

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

**Monday, September 19, 2011
Council Workroom
4:30 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force met on Monday, September 19, 2011, in the Council Workroom at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE: Task Force Members Frank Chillura, Mike Harper, and Jack Westberry. **ABSENT WERE:** Chairman Terry McMahon and Task Force Member Ron Smith.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Council Liaison Robert Boss, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, Task Force Liaison Joe Gross, Marine Officer Greg Stevanus, Dr. Marty Kelly, Cheri Donohue, and John Jordan.

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. by Task Force Member Chillura.

Task Force Member Chillura apologized for the delay in starting the meeting.

1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon **Motion** of Task Force Member Westberry, seconded by Task Force Member Harper, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the August 15, 2011, meeting was **APPROVED**.

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

None.

2. Hillsborough River Challenge – Rotary Club of Temple Terrace:

Task Force Liaison Gross introduced Cheri Donohue, who would explain the Hillsborough River Challenge event. Before turning the meeting over to Ms. Donohue, Task Force Liaison Gross passed around photographs of Rotary Club members and Code Enforcement staff members who have teamed up to help clean properties in distress in support of the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program”.

Ms. Donohue thanked the Task Force for inviting her this evening. She briefly explained the Rotary Club’s function in support of the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program” and encouraged anyone interested in helping out to meet with club members at the International House of Pancakes at 7:15 a.m. every Tuesday.

Ms. Donohue continued the Rotary Club has been around for many years, and they decided to contact the City to inquire as to how they could get involved with Riverfest. She stated the Rotary Club decided to host 5, 10, and 20-mile canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard races on October 15, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. She distributed copies of a flyer and the entry form for the event, copies of which are part of the record. She explained all races will start at Riverhills Park, and there will be live music, food and prizes. She encouraged the Task Force to participate in the challenge.

Task Force Member Chillura stated the river is such a beautiful asset to the City and expressed appreciation to Ms. Donohue for this challenge which will draw a great deal of attention to the river. Ms. Donohue added that the Rotary Club will be sending out letters to all residents living on the river asking them to come out to their decks, or yard to cheer on the racers. Marine Officer Stevanus suggested they include a note on the letter asking residents to contact the Police Department should they see any racer in distress or needing help.

3. Trout Creek sewage spill:

Task Force Liaison Gross stated the aftermath of the spill continues. He reported the City of Tampa responded to the letter sent to Mayor Buckhorn by the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board & Technical Advisory Council dated August 22, 2011. He provided copies of City of Tampa's response, dated September 2, 2011, a copy of which is a part of the record. He added this response will be reviewed tomorrow at the Technical Advisory Council meeting, where they will make a recommendation as to what should be done about it.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned which agency has more authority on the river in terms of overseeing it. Task Force Liaison Gross responded the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would probably have the regulatory authority in this type of situation.

4. Current River water level:

Dr. Marty Kelly stated the water levels are still pretty good for this time of the year. He reported the flows at the various locations, and submitted a copy of the USGS Real-Time Water Data Report, dated September 19, 2011, for the record.

5. Liaison report:

Task Force Liaison Gross reported the Technical Advisory Council met on August 16th, at which Plant City provided a review of their northeast master plan. Comprehensive plan policies will be compared with dock permits, he said, and Mango Creek cleanup was also discussed.

Task Force Liaison Gross stated the Hillsborough River Watershed Alliance met on August 18th, where he was asked to serve as president of the group. He continued the River Board met on August 22nd; they heard the Plant City master plan presentation, the comp plan review was reiterated, and the Trout Creek letter to the City of Tampa was approved.

Task Force Liaison Gross informed the Task Force that on August 30th, Marine Patrol Officer Stevanus graciously escorted the Code Enforcement staff to view zones from the Hillsborough River perspective to make sure citizens living on the river are adhering to the City's expectations. He reported all the officers were very pleased with what they saw. Also on August 30th, he said, SWFWMD's Governing Board announced the appointment of Blake C. Guillory as their new Executive Director. He submitted a copy of Mr. Guillory's biography for the record and added he is replacing Mr. David L. Moore who resigned on May 26th.

Task Force Liaison Gross reported on August 31st, the City sent out a news release about QR (Quick Response) signs. He showed a copy of what the signs look like and explained their function. He suggested once the signs are fine-tuned, it may be a good idea to have one posted at the parks on the river and link them to a dedicated page on the website with information pertaining to the river.

Task Force Liaison Gross said the Livable Tampa Roundtable met on September 14th; the Waterworks Park located north of the Performing Arts Center is scheduled to reopen in spring of 2012. Also, he added, the coastal cleanup was held this past Saturday in which litter problems and a transient camp near 56th Street and the river were reported. He said he met with Marine Officer Stevanus this morning to try to get some things cleaned up and prevent that kind of activity and some of the trash generated by that kind of activity.

Task Force Liaison Gross reviewed upcoming meetings and events: Technical Advisory Council meeting on September 19th, Hillsborough River Watershed Alliance meeting on September 22nd, and SWFWMD's annual MFL (Minimum Flow's and Levels) public input meeting on October 3rd. He provided a memorandum from SWFWMD listing all the public meeting dates and locations, a copy of which is a part of the record.

5. Marine Officer report:

Marine Officer Stevanus apologized for not attending last month's meeting due to health issues. He stated some of his numbers are lower than usual, but he was out on the river a bit. He submitted a copy of his "August 2011 Monthly Marine Log," a copy of which is a part of the record.

Marine Officer Stevanus reported Task Force Member Westberry called him with a complaint about a boat speeder. Officer Stevanus affirmed he tried to research the individual's phone number, but the number listed is not a working number. He added he is keeping an eye out for the speeder so he can actually talk to him.

Task Force Member Chillura acknowledged Officer Stevanus' presence on the river and expressed appreciation for that.

6. Other business:

The Task Force discussed several ideas to help the Rotary Club draw more attention to the River Challenge.

Task Force Member Chillura said awhile back they discussed the possibility of consistency among other jurisdictions' dock codes and questioned whether any effort has been made to accomplish this. Also, he suggested as part of the dock codes, they require citizens to put their addresses on their docks for emergency purposes. Task Force Liaison Gross responded approximately two years ago the City of Tampa was particularly interested in changing their code, but there were changes to their City Council and those that were the driving force were no longer in office. He added Hillsborough County has even fewer or limited codes when it comes to those regulations, but it is something he can bring up at the Technical Advisory Council. He said he would inquire as to whether any jurisdiction has anything moving in that direction now.

Task Force Member Westberry stated Angelo's Aggregate Materials in Pasco County has reapplied for a permit and he questioned SWFWMD's take on this is in relation to water quality. Dr. Kelly said all he knows is that a couple of years ago the City of Tampa was challenging it. Task Force Liaison Gross said EPC has been keeping close tabs on the issue; he will inquire about it during tomorrow's Technical Advisory Council meeting.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary