

***Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
June 11, 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, June 11, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

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

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Member Delgado made a motion to approve the May 14, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Member Tucker seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

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Petitions and Requests from Public Present

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida came to speak to the Commission about the special City Council meeting on July 22, 2025 at 5:30pm to discuss the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) Ordinance, Native Plant Ordinance, and the Multi-Family Ordinance. Ms. St. Onge spoke of some of the multi-family projects that are currently under review. Ms. St. Onge spoke about Susan Hall who helped write the tree canopy code. Ms. St. Onge said she would like for all developers to work to save tree canopy.

Member Browning said he would like to speak to Susan Hall about the critical root zone requirements that she is working with on the project for preserved trees.

The Titusville Environmental Commission had some discussion about attending the July 22, 2025 meeting at 5:30pm and being sure to attend the meeting to provide input. Chairman Myjak said he will be out of town and would like to attend virtually.

Member Browning made a motion to request that City Council allow the Titusville Environmental Commission members attend the July 22, 2025 City Council meeting at 5:30pm to participate and

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also to allow Chairman Myjak to attend virtually. Member Tucker seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

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Chairman Myjak said he would like to discuss the differences in townhomes, condos, and subdivisions on tonight's agenda under new business. It was determined that this would need to be an agenda item on the next Titusville Environmental Commission meeting to be properly noticed.

Stan Johnston of Titusville, Florida came to speak about past issues of sewage in the stormwater pond being sprayed and sewage coming up from a manhole.

Chairman Myjak asked Sustainability Program Coordinator Lily Galleo to find out what the procedures are for putting out signage to notify the public of sewage spills.

Toni Shifalo of Titusville, Florida said she is a member of the Titusville Tree Team. Ms. Shifalo stated that the multi-family ordinance does not have the same requirements as residential subdivisions.

Mary Sphar of Cocoa, Florida came to speak about the multi-family ordinance and how it relates to current multi-family proposals. Ms. Sphar said she looked at the proposals and she came to the following conclusions: 1. The majority of multi-family projects do not prioritize saving existing trees. 2. The projects are generally not using Low Impact Development (LID) 3. The trees that are being preserved are mostly in the buffers.

Ms. Sphar asked the Titusville Environmental Commission to ask staff to provide a status update on the Parks and Open Space Ordinance. Ms. Sphar asked that the Titusville Environmental Commission place the Multi-Family Canopy Ordinance and possible adjustments for redevelopment on their July 9, 2025 meeting agenda.

Kim Gibbs of Merritt Island, Florida came to advocate for Florida native plants and Brevard native plants. Ms. Gibbs said that shrubs are very important. Ms. Gibbs explained her work in a multi-family community.

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Old Business

Native Municipal Tree, Canopy, and Landscape Management Trust Fund

Chairman Myjak asked Member Browning to bring the discussion on this topic.

Member Browning explained his work in integrating Chairman Myjak's document and Member Burdette's comments. Member Browning stated that this is a sample of an Urban Forestry Plan. Member Browning said the city needs an overall community wide tree canopy plan. Trees help infiltrate rainwater and mitigate heat. Member Browning said all streets should have trees. Member Browning said the Titusville Environmental Commission needs to work with staff and City Council to make the funds that developers pay from removing trees to be spent on native tree plantings.

Kim Gibbs of Merritt Island, Florida said it is very important to plant trees in the right places for their survival. Ms. Gibbs said there should be incentives for planting native trees and plants.

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida spoke about the Urban Forestry Plan. Ms. St Onge spoke about using the tree mitigation funds for planting trees. Ms. St. Onge said that trees should be planted in the right places, especially when planting street trees.

Member Delgado complimented Member Browning on the work he did integrating the documents. Member Delgado said that the Titusville Environmental Commission needs to put together a clear plan that can help with the execution of what the Commission wants to see take place. Member Delgado said that if the plan for execution isn't made clear with facts and data it cannot be done properly.

Member Browning stated that it is important to decide and advocate to have the majority of the funds to be used for native canopy tree plantings.

Vice Chairwoman Thompson said that the issue is not having the funds available to execute buying and planting the trees. Vice Chairwoman Thompson asked Ms. Galleo for an update on the grant for the Urban Tree Forestry Plan. Ms. Galleo said that the Florida Department of Agriculture of Consumer Services is doing their evaluation tomorrow, June 12, 2025.

Chairman Myjak asked if the Titusville Environmental Commission should divide up the document and take portions to review and then consolidate the comments for review at the July 9, 2025 Titusville Environmental Commission meeting.

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The Titusville Environmental Commission members had discussion regarding how to put their execution plan together.

Member Delgado asked why has clear cuttings still been allowed to happen on current city projects. The Titusville Environmental Commission had discussion relating to who approves these, what are the consequences of clear cutting, and who checks over the projects and enforces when things are not done correctly?

Member Tucker asked if the city has a stop work order option that can be used if clear cutting is taking place on a project.

The Titusville Environmental Commission had additional discussion relating to fines, enforcement, consequences and the review of plans.

Chairman Myjak asked how the Commission can divide the document, and each take a portion to work on. Ms. Galleo said all correspondence can be sent to her directly and she would provide it to all of the Commission members.

The Titusville Environmental Commission will work towards getting the document ready with implementation guidelines and funding source so that it can be executed. Ms. Galleo stated that the consultant will also be working on this as part of their task for the Urban Forestry Plan as part of the grant.

Member Browning said he will be providing information to Lily Galleo to forward to the Commission members.

The Titusville Environmental Commission had discussion regarding the three ordinances that will be presented to City Council on July 22, 2025 at 5:30pm. Member Browning said he will prepare a detailed document on the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) ordinance that he would like to have provided to the City Council before their July 22, 2025 5:30pm meeting in hopes that it will explain the Titusville Environmental Commission's recommendation in better detail. Member Browning said he will be attending the meeting to speak about it in person.

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New Business

None.

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Petitions and Requests from Public Present

Kay St. Onge of Titusville, Florida came to encourage all of the Titusville Environmental Commission members to attend the City Council meeting and speak about these ordinances.

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Reports

Titusville Environmental Commission Semi-Annual Report

Member Browning made a motion to accept the Titusville Environmental Commission semi-annual report and for Chairwoman Thompson or Member Delgado to attend to present in person at the July 8, 2025 City Council meeting. Chairman Myjak seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor.

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Sustainability Program Coordinator Lily Galleo said she will be presenting a presentation on Low Impact Development (LID) in October 2025. Ms. Galleo said she will be attending the June 18th tree planting and the July 12th river cleanup. Ms. Galleo said that June 13th is the open public comment on the super heavy and starship impact assessment.

Member Burdette said that Carnival Cruise Line donated a hybrid truck to Keep Brevard Beautiful.

Member Delgado said that he saw there were hundreds of plants planted on the south side of the Max Brewer Bridge and cages for the seagrass were also installed. Member Delgado said that the rays are back in the Indian River Lagoon to give birth and can be seen from the bridge.

Vice Chairwoman Thompson said that there is a fence that has been put up to protect the new plants and she would like to make sure that the fence remains up for at least a year to protect the new plants.

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Future Agenda Items

1. Townhomes, condos and subdivision definitions and how they are in the ordinances
2. Native Municipal Tree, Canopy, and Landscape Management Trust Fund

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3. Special presentation by Kim Gibbs about the trees that survived the hurricanes and the ones that did not
4. Multi-family Ordinance (redevelopment)
5. Status report on Parks & Open Space Ordinance

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Member Delgado said he will not be able to attend the August 2025 Titusville Environmental Commission meeting and will send an email with his request to be excused by City Council to Ms. Galleo.

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Adjournment 8:30 p.m.