

Editor:

I congratulate our City Council on finally getting the ball moving on our downtown redevelopment by approving the developer's best plan Tuesday night.

Since 2007, the Redevelopment Task Force and I have been proponents of a walkable, mixed-use, medium-density New Urban downtown, and I brought Andres' Duany, father of the New Urbanism, to Temple Terrace in 2002.

Does the City Council approved plan satisfy all 12 tenets of the revolutionary Torti Gallas and citizen created master plan of 2004?

No.

Is the City Council approved plan more mindless strip-mall sprawl?

No.

The City Council approved plan is a hybrid that introduces some revolutionary concepts to our region, but retains a foot in the familiar world of retail/residential development in Florida circa 2007.

As a local practicing architect and planner I'm OK with that; I've realized that "Rome wasn't built in a day"; unlike our redevelopment, Rome was not built in seven years on 17 acres.

The City Council approved plan is merely our city's first timid step towards picking up the bar left by our founding fathers when they created our exemplary town plan of 1922.

That timeless Temple Terrace is the one we love.

Realizing the future Temple Terrace that every one of us knows can be, satisfying the incredible potential of This Place, is going to take some time, but each successive place we create will build on the past, add to the mix, and get better.

The half a million dollars spent on the exemplary Torti Gallas/citizen master plan was not wasted. That plan and its ideas came at a crucial time and have reset our founders bar, the timeless ideas in that

plan are valid and always will be, and they are the wellspring from which future development in Temple Terrace will be inspired by, and measured.

My involvement in our downtown redevelopment has taught me the virtue of patience. The revitalization of Temple Terrace has begun and in subsequent years it will progress, pick up speed, and gain sophistication.

Signed,

Grant Rimbey CNU  
Temple Terrace