



## 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 – June 14, 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)

## Welcome

**Roll Call:** Dell deChant, Committee Chair; Linda Blake, Secretary; Patty Jackson, Member; Amber Blais, member; Lexi Lombardi, Member; Lauren Heymann, potential member  
Barrett Doe, City Liaison  
Two citizen guests: John Kane, Don Blake  
Excused Absence: Rose Mohr

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

John Kane told the Committee about a City resident who asked the City Council if he could get his alley paved. He suggested we keep track of this issue.

Motion: The Committee will request that before the City takes action or makes any modification of alleys, the Committee should have an opportunity to weigh in on the issue. Dell will write the motion up and give it to the Council.

## Approval of Meeting Summary – May 10, 2021

\* Committee needs backup secretary. Lauren Heymann volunteered to be the back-up secretary.

## 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** – Request for Agenda Reviewer (see also Work Session reviewer) who will commit to reviewing the City Council agendas, reporting to the Committee any items that would be of interest to our Committee. Lexi Lombardi and Lauren Heymann volunteered to share the responsibility.

**Update on Committee Membership, and City Policies** (Barret and Dell) Lauren should be approved soon.

**Green City initiative: Update and Note of submission status** (Barret) – Katie and Sam are working on it. Barret will check in with them this week. Good news!

**Update on inclusion of City Property in Community Garden Ordinance (from annual report/proposals over several years)** Dell met with Kevin, the Parks and Rec Director, who has some experience with community gardens. The City Attorney is working on reviewing the proposed Community Garden at Frances Avenue Park. The garden will be educational, as it will be a showpiece for what can be grown locally at particular times of year.

**Urban Agriculture Program** (Dell)

Committee needs member to manage application process. It isn't a difficult job, but it is on going. Anyone who wants to open their property to the community for gardening needs to fill out an application and renew it every year. Lauren Haymann volunteered to receive the applications and get them turned in to the City.

**Library Seed Lending Program** - Patty noticed that the Library is promoting the program on their electronic board in front of the Library on Main Street.

**Fruit Tree Peninsula** - Linda said that the Loquats were great, but she didn't notice any plums or peaches.

**Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council** - Notes on participation/attendance at TBRPC events. TBRPC Resiliency Proposal includes food-system resiliency recommendations. The Environmental Committee made the proposal, the City Council approved it, and the TBRPC added elements of the proposal to the resiliency document.

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

**VP for items in this section**

**Monarch Butterfly City Event** - Lexi said that a Planning/Steering Committee is planning the multi-day event, possibly in October. Looking forward to an update at our next Environmental Committee meeting and maybe even sooner.

**Promotion of Sustainability Projects** - Jacob Fried, the City Marketing Director, will be pursuing another career opportunity. His position has already been advertised. Incidentally, if the Environmental Committee wants to promote a particular event or initiative, the screens at the Bandstand at Sims Park are controlled by City Parks and Rec.

**Annual Report (presented to City Council on March 16). \* Discussion of follow up and next steps.**

Proposals:

- 1) Promote City's Environmental Programs & Initiatives
- 2) Establish Staff Position of "Agriculture Director." Dell had conversations with City officials who told him there is no money in the budget for such a position. He is now suggesting that FarmNet, a non-profit organization that is already involved within the City, to take the responsibility for promoting and supporting all of the agrarian activities in the City.
- 3) Promote Food Waste Reduction: Patty will request that the City help us promote the "Waste No Food" App. This is a system that is already in place, so it will not cost the City any money.

4) Commit to 100% Renewable Power by 2030

5) Commit to Becoming a Nontoxic Community: John Kane mentioned that there is a Florida law that forbids the use of Nitrogen fertilizers during our rainy season. Discussion about ensuring the City and city residents know about this law. Dell suggested we consider this as an important component of this initiative. Lauren will do some research on this topic, and we will follow up on this.

6) Glass recycling initiative

7) Bike Trail

**City Work Sessions on Projects of Relevance to Committee** Request for volunteer to serve as Agenda Reviewer (see also CC Agenda reviewer)

## Events

**Seasonal Events (Information only)** - Note: All events supported and endorsed by Environmental Committee.

- Chair has not received formal notification that seasonal events in the city are no longer suspended. It appears, however, that events are being scheduled and occurring.

### **Calendar 2021-2022 (all items listed subject to reschedule or cancellation)**

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)

January 8, 2022 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens\*, 6<sup>th</sup> annual (Host Grand Gardens/New Port Richey FarmNet)

January 21, 2022 -Arbor Day, 33<sup>rd</sup> annual (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January) (Host ENV COM)

March 19-26, 2022 The Florida Loquat Festival, 8<sup>th</sup> annual (Host Ecology Florida)

**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: July 12, 6:00 p.m. – City Council auditorium**