

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
April 30, 2026***

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 Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

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Chairman Myjak called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Present were, Vice Chairwoman Laurilee Thompson, Member John Nico, Member Beth Ann Tucker, Member Hector Delgado, Member Jason Miller and Member Jonathan Burdette. Alternate Member Kevin Rosa and Alternate Member William Young were absent. Staff present were Sustainability Program Coordinator Lily Galleo, Assistant City Attorney David Melito and Community Development Director Brad Parrish.

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Member Miller made a motion to approve the April 15, 2026 meeting minutes with corrections. Member Tucker seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

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Petitions and Requests from Public Present

Member Miller made a motion to move New Business before Old Business. Vice Chairwoman Laurilee Thompson seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in person.

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New Business

Urban Forest Management Plan Draft Review

Community Development Director Brad Parrish gave an overview of this item.

Eocene Consultant Elizabeth Lingo was present at the meeting. Ms. Lingo went over the presentation overviewing the working draft of the initial Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Mary Sphar of Cocoa, Florida provided a handout to the Commission members and discussed the 2021 Tree Ordinance. She included several suggestions in her handout including redoing the

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ordinance section of an Urban Forestry Plan in favor of having a new Urban Forest Management ordinance.

William Klein of Titusville, Florida said that the plan was too ambitious and doesn't reference the UF/IFAS native keystone species list. Mr. Klein suggested passing the annual budget first for the Urban Forest Management Plan among other suggestions.

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida said she was pleased that the Tree Team was included in the draft plan. She asked the consultant about how the city is going to meet first prerequisite elements.

Ms. Lingo advised against investing in tree planting without anyone in charge. She suggested a small reallocation of hours a week to kick off the initial 6-month planning among other suggestions.

Kay St. Onge had concerns about limiting Live Oaks through the species diversity goals suggested in Goal 5 on page 68 of 125. She spoke in favor of species diversity in tree plantings but not limiting the diversity standards.

Ms. Lingo asked if the city knew what its current inventory was and stated that the current draft was intended as a benchmark suggestion so as not to end up with 30% of three kinds of trees and as small percent of everything else.

Ms. St. Onge asked about the native planting requirement stating the Tree Team will only plant natives and recommends the city adopt the same standard of planting only native trees where 73% of the current approved list of tree species is native or Brevard native. She spoke not in favor of reducing that to 50% as listed in the draft.

Ms. Lingo responded that this recommendation was intended as the threshold bottom not the ceiling and if the City wants to adopt 100%, they can but would be less likely to succeed if the overarching goal is planting the right tree in the right place. She suggested 75% could be a more achievable goal.

Ms. St. Onge responded that she would like to see 100% be all native and went to ask about page 70 of 125 looking for more guidance on the residential tree program, the involvement from volunteers, and how the Tree Team is going to help.

Ms. Lingo responded that ever City handles those differently and provided some examples.

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Ms. St. Onge asked if those calling in about trees were about their own property or on private property.

Ms. Lingo responded that this is handled differently from city to city but in general most cities provide overall education but most city arborists don't inspect private property.

Ms. St. Onge concluded that the Tree Team is in support but are worried about the details. She is proposing an opening ceremony at Sand Point Park along Neptune's Trail and throughout with possibly a giveaway tree and stating the plan is far better than hoped for.

Tom Perez of Titusville, Florida came to speak about a friend who had an insurance company who state she had to remove her trees and instead she cancelled her insurance. He went on to encourage a private side to the program. He suggested that when people had to remove a tree the city could promote a program to replace that tree and give the city insight on what's going on from the private side and how many are getting cut down and why.

Chairman Myjak responded and asked if the tree farm would be willing to partner with the city to implement the Urban Forestry Plan.

Mr. Perez stated that the tree farm has been open to having that relationship and better understanding how they could help either by providing trees.

Chairman Myjak asked Community Development Director Brad Parrish if the city would work with local non-profits to provide stock trees and raise seedlings for the city and to implement the Urban Forest Plan.

Community Development Director Brad Parrish stated it was possible. He stated there would be a need to workout the specifics of the program and go before Council for a decision.

Ms. Lingo responded that this was common for cities to have partnerships with local growers and nurseries.

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida came up to speak about the Garden Club and their willingness to partner with them and suggested adding it to the plan

Chairman Myjak closed the public hearing to review with the board.

Member Tucker spoke in favor of the plan and sees it to be a comprehensive framework with sections to implemented as allowed and tailored to Titusville's needs and conditions.

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Vice Chairwoman Thompson spoke in favor of the draft plan with some concerns about the species diversity portion of the plan. Vice Chairwoman Thompson recommended mimicking the remnant forest and taking out the 10% section of the plan.

Vice Chairwoman Thompson also recommended condensing the plan down through a suggested method provided by Kay St. Onge.

Vice Chairwoman Thompson stated that a lot of work went into the native tree requirement and saw no need to drop that to 50%. She stated in favor of the 75% native compromise in favor of allowing for things like fruit trees which are largely not native.

Member Miller asked about another round of public input outside of the original scope and making the plan accessible to the public online for comment.

Member Miller asked if this plan eliminates and replaces the existing tree ordinance since Ms. Sphar talked a lot about the conflicts with the existing tree ordinance and the plan. He asked for clarity on how this interacts with the current tree ordinance.

Ms. Lingo responded that the plan includes a section of recommendations that in general shouldn't require code updates as those tend to be more lengthy processes. She advised the board that doing code ordinances updates can open up a lot more than the changes intend. She suggested recognizing that if a change was called out in year 2 but that does not workout timing-wise then the plan should be flexible to consider changes later in year 3.

Member Miller suggested a temporary or part-time role to take on the transition

Member Delgado asked if the initial coordinator could be a volunteer from the community. He also suggested integrating current parts of the code

Member Nico mentioned there were lots of resources currently among the staff and to see who is willing to take on certain parts.

Member Burdette spoke in favor of the private-public partnerships

Vice Chairwoman Thompson spoke to not touch the current Ordinance and brought up the landscape trust fund use changes. She asked for the landscape trust funds to pay for the arborist and spoke in favor of using the fund to kick off the initial Urban Forestry Management Plan.

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Chairman Myjak agreed with Ms. Sphar's comments on developing an Urban Forest Ordinance as well as the native species recommendations. He went on to suggest Objective 1.2 b develop a role description to model after Tree City USA. He agreed this plan was comprehensive and ambitious and agreed that we should go for it.

Vice Chairwoman Thompson suggested publishing this online for public feedback.

Kay St. Onge responded and encouraged the TEC to look at page 116 suggestions for the Landscape Trust Fund and asked for more emphases on the Street Tree Program.

Vice Chairwoman Thompson suggested going back to the Landscape Trust Fund in alignment in the plan.

Mr. Klein stated that three council members can change what the funds are used for and the Tree City USA and that the Urban Forest Plan is kept and not thrown out.

Ms. Lingo suggested adding the record keeping of the funds in the benchmarking section suggested in the appendix of the plan.

Member Nico made a motion to add a line item to the annual budget of the General Fund to fund the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Chairman Myjak seconded.

Member Miller suggested \$100,000/year for this line item to fund an Urban Forester to implement this plan.

Chairman Myjak said that on page 27 of the report, it points out the Urban Forest details which will help support the request that is being made.

Community Development Director Brad Parrish stated that this motion will be forwarded to City Council with the Urban Forestry Plan. Mr. Parrish stated that he understands the motion is asking for general funds to be set aside for a new employee. Mr. Parrish said that the only revenue received that is tree related is the impact fee or tree mitigation fee.

Assistant City Attorney Melito stated that the motion maker and second were pending when the \$100,000.00 figure was suggested, Mr. Melito wanted to know if this was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Member Nico as the motion maker and Chairman Myjak as the seconded accepted the amendment for the request to ask for a line item of \$100,000.00 to the general fund.

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Vice Chairwoman Thompson asked if the request for \$100,000.00 is going to be a deal breaker for City Council to approve the Urban Forestry Plan. Vice Chairwoman Thompson suggested that the request for the \$100,000.00 be a separate request from the Urban Forestry Plan.

Member Nico said he will withdraw his motion and then reiterate making a line item in the general fund for the \$100,000.00.

Chairman Myjak said he isn't sure about withdrawing the motion.

Community Development Director Brad Parrish stated that this is going to come back before the Titusville Environmental Commission at their May 13, 2026 meeting with revisions. Therefore, there will be another opportunity for the Commission to discuss and make a motion.

Member Nico said based on it coming back to the TEC for additional review, he does withdraw his motion.

Community Development Director Brad Parrish stated that this is being presented to City Council on June 9, 2026. Mr. Parrish said if this is approved it is a long-term strategy.

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The Titusville Environmental Commission took a short recess.

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Old Business

Wetland Conservation

Member Miller made a motion to table the Wetland Conservation discussion to the May 13, 2026 Titusville Environmental Commission meeting. Member Tucker seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

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Petitions and Requests from Public Present

None

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Reports

Sustainability Program Coordinator Lily Galleo said the city was awarded a grant to conduct a tree inventory.

Sustainability Program Coordinator Lily Galleo provided the 2026 Annual Report.

Member Miller reported that he attended the Planning Officials Training meeting and it was very informative and would suggest all Board/Commissions and Council members attend, if possible, in the future.

Vice Chairwoman Thompson reported that the causeway beach is successfully building back.

Myjak reported on Vinnie Taranto's presentation to the SOIRL CoC on stormwater and putting in swales throughout the right of ways throughout the city with several different designs. He suggested inviting Vinnie Taranto to come and give this report to TEC.

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Future Agenda Items

1. Wetland Conservation
2. Vinnie Presentation on SOIRL

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Adjournment 8:02p.m.