

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**City of New Port Richey**

**Meeting Agenda**

**New Port Richey – Public Library**

**Thursday – April 3, 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 – April 3, 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 Amanda Zborek, member.  
City Staff Liaison, Colin Eichenmuller  
Volunteer Coordinator, Sasha Bartenuk  
Monarch Festival Chair: (Deb Morris)

Guests:

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

**Approval of Minutes** March 6, 2025

**Agenda note: TBRPC, RRAP** Assessment and Review of Report to City Council (Chair)

- **Note:** This item will be taken up *no later than 7:00 p.m.*

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**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)

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

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

- This is a topic to revisit after the City Council election (April 8, 2025)
- Colin is asked for update if any to report from staff direction from Admin.

### **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 (?)
- Colin reports that the Barbados Cherry trees will be installed shortly.
- Update from Colin.

## **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, time? ----- (Sasha, Tom, Matt Murphy, Don & Linda Blake)
- \* **Report on Tree Budget**, remaining funds for planting (Colin & Tom)
- \* **Earth Day Tree Walk (Tom and Dell)** – April 21, 10:00 a.m.

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

- Update from Colin on his research
- Update from Margaret

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

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

### **TBRPC, RRAP Assessment and Review of Report to City Council (Chair)**

- **Note: This item will be taken up *no later than 7:00 p.m.***

### **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 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- 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.***

- See attached PR card and circulate via cyber systems if you can

- Loquat walk April 7, 10:00 a.m.

- Beer release April 10

Earth Day (April 22, 2025) – 35<sup>th</sup> annual (1st 1992)

(Tori Ladd, Manager/Director) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library )

**Monarch City Day (May 3, 2025) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

(Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM, Library, New Port Richey FarmNet) (Deb, Sasha, Dell)

Proclamation: April 15, City Council, 6:00 p.m. – Attend if you can

- Question to Sasha and Deb on Vendors: Honey and others
- ***Volunteers needed: day-of assistance.***
- ***Volunteers needed: pick up & transport Milkweed plants from Green Isle Gardens week before festival***
- **11303 Florida 33  
Groveland, FL 34736**

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 37<sup>th</sup> 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, May 1, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Library**