

Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025

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, February 12, 2025, at 5:30pm.

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Chairman Michael Myjak, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Present were, Vice Chairwoman Laurilee Thompson, Member Jonathan Burdette, Member Beth Ann Tucker, Member Robert Walter, Member Michael Browning, Alternate Member William Young and Alternate Member Joshua Koci. Member Hector Delgado was absent. Staff present were Community Development Director Brad Parrish, Sustainability Program Coordinator Lily Galleo, and Recording Secretary Laurie Dargie.

XXX

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida spoke of a correction to the minutes regarding changing ***and*** to ***on***. The correction is provided in the following sentence.

Section 30-31 (b) (1) – (excluding single duplex units ***on properties two (2) acres or less and multifamily projects on properties two (2) acres or less that satisfies*** Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Element Policy 1.7.7 for infill development).

Member Tucker made a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes with a correction. Member Walter seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

Community Development Director Brad Parrish requested that the order of the agenda been modified. The Titusville Environmental Commission members agreed to the requested modifications to the agenda order of tonight's meeting.

XXX

Petitions and Requests from Public Present

Chairman Myjak spoke of an email that he received from Stan Johnston pertaining to fountains in stormwater ponds and the request to send a letter to Brevard County asking them to turn off the fountains during any sewage spills or when sewage is detected.

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025***

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Old Business

Titusville Environmental Commission (TEC) Member Recognition

Sustainability Program Coordinator Lily Galleo informed the Titusville Environmental Commission that the City Clerk's office sends a letter of appreciation and a certificate of appreciation to all members who have served on the city's Boards and Commissions.

The Titusville Environmental Commission was satisfied that this was being done to show appreciation to Member Perez and Member Flis for their service on the Titusville Environmental Commission.

XXX

The Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation

Sustainability Program Coordinator Lily Galleo gave a brief overview of this item.

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida came to speak of her support for this challenge of water conservation and encouraged the support of challenges for tree plantings and low impact living.

The Titusville Environmental Commission supported this challenge for water conservation.

Chairman Myjak suggested that the Commission also encourage and support low impact living.

XXX

Member Walter made a motion to support the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation and recommend to City Council their support, including low impact living. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report (Draft Recommendations)

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

Chairman Myjak said that he would like to go over this report page by page to allow feedback regarding the report from the Commission.

Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025

Mary Sphar of Cocoa, Florida came to speak in regard to this report. Ms. Sphar referred to the email that she sent to the Titusville Environmental Commission members regarding her suggestions on the wetlands impacts policies page 33 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report. Mary Sphar's email and suggested changes will be provided as backup and can be requested as public record.

The Titusville Environmental Commission had discussion relating to conservation easements. The Commission also discussed how the standards of BMAP's are not enough and more needs to be done.

The Titusville Environmental Commission went over the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report page by page. Below are the changes that were discussed.

XXX

Page 18 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report

Implementation column – add language after the since sentence The City is already ahead of its current BMAP reduction goal – ***However, more can be done, including testing of stormwater outfalls.***

XXX

Page 19 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report

Strategy column – add language to the following sentence (added language bolded and italicized) – Prioritize funding to conduct restoration ***and maintenance*** of the shoreline on properties owned by the City when feasible.

XXX

Page 21 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report

Implementation column – correct language to say – ***Testing is already being conducted***

Strategy column – add language – Conduct a study to locate, assess, and identify repairs to all existing wastewater lines, particular near water surface ***and begin to study long term plans and partnering with Brevard County and Space Florida for future waste water services.***

XXX

Page 23 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report

Implementation column – un-strike and keep the following language – *However, the City should consider providing enhanced notice regarding sewer pipe breaks on its website and social media outlets, in addition to notifying news outlets that can reach residents through radio and television.*

Future Considerations and Resources column – un-strike and keep the following language – *Consider accompanying precautions/health and safety advice and clarify what households/businesses will be affected; describe what steps the City is taking to respond and what actions residents need to take and to stay up to date on current State notification protocols and requirements.*

XXX

Page 24 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report

Strategy column - Fix Grammar - "Continue to continue to..." to just read *Continue to pursue grants and partnerships.*

Future Considerations & Resources column – "Additional staff may be needed..." and add the strike through portion under implementation "Titusville could join One Lagoon..." and add "and will continue to do so in the future" so that Implementation block in that row reads *"One Lagoon also distributes the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program's (IRLNEP) small grant funding. The City partnered with the IRLNEP to receive grant funding for Scobie Park, the project is underway. The City has applied for multiple grants from the FDEP and SOIRL in FY25 for IRL projects and will continue to do so in the future."*

and the Future Considerations and Resources reads *"Titusville could join One Lagoon's monitoring network, which includes Brevard County, SJRWMD, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, among other state, regional and federal partners.*

XXX

Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025

Page 25 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report

Implementation column – add language – The City partnered with the IRLNEP to receive grant funding for Scobie Park, the project is underway. The City has applied for multiple grants from the FDEP and SOIRL in FY25 for IRL projects ***and will continue to do so in the future.***

XXX

Page 27 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report

Implementation column – change the language to read as follows - ***The Tree Canopy Preservation ordinance was adopted in 2021. Continue to monitor the ordinance and propose amendments that prevent clearcutting and preserves natural canopy and hydrology, as needed.***

Future Considerations & Resources – add language – Increasing tree preservation requirements could drive up the cost of construction and potentially negatively ***or positively*** affect other goals of the city like economic development and housing affordability.

Page 29 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report

Future Considerations & Resources column – Remove sentence – IFAS recommends Florida Friendly Landscaping.

The Titusville Environmental Commission members want to replace anywhere that says Florida Friendly with Brevard native.

XXX

Page 33 of the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report

The Titusville Environmental Commission wants to include the changes that Mary Sphar provided. Mr. Parrish suggested a few edits and Ms. Sphar agreed with the edits.

Strategy column – Mary Sphar's comments with staff edits reads as follows: ***"Consider removing the FLUE Policy 1.16.2 that allows conservation easements in Planned Developments in lieu of Conservation land use designations for wetlands 5 acres or more in size."***

Implementation column – Mary Sphar's comments with staff edits reads as follows: ***"Amend the Comprehensive Plan and LDRs to delete and clarify outdated language."***

Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025

Future Considerations & Resources – Mary Sphar's comments - ***Conservation easements are no longer guaranteed to be permanent.*** Conservation easements would need to be dedicated to an entity (i.e. City, SJRWMD, or other entities) in perpetuity on a plat or binding document. Conservation easements would require maintenance of the land, and occasional monitoring."

XXX

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida came to speak during the review of the report and provided feedback.

Mary Sphar of Cocoa, Florida came to speak during the review of the report and provided feedback.

XXX

Member Young made a motion to approve all the discussed changes to the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report (Draft Recommendations). Vice Chairwoman Thompson seconded.

Roll call was as follows:

Member Burdette	Yes
Member Young	Yes
Member Walter	Yes
Vice Chairwoman Thompson	Yes
Member Browning	Yes
Member Tucker	Yes
Chairman Myjak	Yes

Motion passed.

XXX

The Titusville Environmental Commission voted to use the picture on page 71 of 137 of the agenda packet as the cover page to the Natural Resources Public Engagement Project Report. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025***

New Business

Titusville Environmental Commission (TEC) By-Laws

Chairman Myjak said that he would like to discuss the TEC By-Laws more in depth but tonight he would like to suggest reviewing Article IX. Order of Business. Chairman Myjak said he would like to have “Future Agenda Items” be added to the Order of Business.

XXX

Vice Chairman Thompson made a motion to add Future Agenda Items to Article IX. Order of Business as the new number eleven. Member Tucker seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

Mr. Parrish said that the draft change will come back before the Titusville Environmental Commission at their next meeting on March 12, 2025.

XXX

Fountain Functionality and use of bubbles in stormwater ponds

Vice Chairwoman Thompson said stated that using aerators instead of fountains in stormwater ponds would eliminate spraying during any future sewage spills. Vice Chairman Thompson referred to the email (provided in the agenda packet) from the City of Titusville’s Public Works Operations Director, Sandy Reller regarding the SOIRL grants to install pond circulators at both the Osprey Pond and Coleman pond.

Chairman Myjak voiced on behalf of Stan Johnston, that Mr. Johnston would like for the City of Titusville to write a letter to Brevard County to ask that any fountains in stormwater ponds which have sewage spills or detection of sewage be turned off.

XXX

Member Young made a motion to recommend to City Council advisability to change fountains in stormwater ponds to aerators and also research the cost and benefits for the environment. Member Browning seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025***

Economic Development in Florida Urban3 Report

Vice Chairwoman Thompson gave a brief summary of this report and asked that the Titusville Environmental Commission support this.

The Titusville Environmental Commission members had discussions relating to minimizing urban sprawl, density, tree preservation etc.

Chairman Myjak stated that he did not want to lose the “Hometown Feel” of Titusville and that “Hometown Feel” should be defined.

XXX

Old Business

Native Municipal Tree, Canopy, and Landscape Management Trust Fund

Chairman Myjak provided a summary of this item.

The Titusville Environmental Commission had discussions relating to incentives, tree canopy preservation, low impact development, and urban forestry.

Chairman Myjak asked that the Titusville Environmental Commission review this document and come back to the March 12, 2025 meeting with modifications, changes, and suggestions.

XXX

Member Walter made a motion to table the Native Municipal Tree, Canopy, and Landscape Management Trust Fund item until the March 12, 2025 meeting. Member Young Seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

Petitions and Requests from Public Present

None

XXX

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025***

Reports

Titusville Environmental Commission (TEC) Semi-Annual Report to City Council

Member Browning made a motion to approve the Titusville Environmental Commission Semi-Annual Report to City Council as presented. Member Tucker seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

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Chairman Myjak said he would present the semi-annual report in person at the February 25, 2025 City Council meeting.

XXX

Vulnerability Assessment Webinar and Open Survey

Sustainability Program Coordinator Lily Galleo provided information regarding the webinar and encouraged the Titusville Environmental Commission members to participate and to spread the word about this webinar and survey to the community.

XXX

Member Burdette provided a handout on fluoride in drinking water. Member Burdette requested that this topic be added to a future Titusville Environmental Commission agenda for discussion. Member Burdette said he will be adding some additional information to this report and will provide it at the March 12, 2025 meeting if the Commission agrees to discuss it.

XXX

Member Burdette made a motion to add discussion of fluoride in drinking water to the March 12, 2025 Titusville Environmental Commission agenda. Member Young seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

XXX

Vice Chairwoman Thompson said she attended the 100th SOIRL event in Titusville at the A. Max Brewer Causeway and it was a great event. Vice Chairman Thompson said she spoke to Marcia Gaedcke who is interested in making this a regional project to help restoration of the Indian River Lagoon and clams.

Chairman Myjak said he also attended the 100th SOIRL event and agreed that it was a great event.

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025***

Member Young said in 1957 there was many fishing contests on the Indian River Lagoon and he would like to work towards restoring those types of fishing events in the lagoon.

Vice Chairwoman Thompson said that Mosquito Lagoon is exploding with seagrass. Chairwoman Thompson said that the biggest enemy of the Indian River Lagoon is stormwater and the Titusville Environmental Commission must work towards stopping freshwater into the Indian River Lagoon.

Chairman Myjak spoke about the salinity in the Indian River Lagoon being too low and how it impacts the wildlife in the lagoon. Chairman Myjak said that efforts to stop freshwater going into the Indian River Lagoon need to be developed.

XXX

Adjournment 8:41 p.m.