

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Minutes
New Port Richey City Hall
Monday - February 15, 2021 - 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.

**Minutes
New Port Richey City Hall
Monday – February 15, 2021 – 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 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

Join from a video-conferencing room or system.

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

Meeting ID: 206 817 797

Or dial directly: [206817797@67.217.95.2](tel:206817797) or 67.217.95.2##206817797

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

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

Welcome

Roll Call: Dell deChant, Committee Chair; Linda Blake, Secretary; John Kane, Member; Patty Jackson, Member; Barrett Doe, City Liaison; Amber Blais, Novitiate (2nd of 2 meetings); Lexi Lombardi, Novitiate (2nd of 2 meeting); Lauren Haymann, Novitiate (1st of 2 meetings)

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

Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2021 - Approved.

Approval of Agenda and request for additional items

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 I – 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. John reported that the City may purchase a small lot to create a park. Not much more information on this currently.

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

- Certificate for Barbara Sullo will say that she served for more than 10 years. (Barret)
- Amber has been approved as a member of the Environmental Committee.
- Lexi should be an official member next month.
- Lauren is attending her first meeting tonight. She is a city resident and an Environmental Science teacher at Fivay HS.

Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status (Barret) – Update. The Environmental Committee will make a presentation of its annual report to the City Council on March 16. Dell will do a brief presentation about the Green City initiative. Paperwork is being completed.

Update on inclusion of City Property in Community Garden Ordinance (from annual report/proposals over several years) (Dell and Barret) Dell and Barret are asked for report on status of this project. There is a new Parks and Recreation Department, Kevin Adams. A bit more paperwork needs to be done. Dell is requesting that the City Attorney write up the documents. Patty will reach out to Kevin Adams to find out what the next step is. Lisa, the Senior Planner at the Development Department, may need to be contacted, as well.

Urban Agriculture Program (Dell) There is a slim possibility that another lot may be purchased for a Community Garden. Grand Gardens and East Madison property are looking great!

Library Seed Lending Program - There are very few milkweed seeds at the Library currently. Patty will pick some up from Dell's place and bring it to the Library. Amber will also pick up some seeds for the FFA (Future Farmers of America) at her school, Hudson HS. They are willing to gather seed to share with the community. Linda will also produce seed at her home garden. (Dell)

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Linda) Linda has committed to going there once a month to monitor. Loquats are producing fruit, still green. Plums and peaches are just beginning to bloom.

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

See also: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WCcEYIJA9NKBdCQORCI3NnPbw4fM2IsJ/view> Barret attended a couple of workshops. A main point is to involve people in the community with environmental issues rather than just relying on the government to promote sustainability. Councilman Peter Altman and Mayor Marlowe are the Council people most involved in this general topic. Linda asked Barret to look into the possibility of Environmental Committee members participating in the Regional Planning Council workshops. Dell reminded us that our Committee (approved by the City Council) recommended that Food Security should be included in their planning, but we're not sure at this time if they have prioritized this. Lexi Lombardi will contact Councilman Altman to encourage him to bring forward at the Resiliency meeting to include the resolution from the City of New Port Richey to include Food Systems in their planning.

Business of Committee II

- New Projects (and projects of limited duration, including annual events)

VP for items in this section

Earth Day Events: Report from Committee Chair and Linda Blake on planning with Andi (NPR Library) on Earth Day events. Victoria is her assistant and will be involved in this. CDC guidelines must be followed. Linda and Dell will get together on this. The Pasco Sierra Club Conservation Committee will have a table at the outdoor Second Saturday Market for Gopher Tortoise Day on April 10. Monarch City event should be part of this.

Update: City Work Sessions on Projects of Relevance to Committee (John and Barret) Lengthy discussion of how to make the Yard Debris to Mulch program more sustainable financially. Our Environmental Committee wants to be kept up to date on any work sessions or discussions or agenda items at a City Council meeting. This issue is of utmost importance to us. We need a system in place for us to stay up to date on similar issues. Dell will reach out to Judy to remind her to keep us informed.

Arbor Day Report (Dell and Barret) Arbor Day was successfully recognized with a lovely event on January 15, 2021

Monarch Butterfly City (Linda and Rose) - Need to schedule formal recognition of the City's award of MBC status.

* Note: Could be part of Earth Day Event, referenced above.

* Note: Amber reports that New Port Richey is not yet listed on the list of Monarch City. She has contacted the Monarch City organization on this oversight. The Chair has also contacted the organization.

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

* This will remain on agenda until recognition event occurs.

Amber called the Monarch City people (Russ is the President) and found out that our City is not listed on their Website. Our paperwork is in, so this shouldn't be. Amber will follow up. The City passed the resolution that we are a Monarch City. We need to get information out to the public with an event.

Promotion of Sustainability Projects (Linda, Dell and Lexi)

Getting in touch with Jacob Fried is key.

* See also, Annual Report items

Mulch Proposal (Dell as per EC direction) Action on the Committee's proposal to use City-generated mulch on all City plantings, rather than commercial mulch. Reasons: cost, nutritional quality, environmental health (pollution, industrial manufacturing, transportation), ecological health (closed-loop, locally-sourced, native organisms), eco-cultural (financial resources extracted from community, loss of educational opportunity).

Annual Report: Items for Inclusion: See attached final draft of report. Items included are based on consensus of committee. Without objection, the report (attached) will be sent to IT professional for creation of a visual (Power Point) document for inclusion in report to the City Council. Items in proposal for 2021:

- Proposed items:

- 1) Promote City's Environmental Programs & Initiatives
- 2) Establish Staff Position of "Agriculture Director"
- 3) Promote Food Waste Reduction
- 4) Commit to 100% Renewable Power by 2030
- 5) Commit to Becoming a Nontoxic Community
- 6) Glass recycling initiative – exploration of possibilities
- 7) Bike Trail

This, along with a summary of what we've been doing, will be presented to the City Council on March 16.

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 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)

January 8, 2022 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens*, 6th annual (Host Grand Gardens/New Port Richey 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

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