proclamation that we are now an official Monarch Butterfly City.

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

* This will remain on agenda until recognition event occurs.

Linda and Rose will make arrangements for a Monarch Butterfly event when the time is right. Milkweed seeds should be made available to the public.

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.

* Dell: This item will be removed from future agendas, unless and until further action is taken or warranted.

Promotion of Sustainability Projects (Linda and Dell) Linda's list of projects for the Web Page.

Update on reports from Jacob Fried. See also, Annual Report items. Linda will begin working with Jacob and will check in with Dell on our vision for an Environmental Initiative category on the City Web site.

Resolution on TBRPC Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Resilient Regional Action Plan (RRAP)

(Dell) – See attached. See note above: * Dell: At regular meeting of City Council (1/5/21), the council approved ENV COM resolution calling for inclusion of food systems in TBRPC's "Resilient Regional Action Plan (RRAP)"

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

- Barrett explained that the tree planting will still take place. The mayor will be there to make a proclamation. No school children this year. (Barret)
- "Drive By" loquat tree distribution in coordination with "Keep Pasco Beautiful" (Kristen King, Director) on the corner of Bank and Nebraska

Annual Report: Items for Inclusion Members are asked to offer one proposal for inclusion in the annual report of the committee. Committee asked to set a date for the presentation. Committee asked to approve these proposals. Committee members are asked to supply short narrative in support of proposals

- Proposed items:

- Recycling Bins in down town (from Noah Denny)

- Glass recycling initiative (John)

- Promote Food Waste reduction (Patty is asked to send flyer on TBNEH program)

- Include City's environmental programs and initiatives on City's website. Linda has sent her list of suggestions to Jacob at City of NPR, Marketing. (See item above, "Promotion of Sustainability Projects")

- Establish staff position of "Agriculture Director" (Dell) Budget is produced in June and July, but work needs to be done ahead of time. As a means of selling the idea, we may invite the City Councilmen to take a tour of the variety of gardens in New Port Richey.

- Additional Items: last call.

We had a discussion of keeping Bee Hives in our list of proposed items. Since the person who was passionate about the idea is no longer on the committee, we decided not to keep it.

We had a discussion about keeping the proposal about Recycling Bins in downtown. Several members of the Committee suggested it might be best to start small and do a test model. Barrett said the location is key. Where are the existing trash receptacles? Would it be part of the Trash company's route or part of the Parks system? Consensus was do not include this item on final draft of proposal.

Bike path and glass recycling will remain among our proposals.

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 Andi (and Barret) when events can be planned. As of now, none are planned or authorized.

Calendar 2021 (all items listed subject to reschedule or cancellation)

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)

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 - 2nd Monday, at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

February 8 , 6:00 p.m. – City Council auditorium