

Partners in Planning

A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



RIVER NEWS

Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County

TAC EXAMINES DOCKS, BOAT LIFTS, SEAWALLS & OTHER STRUCTURES IMPACTING RIVER CORRIDOR

Publications

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There has always been a few docks and boat lifts dotting the river corridor landscape. For the most part they have been relatively small, creating little or no impact to the “look” of the corridor and they had minimal environmental impacts. More recently, the face of the river corridor has been changing with more docks and boat/personal water craft lifts being erected along the river’s shoreline. These structures are built to the maximum sizes allowable and impact the river both aesthetically and environmentally. Concern over this growing trend has prompted the Hillsborough River TAC to examine existing conditions and current regulations pertaining to water-related structures permitted in and along the Hillsborough River.

The Hillsborough River is categorized by the Tampa Port Authority which permits all structures within the County, Tampa and Temple Terrace. These geographic categories basically recognize physical differences in the river itself and surrounding land uses. These categories and other criteria limit structure size and can influence placement of structures along the river. The categories applied to rivers are generally described as downtown, urban and rural. The corresponding geographic areas are downtown Tampa, south of Columbus Drive, northward to Fletcher Avenue is considered urban and northward of Fletcher falls into the rural category. Within the downtown area, where the river is wider, larger structures are allowed. Further up in the urban and rural areas, structures are limited to a smaller scale, more fitting to the surroundings. Upstream of Fletcher structure criteria dictates even smaller structures as the river is constricted and narrows significantly. But like the trend in building bigger houses, waterfront homeowners are stretching water-related structures to the maximum size. Although they may be allowed today, they do present cause for thought as to *See page 3, Structures*

A consolidated city-county agency serving the cities of Tampa, Plant City, Temple Terrace and unincorporated Hillsborough County

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TAC Meetings Summary

The TAC met February 21st and March 21st at the Tampa Union Train Station. Among discussion items and reports made at the TAC were:

- A Briefing by TAC Chair on River Board meeting proceedings.
- A review and support for two Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Application projects located on the Hillsborough River.
- Discussion and support of a recommendation to be sent to the River Board regarding Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) processes related to consideration of modified dissolved oxygen standards (ADOC) for the lower Hillsborough River and Tampa Bay Water's permit application for augmentation of the lower river with treated waste water. Recommendation also forwarded concerns pertaining to SWFWMD website information and location of Governing Board meetings.
- A discussion on a downstream augmentation public workshop that was scheduled to receive public input regarding the augmentation pipe alignment.
- A briefing on a public workshop held in Sulphur Springs on minimum flows downstream of the dam.
- A slide presentation illustrating water-related structures along the Hillsborough River and discussion regarding impacts of such structures to the river.
- A briefing on the status of City of Tampa action regarding the Tampa Cruis-A-Cade site.
- A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.
- A review of the River Board/TAC project submitted to the Planning Commission's annual community awards program.
- A discussion regarding concerns about development encroachment in the Green Swamp area of the state and impacts to the river basin.

Future TAC meetings scheduled are on the third Tuesday of each month. All TAC meetings are scheduled to be held at the Tampa Union Train Station, 601 N. Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, second floor meeting room unless otherwise noticed. TAC meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. To review River Board and TAC agendas visit our website at www.hillsboroughriver.org and click on *Agendas* under the River Board/TAC logo or contact staff at 273-3774, extension 323.

MANATEE AWARENESS IS A LIFE-TIME COMMITMENT



Keep a watch out...Manatees are in the Hillsborough River year-round!

MANATEES DEPEND ON US TO BOAT SAFELY!

River Board Takes Action on River Issues

The Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board met Friday, March 3, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. at the historic Tampa Union Train Station. The River Board took action and was briefed/discussed subjects pertaining to the following issues:

- The River Board were briefed and discussed downstream augmentation, the request for an ADOC by Tampa Bay Water and minimum flows for the lower river. The Board directed a letter be sent to the FDEP urging caution be taken in consideration of the ADOC and augmentation permit under review by FDEP.
- The River Board directed contacting the SWFWMD to express concerns related to its website in regard to clarifying the District's position on downstream augmentation in the river and to request all District Governing meetings that have agenda items pertaining to the river be held at the Tampa Service Office.



*Kiley Park
Downtown Tampa*

- The River Board directed contacting the City of Tampa to support Kiley Park's restoration, to support the City's dedication of Curtis Hixon Park and to support the City's reconsideration of acquiring de-pollution craft, sharing the operational cost across several city departments and other entities.
- The River Board supported 4 Tampa Port Authority permit applications for project along the river.

- The River Board directed letters of appreciation to the SWFWMD for its partnership role in restoration of Riverside Garden and River Tower Parks' shorelines.
- The River Board directed correspondence be sent to the SWFWMD expressing its concerns regarding development encroachment in the Green Swamp area of the state which is the headwaters for four river basins including the Hillsborough River.
- The River Board was provided with a status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.
- The River Board was briefed on TAC efforts to examine water-related structures' impacts to the river corridor. Impacts include environmental and aesthetic impacts.

YOUR River Board wants to hear from YOU! Call the River Hotline at 272-5940



what the communities want to see the river look like in the coming years.

The structures themselves must meet standards in the materials used in their construction that are environmentally sound. However, environmental impacts from larger structures include more shading which can affect submerged plant growth and water quality and result in dispersment of aquatic life from areas they would normally inhabit. While this may seem like a minimal impact, compounding this effect with many such structures could alter wildlife habitation patterns in the river over time.

The other impact that is more noticeable now are aesthetic impacts to the river corridor. Multi-storied structures or those that are roofed can greatly reduce visibility along the river corridor and intrude into the natural beauty of the river. Most structures such as docks and boat lifts are built with utmost care and sensitivity to the structure's appearance. Still, these roofed structures tend to block the line of sight simply due to the opaque quality of the roof. When several boat lifts and personal water craft lifts appear adjacent to each other, the effect is magnified and the structures become to focus of a riverfront view.

The TAC acknowledges the need to protect watercraft and the respect the rights of waterfront owners to have structures that serve the purpose of allowing ingress and egress to the river from the properties. Yet, the character of the river is changing. The TAC is concerned about the prospect of having a river lined with structures that don't blend into the landscape, blocks views and don't reflect the river's natural character. The TAC and River Board will continue to explore ways to promote sensitivity to these issues and to keep the Hillsborough River corridor a place of beauty.



Help Bring the River to the People!

Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio launched a new initiative to create a Riverwalk along the Hillsborough River, extending from the Channelside District northward to Tampa Heights. The challenge in building the 2.4 mile stretch of riverfront public access is two fold. Making connections along the waterfront in a



constrained built-up urban environment has required innovative engineering to take the Riverwalk under bridges and along buildings that already hug the shoreline. That part is planned.

Funding the project is underway and the community is asked to help in this effort. ANY donation amount is welcome. Become a part of bringing the river to the community. Send any donations directly to:

Friends of the Riverwalk
P. O. Box 173312
Tampa, FL 33672-1312
BE SURE TO SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!



THE RIVER BOARD & TAC- A 20-YEAR INTROSPECTION

The Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board & Technical Advisory Council have been working on the Hillsborough River's management, within Hillsborough County, Temple Terrace and Tampa, for 20 years. In recognition of this effort, during the year leading up to the River Board/TAC's anniversary date in June, each issue of the *River News* will feature an article highlighting the many fine agencies and people that have helped in this endeavor.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) has been a significant partner in the river's management decisions over the past 20 years. Steadfast staff representatives such as Peter Clark and current representative Suzanne Cooper has made the TAC effective, especially in regard to projects of regional significance that could potentially impact the river corridor.



TBRPC has kept the TAC apprised

of development projects within the basin yet outside the legal scope of the River Board & TAC, recognizing the importance of the region's inter- connectivity, especially with natural system such as the river. Most recently the TBRPC staff kept the River Board & TAC briefed on actions pertaining to Cypress Creek Town Center in Pasco County and the environmental impacts that development could have on Cypress Creek and the river. Over the years, the TBRPC has provided valuable guidance regarding issues of regional concern such as water quality and supply and manatee issues.

The TBRPC has assisted the River Board & TAC over the years in preparation of the Hillsborough River Master Plan and subsequent plan updates made to the local comprehensive plans. The TBRPC has helped to fund public awareness projects sponsored by the River Board & TAC and continues to help in keeping river issues at the forefront on a regional basis. The TBRPC helped through its support in the acquisition of River Tower Park in Sulphur Springs and continues to direct the River Board & TAC to possible funding opportunities that will help successfully accomplish other river-related projects.



Sound planning, thoughtful insights and a regional perspective are all hallmarks of the TBRPC's participation and contribution to the River Board & TAC's success over the past 20 years. The River Board & TAC look forward to a continued partnership with TBRPC and appreciate all the efforts made by TBRPC on the Hillsborough River's behalf. Thanks TBRPC!

RIVER NEWS

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Change Service Requested

When Scientific Studies get rushed....A coffee break in the year 2015....

