

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**City of New Port Richey**

**Meeting Agenda**

**New Port Richey – Public Library**

**Thursday – March 6, 2025 – 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 Public Library**

**Thursday – March 6, 2025 – 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; Rose Mohr, Vice Chair; Amber Blais, Secretary; member; Tom O'Neill, member; Margaret Carswell, member  
City Staff Liaison, Colin Eichenmuller  
Library Community Engagement Director (Tori Ladd)  
City Marketing Specialist (Jesse Brock)  
Volunteer Coordinator, Sasha Bartenuk  
Monarch Festival Chair: (Deb Morris)

Guests: Amanda Zborek (expected)

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

**Approval of “Summary of Actions & Discussion” in lieu of Minutes** February 6, 2025 (abundant thanks to Amanda Zborek for recording actions and discussions)

**Liaison Officer (A) Advice on EC agenda, and (B) CC items:** A) Advice from City Liaison is requested on all items before committee and (B) items on City Council agenda relevant to Environmental Committee (open)

## **Business of Committee I – On-going Projects and Events**

**Urban Agriculture Program** (Rose Mohr)

**Update on inclusion of City Property in Urban Agriculture Ordinance** (All)

- Follow up from CC meetings
- This is a topic to revisit after the City Council election (April 8, 2025)

**Wildflower Installation Initiative & Wildflower Ordinance** (Chair)

- Update from Chair
- This is a topic to revisit after the City Council election (April 8, 2025)

### **Library Seed Lending Program** (Amber)

- Update on Hudson HS Ag Teacher and engagement with the committee's projects.

### **Fruit Tree Peninsula** (Colin)

- Report on removal of designated trees and installation of 4 new trees: 2 Barbados Cherry, others (?)

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

### **Review of City's urban reforestation program** (Dell, Sasha, Colin)

- \* **Tree Walk:** April 19 (Sasha, Tom, Matt Murphy, Don & Linda Blake)
- \* **Report on Tree Budget**, remaining funds for planting (Colin & Tom)

- \* **New Tree list: Comments on list**

Colin asked to bring new list

### **Discussion of City's Acquisition of old Schwettman/Gulf High School Property and Building**

- \* Update (if any) from Colin or committee members.
- LAST LISTING unless committee desires further action

### **Fluoride Report** (Margaret and Colin)

- Update from Colin on his research

### **Proposal Allowing Non-residents on Committee** (Dell)

- No action reported on proposal to City Council on proposal submitted in December
- LAST LISTING unless committee desires further action

### **Discussion Grand View Heights** (Tom & Margaret: Tom, environmental expectations; Margaret, alternative vision)

### **Mangrove Planting Project** (Margaret)

### **Seasonal Events** - Note: Events noted here are supported and endorsed by Environmental Committee.

- \* Volunteer needed to plan, develop/promote, manage events.

### **Calendar 2025**

April 12, 2025 Florida Loquat Festival (based on harvest schedule, Chasco Fiesta, Easter, Passover) – Florida Loquat Festival 12<sup>th</sup> annual (Sims Park) (Host New Port Richey FarmNet, City of New Port Richey – and others) (Sim's Park/Peace Hall). ***Volunteers needed: Harvesters, Makers, day-of assistance.***

- \* CC Proclamation at CC meeting March TBD – attend if possible

Earth Day (April 22, 2025) – 35<sup>th</sup> annual (1st 1992) - (City event, April 19, 2025, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Library (Tori Ladd, Manager/Director) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library )

- Tori Ladd invited to present plans to the Committee

### **Monarch City Day (May 3, 2025)** (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library) (Deb, Sasha, Dell)

September 6, 2025 -The West Pasco Okra Occasion, 10<sup>th</sup> annual

- \* Location New Port Richey Public Library

November 22, 2025 - New Port Richey Sweet Potato Round-Up 10<sup>th</sup> annual

- \* Location First United Methodist Church, New Port Richey

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January 10, 2026 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens, 11<sup>th</sup> annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens) (Grand Gardens)

January 16, 2026 – Arbor Day 37th annual (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January) (Host: ENV COM)

**Meeting Schedule for 2025** "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.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, April 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Library**