

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2024***

The Titusville Environmental Commission (TEC) of the City of Titusville, Florida met in regular session at City Hall in the Council Chamber located at 555 South Washington Avenue on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 5:30pm.

XXX

Chairwoman Laurilee Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Present were, Vice Chairman Michael Myjak, Member Hector Delgado, Member Thomas Perez, Member Beth Ann Tucker, Member Yvette Flis. Alternate Member William Young and Alternate Member Joshua Koci were absent. Staff present were Principal Planner Eddy Galindo and Recording Secretary Laurie Dargie.

XXX

Chairwoman Thompson requested that item 10A Reports be heard after item 6A Petitions & Requests on the agenda tonight. The Titusville Environmental Commission members agreed to this change.

XXX

Member Perez made a motion to approve the September 11, 2024 meeting minutes. Member Flis seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

Petitions and Requests from Public Present

Stan Johnston of Titusville, Florida came to speak about his concerns with the fountains in stormwater ponds spraying sewage into the air and onto the public. Mr. Johnston read from an email that he sent out pertaining to his concerns. Mr. Johnston's speaking time was extended by one minute. Mr. Johnston asked the Titusville Environmental Commission to do something about this.

Chairwoman Thompson said that the Titusville Environmental Commission has made recommendations to City Council to have the fountains turned off if sewage is detected and to contact the Department of Environmental Protection to find out their policies regarding fountain use in stormwater ponds during sewage spills. Chairwoman Thompson said that she herself spoke

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2024***

to City Council about these concerns, therefore in response to Mr. Johnston, his concerns have already been brought up to City Council.

Kay St. Ong of Titusville, Florida made a clarification in response to Mr. Johnston stating that Council Woman Jolynn Nelson is being replaced, Ms. St. Onge said she will remain as a Council person for two more years.

Member Delgado stated that the Titusville Environmental Commission made their recommendation to City Council regarding the stormwater sewage spill in September 2023.

Vice Chairman Myjak said that he would like for the Titusville Environmental Commission to have discussion regarding using bubblers in stormwater ponds in place of or in addition to fountains.

Toni Shifalo of Titusville, Florida presented a Plantings in the Park photo booklet to Kay St. Onge.

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida came to speak about reef arches and encouraged the Titusville Environmental Commission to research the use of the reef arches.

XXX

Reports

Principal Planner Eddy Galindo said that staff is presenting the Commission with four draft ordinances and requesting “big picture” feedback as to whether they feel that staff is moving in the right direction for each ordinance.

Critical Root Zone (CRZ) Draft Ordinance Version 1

Mr. Galindo provided an overview of this item.

Mary Sphar of Cocoa, Florida came to speak about this item. Ms. Sphar provided a handout to the Commission. Ms. Sphar voiced her concerns with how the ordinance reads with creating a larger Critical Root Zone (CRZ) zone and cautioned the Commission to have a proper understanding of what the ordinance means.

Chairwoman Thompson provided a handout, which is an email from Michael Browning with his recommendations on the CRZ. Chairwoman Thompson said that Mr. Browning’s recommendations help bring the ordinance up to International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards.

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2024***

Michael Browning of Titusville, Florida made comments relating to the CRZ from his email. Mr. Browning suggested that the TEC look to at least codify minimum ISA standards to protect trees. Member Delgado suggested that there be a city staff member who would work closely with the developers to help educate them on how to develop around critical root zones.

Mary Sphar of Cocoa, Florida suggested that there might be separate criteria for larger trees that have a large CRZ.

James Troutman of Titusville, Florida asked if the ordinance uses the word “should” or “shall”. Chairwoman Thompson stated that it uses “shall” in Section 3.

XXX

Member Myjak made a motion to recommend to city staff that Michael Browning’s recommendations that are in the email that Chairwoman Thompson provided at this November 13, 2024 Titusville Environmental Commission meeting be incorporated into the Critical Root Zone draft Ordinance. Member Flis seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

Multifamily Canopy Draft Ordinance Version 2

Mr. Galindo provided an overview of this item.

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida said she was in favor of this draft ordinance.

Mary Sphar of Cocoa, Florida brought up a concern with punctuation and inclusion of the word “and” in the ordinance on page 35 of the agenda packet.

The Titusville Environmental Commission had discussion.

XXX

Vice Chairman Myjak made a motion to recommend to city staff that the following language be removed from all places used in the draft ordinance: “(except projects with a single duplex unit)” and to eliminate the comma used in the language “including townhomes, multifamily projects” and replacing the comma with the word “and”. Member Flis seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2024***

Native Plant Draft Ordinance Version 2

Mr. Galindo gave an overview of this item.

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida said she was in favor of this draft ordinance.

The Titusville Environmental Commission had discussions relating to using Brevard native only, correcting a scrivener error on page 40 of the agenda packet, (removing “Other areas” from end of (2) paragraph), and using 50% Brevard native.

Michael Browning of Titusville, Florida said that it should be very clearly stated as to what is expected for the Brevard native plantings, and to make a distinction of having mandatory 50% native trees and 50% native vegetation if that is what is being intended.

XXX

Chairwoman Thompson stated that the Titusville Environmental Commission’s recommendations to staff are that in the eight places where it talks about Brevard native trees, the word “Florida” native is removed leaving Brevard native only and everywhere there is shrubs, ground covers and grasses are mentioned, they want added to the language that says “50% Brevard native is required”.

Vice Chairman Myjak suggested that there be incentives for anyone who plants more than 50% Brevard native. Member Myjak suggested maybe a reduction to stormwater fees as an incentive for planting 80% Brevard natives.

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida asked that the Commission not forget about the perennials.

XXX

Artificial Turf Draft Ordinance Version 3

Mr. Galindo provided an overview of this item.

Toni Shifalo of Titusville, Florida came to speak against this ordinance.

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida came to speak against this ordinance.

Mr. Galindo stated that staff continues to receive requests for artificial turf and staff informs the public that it is prohibited and they would need to request a variance. The issue is that there are no standards as to the quality of the turf, location, etc. that can be used. Staff are looking to have

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2024***

standards available for when it is allowed in certain areas. This is a policy decision by the City Council as to whether to adopt this ordinance.

Member Perez stated he is against all artificial turfs being used in Titusville.

Chairwoman Thompson referred to the report received from city staff that stated the direction from City Council to city staff for advisability directing staff to evaluate the use of synthetic or artificial turf in lawns and to propose an amendment to the Land Development Regulations (LDR) where applicable. Direction might provide clarity on the existing code regulations or expand its use in landscaping with criteria.

Toni Shifalo of Titusville, Florida stated that the towns using this are suburbs of Miami. Ms. Shifalo said that maybe the standards should be provided when a variance is granted.

Chairwoman Thompson stated that all references to artificial turf being anywhere near the Indian River Lagoon and any body of water be removed from the ordinance.

Vice Chairman Myjak asked Mr. Galindo if a Conditional Use Permit could be required when requesting to use artificial turf. Mr. Galindo said that artificial turf is not written out as a “use”, it is written out as a landscape material. This would need to be changed in the Land Development Code and be called out as a “use” for a Conditional Use Permit to be required. Mr. Galindo said that this can be researched. Vice Chairman Myjak suggested looking into making this a Conditional Use Permit.

The Titusville Environmental Commission all agreed that they do not want artificial turf used anywhere near bodies of water.

XXX

Mr. Galindo said that the new Sustainability Coordinator will start with the city in December and will attend the January 15, 2025, Titusville Environmental Commission meeting.

Chairwoman Thompson said that the Natural Resources Public Engagement Report will be heard at the January 15, 2025, Titusville Environmental Commission meeting.

XXX

Old Business

Native Municipal Tree, Canopy and Landscape Management Trust Fund

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2024***

Vice Chairman Myjak said that what needs to be discussed is how the mechanics of this ordinance will work.

Chairwoman Thompson said that an entire meeting should be dedicated to this discussion.

XXX

Vice Chairman Myjak made a motion to table the Native Municipal Tree, Canopy and Landscape Management Trust Fund to the February 12, 2025, Titusville Environmental Commission meeting. Member Flis seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

New Business

Election of Officers

Member Flis nominated Michael Myjak to be Chairman and Laurilee Thompson to be Vice Chairman. Member Perez seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

Petitions & Requests from Public Present

Mary Sphar of Cocoa, Florida came to ask Mr. Galindo when the Parks & Open Space Ordinance will be presented. Mr. Galindo said that staff are working on this draft ordinance and will be meeting on it next week to determine whether it is ready to be presented in the coming months.

XXX

Discussion of Future Agenda Items

1. Discuss fountain functionality and the use of bubblers in stormwater ponds etc.

XXX

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2024***

Reports

Member Delgado said he would like to request a leave of absence from City Council for January and February 2025 Titusville Environmental Commission meetings. Mr. Galindo advised Member Delgado to send an email to staff in writing with his request to be presented to the City Council.

Vice Chairman Myjak said he has an article that was sent to the Commission about the role of trees in urban stormwater management. He spoke about the article and said it is available on the 1000 Friends of Florida website 1000fof.org.

Member Delgado spoke about the extreme flooding in Spain and how the removal of trees increased the problems of flooding.

Chairwoman Thompson said she attended the Marine Resource Council Conference last week on Low Impact Development regarding coastal resiliency, living shorelines, and stormwater and it was the best conference she's been to from them.

XXX

Adjournment 8:05 p.m.