

How will Bosek's retirement affect Temple Terrace downtown plans?

By Debbie Carson, Staff Writer

TEMPLE TERRACE — Temple Terrace's Redevelopment Department Director Ralph Bosek will be retiring as of June 1. How will Bosek's departure affect the city's plans on a deal with a developer to create a vibrant downtown? It's too soon to tell.

Bosek's retirement is set for one month before the city is expected to close on the sale of the southeast corner of Bullard Parkway and N. 56th Street.

Bosek has spent the last five years of his life dedicated to making Temple Terrace's downtown redevelopment project move forward and be successful.

He has overseen the on-again-off-again-back-on-again project, working to find the right developer to partner with the city for a development with the New Urbanism standards the Temple Terrace City Council has sought to attain for nearly a decade.

Bosek, 58, has seen the city get close to striking a deal with one developer – remember Unicorp National Development? The city watched the developer walk away, leaving downtown supporters to find another potential partner.

He has visited numerous cities throughout the state and elsewhere, studying their downtown projects, gathering ideas for what works and doesn't work and how Temple Terrace could learn from it.

He has met with numerous development teams, working to generate interest in the Temple Terrace project.

He has also worked with City Councilman Ron Govin, City Manager Kim Leinbach, City Finance Director Diane Reichard, and others to negotiate the terms of the deal with Pinnacle/Ram, the city's chosen development team to construct the massive downtown project.

Bosek has strived to build connections in the state and federal legislatures, securing funding for the downtown project. So far, he has helped to bring in about \$20 million worth of grants and other funds for the planned development.

Throughout the course of Bosek's career, he has logged about three decades of project management experience.

He has been TECO/BGA's vice president of development and performance contracting, where he was responsible for securing large contracts with various schools, including Hillsborough Community College and USF.

For 10 years, Bosek was the president and chief executive officer of Bosek, Gibson and Associates, Inc. He helped to develop nine company offices in Florida and California. Bosek also managed several projects for major clients, such as Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville.

Bosek also served as the vice president of marketing and sales for Delta Engineering, Inc., and the director of environmental and energy services for Environmental Associates, Inc.

The city's redevelopment director holds a Bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering and a Masters in Engineering. Both degrees came from USF in the 1970s.