**Water/Waterfront Activation Meeting Handout for 1/26/17 meeting**

**PROJECT ADMIN UPDATES:**

**1. New points/methods of contact**

* Samantha Lane, in the City Council Office of Legislative Affairs, will be attending your meetings and assisting with coordination of various efforts. Please let Sam know when you have a meeting of any group working on this subject so that she can report back, post updates, and keep us from rowing in different directions.
* Sam can be reached at: [SMLane@coj.net](mailto:SMLane@coj.net) or (904) 630-7126
* Congratulations and thanks to Linzee Ott who helped us get started, and who is now working with Melissa Nelson.

**2. Research Assistance.** City Council Office of Council Research will help with researching solutions, policies, etc. from other jurisdictions- if you have a research need contact Sam and she will coordinate through my office.

**3. Website.** <http://www.coj.net/city-council/current-issues/waterway-waterfront-activation>. This webpage will serve as our portal and information dissemination location for the time being. Notes and updates regarding the status of projects, as well as upcoming events and notices can be posted there. The email address to send event notices, meeting reports, and any other topical items for posting to the website is: [website.wateractivation@coj.net](mailto:website.wateractivation@coj.net). The email address to communicate with Council President Boyer’s office and project staff specifically on this topic is [coordinator.wateractivation@coj.net](mailto:coordinator.wateractivation@coj.net)

**DOWNTOWN**

1. **USS Adams**- ship due here in April, 2017
2. **American Institute of Architects (AIA)** - feature nodes along Riverwalk

PowerPoint will be uploaded to website.

1. **Southbank Riverwalk**
   1. Powerboat docking- Since our last meeting we have ascertained that we cannot move forward with any additional docks along the SB Riverwalk without obtaining the upland (riparian) owner’s permission. There were several docks in the SB Riverwalk design documents that were not completed at the time of construction due to cost. We were hoping to use a FIND grant this year to add one or two of those because demand is high for private recreational boat docking on the SB for those wishing to go to dinner. Initial conversations with the upland owner adjacent to the site of the proposed dock were cordial but did not result in an unconditional grant of permission that would allow the City to proceed. As a result, several interim approaches are being pursued.

* The former dinner boat docks will be opened to recreational use
* Potential legislative changes may be required to allow 2 hour docking rather than simply temporary drop off
* The FIND grant request was shifted to Post Street
* Discussions have begun to add an additional dock finger at Riverplace Tower.
  1. **Submerged land lease renewals** for the SB Riverwalk are currently being processed
  2. **Baptist site**- To date there have been a number of conversations about the City’s need for a future easement or right to obtain a submerged lands lease along the Baptist property and future taxi dock near Fuller Warren with access to the future under-bridge park. We are pursuing a written letter of understanding.
  3. **Aetna building/Hines sites**- The proposed purchaser of the Hines site has re-designed his project to accommodate a 20 foot Riverwalk on the upland - 8 feet currently exists as an easement and the developer would construct an additional 12 foot sidewalk at an elevated grade adjacent to the building. In addition, the proposal includes a 12 foot walk from Prudential to the River with 4 feet of landscaping on either side to provide access to the Riverwalk extension by crossing the railroad tracks at Prudential. This design has been submitted to DIA and DDRB.
  4. **The District site**- All discussions to date have contemplated a Riverwalk extension from the School Board site along the entire riverfront of the property.
  5. **Future Dinner Boat** cruises will be docked at the Shipyards site as space is limited on the SB, unless St Johns marina is preferable and available
  6. **School Board ADA kayak launch**- this project is moving forward with design; the School Board has provided the required handicapped parking spaces; construction is expected to begin in 2018; complete funding is available

1. **Northbank Riverwalk**
   1. **Gefen launch and Riverwalk re-construction**- The costs of the project escalated during design and the project was separated into two phases- delaying completion of the kayak launch. The design for the Riverwalk re-routing and re-construction is complete and full funding is available for construction. Funding is also now available for the kayak launch and Parks and Public Works have committed that it will be completed at the same time. This project is scheduled to begin construction in the fall of 2017.
   2. **245 Riverside**- the Parks Department has evaluated the cost of improvements to the current dock at 245 Riverside in order to render it functional for use as a water taxi stop in Brooklyn. Initial discussions with the owner have been positive and we are evaluating the cost of this project vs. other Brooklyn dock alternatives. Follow-up meeting with the building owner will take place soon and hopefully agreement can be reached.
   3. **Metropolitan Park** - Plans for dredging and activation efforts at Metropolitan Park have been put on hold pending receipt of the responses to the outstanding bid on redevelopment.
2. **Downtown Riverwalk aesthetic update**
   1. **Hurricane Matthew Repairs**- Legislation has been filed with City Council to enter into an agreement with the State regarding FEMA reimbursements for storm damage. This step must occur before we spend funds on repairing the SB shades, floating dock damages, etc. The agreement should be in place in 30 days allowing us to move forward thereafter with repairs. Daryl Joseph from Parks has indicated that assessments have been completed on both the NB and SB and we are ready to order replacements and begin repairs ASAP.
   2. **Corkscrew park**- A group was formed after our first meeting consisting of Anna Dooley from Greenscape, Late Bloomers Garden Circle members, Bob Chabot, DVI representatives, Parks staff and others to look at aesthetic improvements to the NB Riverwalk experience. The group focused first on Corkscrew Park and will present the proposed plan for the park.
   3. **ULI/DVI grant to focus on NB Pavilions**- Jake Gordon advised that he and Carolyn Clark have agreed to use the ULI/DVI grant received this fall to enhance the two Riverwalk pavilions near the TU Center.
   4. **Art**- Tony Allegretti will be coordinating with Parks and DIA and the above groups regarding the opportunities for art installation along the NB Riverwalk, the thematic content, and consistency of vision- all designed to create an enhanced experience along the Riverwalk.
   5. **Landscape**- no update on additional landscape improvements on the Riverwalks in the Downtown core (phase two for group referenced in (b);
   6. **Sound**- no update at this time
   7. **Lighting** – no update at this time
   8. **Acosta Bridge Lights**- JTA reviewing options for restoring lights on Acosta; should have update at next meeting
3. **New Met Park docking reservation rules**- Captain Suber advised Waterways Commission that the Parks Staff is reviewing and revising their reservation policy. This would apply to docking reservations at Met park marina downtown, as well. An update should be available by next meeting.

**Countywide**

1. **Waterways subcommittee reports** - minutes of subcommittee meetings are posted online at the Waterways Commission webpage and also on the webpage above.
   1. Motorized/Sports
   2. Non-motorized
   3. Entertainment – update at next meeting
2. **Maritime Management Plan** – As you will recall from our first meeting, this plan is designed to catalog all existing public facilities, to analyze their condition and deficiencies, gather public input on potential needs and make recommendations. It is also identifying sites on the water with a low assessed improvement value as possible sites to fill gaps and needs.
   1. Addition of previously issued dredge permits from DEP to map layers- Quinton White is adding a map layer to the plan to include all previously issued dredge permits in the DEP database. While not inclusive of all permits that may have pre-dated the database, it will provide an easy reference for maintenance dredge permits in the future.
3. **FIND 2016-17 appropriation**- funding for the FIND 16/17 City match passed out of Council this week and legislation will be introduced next cycle to appropriate project specific funding for all projects awarded the past cycle.
4. **FIND application list 2017**- The 2017 FIND grant application list will be introduced to Council next cycle. A copy of the proposed list will be posted on the webpage above for review and comment.
5. **ADA accessibility**- Ray Pringle has been engaged in discussions with Brooks regarding accessible ramps and docks, as well as other waterfront facilities.
6. **Dredging of tributaries**- a meeting was held with SJRWD, DEP, Public Works, the Mayor’s office, Herschel Vineyard, Joe Miller and myself to discuss the opportunities to save time and expense, and to understand the obstacles associated with dredge projects in the tributaries that are essential to keeping dock access available and channels navigable.

* One topic of discussion was permitting issues and one step toward streamlining was to include all previously issued dredge permits in the DEP database to the Maritime Management Plan maps because maintenance dredge permits are an easier process and we will have ready access to which areas qualify.
* A second challenge we discussed was spoil - deposit locations, proximity, contamination and cost. A question was raised as to whether some preliminary sampling should be done at potential dredge locations or whether we can ascertain from any information on file the likely proportions of various types of spoil sites that may be required. Joe Miller has offered to coordinate work as we move forward on this topic, but one of the next steps is to identify potential dredge spoil sites for both contaminated and non-contaminated spoil. I will reach out to JU and UNF and see if we might find a graduate student willing to look into this.
* Finally, we also discussed at some length the sand transfer plant in Palm Beach and other options to address the recurring issue of siltation at Alimacani and the Ft. George inlet and the corresponding beach erosion that the jetties cause. Rather than continually re-nourishing that section of Beach as a project independent from the inlet dredge, perhaps an engineering solution, or at least coordinated approach to deposit the dredge spoil back on the beach, could save us time and expense.
* Conceptually, if keeping the tributaries navigable increases our tax base, as well as providing recreational opportunities, we should not lose sight of the importance of this dredging, the need for which is a consequence of increased development and siltation.
* A meeting has been scheduled to coordinate efforts and exchange information this topic with the Port

1. Zoo dredge- In light of the above, I have asked Parks to locate their files on the zoo dredge proposed in 2012. The DEP permit was issues in 2013 and does not expire until 2018. The total project cost in the 2012-2013 FIND list for design and construction was 1,018,050 and 700,000 was requested of FIND. I will a member of the Waterways Commission to follow-up on this topic and provide a status update next month, but if you have information or are willing to work on this project, please contact Samantha Lane above.
2. Alimacani/Ft. George dredge- no update, except that it has been reported that the siltation at the City dock is extensive and limiting access- we need to evaluate options.
3. Christopher Creek- following a meeting with SJRWD and DEP, plans are moving forward for dredging a sediment basin near Nathan Krestul Park. Update next month.
4. Miller’s Creek- Community tax District is meeting regularly and selecting engineer to provide dredge cost estimate.
5. **TruJax**- This group has been working for several years on the brand and identity of Jacksonville in the US and world. The group has concluded that our natural assets- the waterways and beaches, the preserves and Intracoastal are the authentic basis of our identity- why the Port and Navy are here and are such a strong part of our economy; but also what we as residents see every day as we cross our countless bridges. Their report will be forthcoming in 2017.
6. **Marketing-** Marketing to increase local awareness of existing opportunities, and to tourists, is a major element of water activation.
   1. intoGo app- One locally developed app that provides broad based content on in water and waterfront opportunities.
   2. Kathy Stark book – Kathy Stark, a local artist whose works depicting many of our beautiful preserve lands and waterways have been on display in the City Council offices, has published a book that will include those works as well as a map showing the location of the various preserve areas and natural parks.
7. **Arlington River**- The Arlington River has been identified as the ideal waterway for rowing activities. If you are already engaged in developing rowing facility sites or activities or interested in doing so, please contact Samantha Lane so we can include your updates and share information.
8. **Timucuan Park** – Working towards mapping out land and water trails. An initial map has been created by the Parks Department.
9. **Timucuan Trail** – The Florida Department of Transportation has begun construction of a fifth segment of the Timucuan Trail, a multi-use bike and walking path, on the east side of Heckscher Drive (State Road A1A) from the Fort George River Bridge to Little Talbot Island State Park.

The project includes construction of a 12-foot-wide path from the western foot of the Fort George River Bridge to the existing trail in Little Talbot Island State Park. At the bridge, the trail will connect to an existing path that loops under the bridge to the adjoining Fort George River Bridge parking lot on the west side of Heckscher Drive. The project also includes landscaping, sidewalk and drainage improvements, and the installation of bike racks and benches at landing/rest areas under and at the bridge.

The one mile trail is part of the overall Timucuan Trail system which will eventually connect Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park in Duval County to the Amelia Island Trail in Nassau County. It consists of 10 to 12-foot wide paved paths along 20 miles of State Road A1A, connecting to parking areas, trailheads and the Mayport ferry, along the way. The Timucuan Trail is a component of the larger trail network known as the East Coast Greenway, stretching from Florida to Maine.

Superior Construction Company, LLC of Jacksonville will begin the $1.8 million project the first week of December. It is scheduled for completion, weather permitting, in summer 2017.

Construction will occur weekdays and possibly some weekends from approximately 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the majority of work being done on the road shoulders. Some lane closures on Heckscher Drive may be necessary but are not allowed from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

1. **Hogan’s Creek park trail/ landscape/aesthetic**- Parks has completed installation of a new asphalt pathway along the creek. A recent site visit noted several crosswalk issues and sidewalk gaps which are being addressed. The project did not include funding for landscape, lighting, or other aesthetic enhancements. I have asked Greenscape to work with Parks and Groundworks regarding possible planting opportunities.
2. **McCoy’s Creek- Times Union site –** update at next meeting
3. **Memorial Park**  Memorial Park, envisioned to ultimately be the western end of the NB Riverwalk is undergoing a major facelift and that project is well underway
4. **Jacksonville University-** update at next meeting