

**CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE, FLORIDA
RIVER WATCH TASK FORCE
REPORT OF MEETING**

**Monday, November 16, 2009
Council Workroom
4:30 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force met on Monday, November 16, 2009, in the Council Workroom at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE: Task Force Chairman Ronald Smith, and Task Force Members Frank Chillura, Terry McMahon, David Pogorilich, and Jack Westberry.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Task Force Liaison Joe Gross, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, Staff Member Richard Scilabro, Susan Zucker, and John A. Rodgers.

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m. by Chairman Smith.

1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon motion of Task Force Member Chillura, seconded by Task Force Member Westberry, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the October 19, 2009, meeting were **APPROVED**.

Persons Wishing to be Heard on Items NOT Listed on the Agenda:

None.

2. Bill Young Reservoir Off-line for Two Years:

Chairman Smith called on Task Force Liaison Gross to report on this topic. Task Force Liaison Gross distributed a copy of an email from Tampa Bay Water Representative Nicole Thomas, a copy of which is part of the record, with answers to questions imposed by the Task Force during her October 19, 2009, presentation. Task Force Liaison Gross stated since their July meeting, it appears that the River is being kept at higher levels, approximately 21.5 foot range or higher.

Task Force Liaison Gross said he does not know if there is anything new to what Ms. Thomas wrote in her email, other than she is reassuring the Task Force that Tampa Bay Water is talking about all their options.

The Task Force discussed inviting a former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Official, Nilo Priade, to their next meeting to brief them on the viability of recharging the Middle River with advanced pretreated and blended effluent for minimum flows and levels and sustainable water supply.

3. Mission Statement (Final):

Chairman Smith distributed copies of the Task Force's "final" mission statement, a copy of which is part of the record. Upon **Motion** of Task Force Member McMahon, seconded by Task Force Member Pogorilich, the Task Force voted to adopt the Mission Statement as presented. Vote on the motion being: Task Force Members Chillura, McMahon, Pogorilich, Smith, and Westberry voting "aye," no "nay."

4. River Tour October 2010:

Chairman Smith stated that although they have discussed this topic at previous meetings they still need to make some decisions. He said they will need some marketing material prepared for this event and questioned whether Mike Dunn could get involved. Task Force Liaison Gross replied that while he did not want to volunteer Mike Dunn, he has shown interest and has followed the Task Force through the years. He added that as long as the Task Force provides Mr. Dunn with enough time and direction he does not foresee a problem.

Chairman Smith said he would anticipate the Task Force would want to do a brochure similar to one done last year by Terry Neal for the River Tour. He suggested that he, Mike Dunn, and Task Force Liaison Gross get together one day and draft a brochure. Chairman Smith said he would continue to place this item on the agenda for future discussions.

5. December 21st Meeting:

Chairman Smith stated their next meeting falls on Christmas week. He opined that people go away for the holidays or are involved in other things; since there would not be anything pressing on their agenda he suggested cancelling the December meeting. Upon **Motion** of Task Force Member Westberry, seconded by Task Force Member McMahan, the Task Force voted to cancel the December 2009, meeting of the River Watch Task Force. Vote on the motion being: Task Force Members Chillura, McMahan, Pogorilich, Smith, and Westberry voting "aye," no "nay."

Chairman Smith said the Task Force will reconvene on the third Monday in January 2010. Task Force Member Pogorilich interjected the third Monday in January is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. After some discussion the Task Force agreed to meet on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 4:30 p.m.

Task Force Liaison Gross said he would try to have Nilo Priade attend the January meeting and give a presentation.

6. Liaison Report:

Task Force Liaison Gross stated the Technical Advisory Council met on October 20th, where they discussed modifications to the concrete weir in Sulphur Springs, and EPC's fertilizer regulations shoreline improvement project at Stewart Middle Magnet.

Task Force Liaison Gross continued that the Hillsborough River Roundtable met on November 6th. He reported that Pinellas County is expected to adopt fertilizer regulations later this month, and the Friends of the River boat parade will be held on December 19th, and departing from Lowry Park.

Task Force Liaison Gross informed the Task Force there was an inquiry about the Railway Park Bridge at the City's quarterly Town Hall meeting held on November 9th. He explained Railway Park is close to Task Force Member Chillura's house, and there has been talk about building a pedestrian bridge. He continued that Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has indicated the bridge would be funded on their 2012 budget.

Chairman Smith questioned whether City staff has heard anything new from Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). Task Force Liaison Gross replied he has not attended SWFWMD's Governing Board meetings in two months because there has not been anything on the agenda pertaining to this region, but Temple Terrace is still locked into the current water restrictions until the end of the year.

7. Other Business:

Task Force Member Chillura questioned what kind of interest the Railway Park Bridge has raised. Task Force Liaison Gross explained the whole project is still very primitive; there won't be any drawings or anything else until funding is foreseeable.

Chairman Smith questioned whether the Police Department would have any opposition to having this bridge crossing the river. Staff Member Scilabro responded negatively.

Chairman Smith questioned what kind of parking problems would this bridge create for this side of the river. Task Force Liaison Gross responded this topic was not part of the Town Hall presentation; it was brought up by a citizen, therefore, he does not know any details.

Task Force Member Chillura opined before this project goes too far, it would be in the best interest of whoever is leading it to have community meetings to get feedback from the community.

Task Force Member Chillura stated the Task Force has been very effective in times of stress to the river and he loves the way Task Force Liaison Gross is everywhere as much as possible. He continued it would be nice to be at the forefront at all times and suggested staff should prepare a presentation to City Council demonstrating their effectiveness. He suggested signs at the boat ramps saying "Hillsborough River protected by the River Watch Task Force" would get their name out there, so that people know they exist. Also, a website where suggestions can be emailed to would be beneficial, he added.

Task Force Liaison Gross suggested two timely things the Task Force can focus on is 1) the re-use debate, and 2) the fertilizer regulations. Task Force Member McMahon suggested a blurb in the City's Newsletter. Task Force Member Chillura interjected if they make an interesting enough presentation to Council, it would automatically gain press attention.

Task Force Liaison Gross agreed it is a good idea to have a place where citizens can send suggestions. He said he would discuss this with the City Manager and take it from there. He added that Mike Dunn is the person in charge of the City's website.

Susan Zucker, 7013 Rivergate Avenue, questioned whether there is anything the Task Force could do to minimize the wake boats create when passing by. Task Force Member Chillura agreed that issue is a problem. He said perhaps signs with contact phone numbers to the Marine Patrol Officer would help alleviate the problem. Task Force Member Westberry interjected a fake video camera would probably help as well.

Staff Member Scilabro stated he does not work a set schedule; sometimes he works six days per week and during peak hours; he bases his activity on weather reports. He encouraged the Task Force to email him as he always checks his emails even when off-duty.

Staff Member Scilabro added that by working this way, the department has already exceeded in one month what has been done in a year in citations and arrests.

Staff Member Scilabro informed the Task Force that the County is charging fees at the boat ramps. He explained that will push people to use boat ramps that do not have fees; therefore, they will be coming to Temple Terrace's ramps. He suggested the City start thinking about initiating fees for the boat ramps. Pinellas County has been charging fees at their boat ramps for at least four years and they are making a lot of money, he said.

Task Force Member Chillura stated that is an issue that will have to be brought before the City Council. He continued it would be an eye-opener if they added this to the presentation; it will definitely attract the media.

The Task Force discussed various options of implementing this and fee amounts. They discussed the possibility of Temple Terrace residents to continue using the boat ramps free of charge by issuing them some form of plaque or permit.

Chairman Smith asked Task Force Liaison Gross to discuss this issue with the City Manager to see if he would be interested in pursuing it; if there is interest, he will put it on the January agenda for further discussion.

Task Force Member Pogorilich stated the idea of Temple Terrace having its own sewer plant was brought up at the last City Council meeting. Apparently, SWFWMD is interested in pursuing it and the City still owns the property, therefore, it is being looked at again, he said.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary