

**Titusville Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2003**

The Titusville Environmental Commission (TEC) of the City of Titusville, Florida, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 555 South Washington Avenue, on Wednesday, March 19, 2003.

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Chairman Pettit called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Present were Vice Chairman Ramon Rivera, Members Robin Vieira, Anthony Koromilas, Alex Chamberlain, and Alternate Members Chris Ryba, and Alfonso Gutierrez. Member Susan Gosselin arrived at 5:41 p.m. Also in attendance were Planning Administrator Keith Cunningham, and Recording Secretary Tammy Holton. It was determined that a quorum was present.

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The first item of business was the approval of the minutes from the March 5, 2003 regular meeting. Member Vieira moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Gutierrez seconded the motion. Discussion followed. There was a unanimous voice vote.

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Old Business:

Semi-Annual Report – Vice Chairman Pettit reviewed the items to be included in the semi-annual report that were discussed at the last regular TEC meeting. Member Gutierrez asked to advise council of the objections to having Garden Street repaved and that it is also detrimental to businesses in the area. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Member Gutierrez to advise council of TEC's objections to having Garden Street repaved in such a way that it would affect pedestrian traffic and put pedestrians in danger along with affecting the character of the businesses that are there. Discussion followed. Member Vieira asked how that motion would differ from the motion passed in December to recommend against the same thing.

Member Gutierrez stated that by bringing this issue to Council's attention again TEC would be reaffirming their convictions against this type of repaving and the elimination of parking. Chairman Pettit stated the what he understood Member Gutierrez was saying is actually a little bit different than just making a statement against it, and asked Member Gutierrez if he was recommending that TEC ask Council to pass a resolution making a legislative act to prevent this from occurring. Member Gutierrez stated that Vice Chairman Pettit was correct. Vice Chairman Rivera asked staff what options does TEC have in making a recommendation to the State? Keith Cunningham informed TEC that the State had worked with the public works director for several months to try to solve some of the issues relating specifically to parking. Quite a few of the businesses will be losing parking and there is going to be some access problems as well. Keith Cunningham stated that he believed most of those issues had been resolved except for one or two businesses that are concerned about losing on-street parking. There was nothing addressing sidewalks, loss of trees or landscaping. There has been ongoing dialog with DOT, and they feel they have done as much as they can at this point. Member Gutierrez asked Mr. Cunningham if he thought it would be possible since the Florida Legislature is in session to perhaps send someone up to lobby to stop this repaving.

Keith Cunningham told TEC that he could not answer that question. Mr. Cunningham stated that he had not been involved in any of the discussions with DOT, staff or Public Works. It could be pass the point where some action could be done; DOT is scheduled to start some time this year with the project. Chairman Pettit questioned when the construction is slated to start. Keith Cunningham reported to TEC that all preliminary visual indications show that it has already begun. Member Vieira stated that time is pertinent; Member Gutierrez is suggesting TEC make this a stronger portion of the actual presentation and it is relevant to the subject; due to TEC does not have time to delay. Member Vieira indicated that he had no information that showed that Public Works ever received TEC's recommendation concerning pedestrian traffic or character of the area. This Commission had unanimously approved this recommendation; the minutes for that meeting will show the same. The fact that Public Works has worked with DOT does not mean that our concerns have been taken into consideration at all. Chairman Pettit asked Member Vieira if his feelings were that TEC should make a stronger statement at the presentation to Council on the 25th. Member Vieira told TEC he would be in favor of such a thing, but that is something for the Commission to decide, he thought the pertinent time was now. Told Chairman Pettit he was questioning if this items was something for a future meeting, Member Vieira sated he thought if anything it should have happened last November. Member Vieira stated that the pertinent people should have come and spoken to TEC previously; since Public Works has not come and spoken to TEC then we need to take it to City Council and address this issue now so more time passes. Chairman Pettit asked TEC for any recommendation as to how this should be worded. Member Gutierrez stated the wording should follow the previous resolution that TEC had adopted last November, but ask that not only should Council urge DOT not to go ahead with the resurfacing but also include sending somebody up to Tallahassee to lobby the legislators. Member Vieira told TEC that he would prefer to see a recommendations not specifying a Tallahassee trip, especially haven taken some of those. They are not as productive during session. Maybe better wording would be to communication with our legislative team and DOT. Specify communication and not a trip. Then ask City Council to object to plans submitted by FDOT to eliminate parking along Garden Street, because it detrimentally affects pedestrian safety and would negatively impact the character of the area.

Member Koromilas asked Keith Cunningham if DOT held a public hearing for comments. Keith Cunningham informed TEC that there were several public meetings. Discussion followed.

Member Gutierrez made a motion as outlined by Member Vieira. Motion seconded by Member Vieira. There was a roll call vote.

Member Ryba – yes

Member Chamberlain – yes

Member Gosselin – yes

Vice Chairman Rivera – yes

Member Gutierrez – yes

Member Vieira – yes

Chairman Pettit – yes

Member Koromilas – yes

Chairman Pettit reported to TEC that in the wellfields area, there had been some clearing around the Diceranda Scrub and some brush had been placed on top of the plants. These scrubs are federally listed now. Chairman Pettit continued by saying that he was not blaming the City or the workers, but there are many people that do not know that this plant is there and it is very isolated to this area. Ask TEC if they would allow him to recommend that the City implement some type

of educational process to alert the workers that there is an endangered plant that thrives in the this area and what the plant looks like.

Member Gutierrez stated he would go ahead and present that motion as outlined by Chairman Pettit. Motion was seconded by Member Chamberlain. There was a unanimous voice vote.

Member Vieira suggested showing the importance by indicating fine levels associated by destruction of the plant. The education process would be a huge savings to the City.

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New Business:

Indian River Lagoon: *An Estuary in Transition* – Member Ryba gave an overview of the conference she had previously attended. Global warming was a major topic of the conference. Mangrove was suggested as a topic to be discussed with Brevard County in relation to Rotary Pier reconstruction. Discussion followed. Vice Chairman Rivera suggested having that item forwarded to the subcommittee for recommendations to present to the City Council. Discussion followed.

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Reports:

Vice Chairman Rivera – Discussed policy on standards of conduct for elective and appointed members.

Member Gutierrez - Discussed standards of conducts for private self-interest. Informed TEC that he had a discussion with City Attorney Dwight Severs relating to Members speaking publicly and writing editorials to the newspapers. Member Gutierrez then suggested TEC having a minority report. Member Gutierrez made a motion to adopt a minority report. Discussion followed. Motion was not seconded. Motion did not carry.

Member Koromilas – Discussed Earth Day, suggested TEC have a tree giveaway during the event. Proposed moving \$100 to purchase trees for giveaway. Asked what TEC is doing for the Indian River Festival. Member Koromilas suggested TEC not continue granting variances relating to breezeways and does not think additional heights should be granted for the Harbor Pointe project. Keith Cunningham gave an overview of meetings with applicant relating to breezeway, height and parking.

Member Vieira – Questioned what the parking variance would be. Staff reported the current ordinance and the request from the applicant. Discussed the Green Building Initiative and having the item on the agenda for first meeting in May.

Alternate Member Ryba – Questioned staff on the construction on Highway 50.

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The Commission set the agenda for the April 2, 2003 regular meeting.

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Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.