

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

City of New Port Richey

Meeting Agenda

New Port Richey – Public Library

Thursday – June 12, 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 – June 12, 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 (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 May 1, 2025

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 is asked for update if any to report from staff direction from Admin
- Committee to revisit in light of in light of Annual Report
- Discuss and decide on including as a proposal in AR

Library Seed Lending Program (open – leadership should go to member who uses the SL)

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Colin & Rose)

- Update from Rose
- Inquiry on irrigation at the native wildflower planter. Call for volunteers to maintain. So far, volunteers are Rose, Tom Kuss, and Dell.
- Inquiry on restorative intervention on weaker of two loquat trees. No apparent action.
- Discussion of next replacement trees (Mulberry trees)

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: 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 for a quarterly "Open Forum"

Proposal to meet on another day of week and/or month (e.g. third Monday, second Thursday, and so on)

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.

Discussion of options: MM at another venue (P&P, "special meeting of ENV COM," park space, etc)

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

- City Council to review and approval of TBRPC *RRAP* at June 17 meeting.
- Chair has requested Committee's review, assessment, and recommendation to be included on the agenda of the June 17 meeting.
- Request was rejected and Committee was offered opportunity to present during "Public Comment" section with caveat that our "...presentation will be longer than the three minutes for public comment but please try to keep it less than ten minutes if possible."
- Chair notified City Clerk that he would "check with the committee on this method of presenting our review and recommendations, in contrast to a committee recommendation as a formal agenda item."
- Discussion and decision on presentation.

Annual Report (All)

- Members present a topic for inclusion in our list of proposals. Members will have a short written explanation (2-3 sentences) for inclusion of the item. As of agenda's finalization, one submission received. Edited (for length) copy attached
- Recommendations from last year to be reviewed for consideration of inclusion in this year's report
- Discussion and decision items – assignment of tasks for draft of report for final review at July meeting.

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, 10th 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 10th annual

* Location New Port Richey Public Library – Courtyard

* SP Walk – November 17

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

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

April 4, 2026. Tentative: Florida Loquat Festival 13th 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) – 36th 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)

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, July 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Library