

# **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**City of New Port Richey**

**Meeting Agenda**

**New Port Richey – Public Library**

**Thursday – July 3, 2025 – 5:00 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 – July 3, 2025 – 5:00 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 (excused absence); member; Tom O'Neill, member; Margaret Carswell, member; Amanda Zborek, member; George Russell, 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/Summary of Actions** June 12, 2025

### **Special Business I A – Annual Report (open to 6:00, or later, if needs be)**

- **Review, Finalize, Approve Annual Report** for submission on July 7 and presentation to City Council on July 15
- **Finalize presentation program**
- **Discuss leadership for 2025 A.R** (for presentation in June/July 2025)
- **Note: this is the same meeting when we will present our response to the TBRPC RRAP.**

### **Regular Business**

**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 and/or George)

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

- Committee to revisit in light of Annual Report
- Discuss and decide on including as a proposal in AR

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

- Colin reports on administration's plans for Wildflower Ordinance
- Committee action (if any on administration's plans)

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

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

- Update from Rose
- Inquiry on restorative intervention on weaker of two loquat trees. No apparent action.
- Thanks to Rose and Tom for out-of-pocket purchase of garden soil
- Thanks to New Port Richey FarmNet for donation of garden soil and native plants
- Thanks to Colin and Public Works for contribution of garden soil, irrigation hoses, and staff support

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

### **Discussion of City's Acquisition of old Schwettman/Gulf High School Property and Building (Colin & Margaret [Sophia])**

- Update on City Council actions and status of project (Colin)
- Update on meetings with the SOS Group and Councilmember Altman, specifically on the topic of the Committee's desire to draft a proposal for ecologically responsible use of the open space on the property (Margaret [Sophia])

### **Update on services available from Pasco County Animal Control to respond to City animal issues (Margaret [Sophia]).**

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

### **Mangrove Planting Project**

Megan Moore will present at the library on another topic related to her specialization. Library does not want to bring her back for the mangrove program until late 2025 or early 2026.

MM will present on mangrove planting as the monthly program at an upcoming Plants & Pints – tentatively scheduled for August 19, 2025.

Reminder: TBRPC, *RRAP* includes installation of mangroves as a resiliency “action item.”

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

- \* Tree Walk: Set next date, time – report from Sasha,
- \* Report on Tree Budget, remaining funds for planting (Colin & Tom)
- \* Colin: Request for brochures and door hangs for Sasha and team

### **Proposal to meet earlier to allow more time for deliberation**

- Discussion of move of start time to 5:00 p.m.

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

- City Council to review and approval of TBRPC *RRAP* at July 15 meeting.
- Committee review, assessment, and recommendation to be included on the agenda.
- Process for presentation: City Manager will introduce the item to Council as she does with all of the items. Once she makes her comments, she will announce members of the committee are in attendance and our delegate will be called to the podium to present the committee's recommendations to Council on the

topic. As noted, this is the normal procedure on agenda items on which a consultant makes recommendations to Council. Although we are an officially chartered City Committee (not a consultant), the recognition accorded here seems appropriate.

- Discussion and decision on presentation.

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

\* Volunteers needed for all events.

### **Calendar 2025-2026**

August 23, 2025 -The West Pasco Okra Occasion, 10<sup>th</sup> annual

(Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM, Library, New Port Richey FarmNet, NPR (Public Library)

\* Location New Port Richey Public Library

\* Possible addition of a Mango promotion event ("Mango Magic")

\* Okra Walk – August 18

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

\* Location New Port Richey Public Library – Courtyard

\* SP Walk – November 17

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

January 17 2026 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens, 11<sup>th</sup> annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens)  
(Grand Gardens)

April 4, 2026. Tentative: Florida Loquat Festival 13<sup>th</sup> annual (Sims Park) (Host New Port Richey FarmNet, City of New Port Richey – and others) (Sim's Park/Peace Hall).

Earth Day (April 22, 2026) – 36<sup>th</sup> annual (1st 1992)

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

Monarch City Day (May 2, 2026) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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

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Plants & Pints, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, monthly. Next event, July 15, 2025, 5:30 to 7:30, Ordinance One

**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, August 7, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Library**