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| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** |
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**Meeting Minutes for Council President Lori N. Boyer hosts Waterway-Waterfront Activation Meeting**

**Friday, February 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Topic:** The meeting was held to discuss goals, implementation strategies, and opportunities for activation of all of our City’s rivers, tributaries, the Intracoastal Waterway and Beaches and update progress on current efforts.

**Location:** Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st Floor, 117 West Duval St., City Hall, Jacksonville, FL

**Attendees**: Council President Lori Boyer, Council Member Jim Love, Nicole Spradley (ECA, District 5), Brian Burket (Parks), Margie Petraglia (Neighborhoods Department), Bob Skalitzky (Parks), Annette Hastings (TDC),Tom Fallin (Public Works), James Richardson (EPB), Jill Enz (Parks), Aundra Wallace (DIA), Renee Hunter (Real Estate Division), and Amy Ingles (Planning Department)

Please see the attached sign in sheet for a complete list of attendees.

**Meeting Convened:** 2:03 p.m.

Council President Lori Boyer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Her goal is to meet monthly in order to keep everyone updated and for those to share new ideas.

Joe Kistel provided a powerpoint presentation on artificial reefs off the coast of Jacksonville. Mr. Kistel is the author of “Sunken Conservation”, “North Florida Reefs” and “Spike the Tugboat” all based off of the coat of Jacksonville. He said there are hundreds of underwater structures off of the shores of Northeast Florida. He pointed out that other Florida counties are investing in artificial reefs, but Duval County is not.

Dr. Dan McCarthy, a professor at JU, introduced OCEARCH, a new shark tracking program at JU. He asked meeting attendees to check out JU’s website to learn more about the program.

Council President Boyer mentioned that the OCEARCH program will provide national and international coverage.

Council President Boyer provided a powerpoint presentation with updates on downtown projects and asked the audience to provide her with updates.

Aundra Wallace provided a powerpoint presentation that included a timeline for the Northbank and Southbank. Interviews will be conducted in March for the candidates that responded to the Northbank RFP, the proposals for the Shipyards are due on March 8, 2017, La Villa Development Strategy is anticipated to commence on April 6, 2017, and the Brooklyn Road diet will commence on March 2, 2017.

Council President Boyer mentioned that public parking for the Southbank Riverwalk was approved by the DIA.

Aundra Wallace also mentioned that he is working on obtaining funding for a pathway at A. Philip Randolph from the water taxi stop and that 245 Riverside is a possible water taxi stop.

Tom Fallen provided a brief history about the Liberty Street project and the current and future construction timelines. The first step is to replace the bulkhead and coastline by 2018, the second phase address Liberty Street, and the third phase will address the portion near the old court house. The project includes connecting Liberty Street to the Riverwalk, adding parking on Liberty and Market Streets in the Spring of 2018.

Jake Gordon mentioned that the DVI/ULI grant worth $25,000 will be spent on revitalizing the area near two gazebo’s near Pearl Street and Hogan Street. Stakeholders met recently to discuss the goals and process to implement a plan for this summer.

Council President Boyer suggested adding a location to take selfies along the River.

Shannon Blankinship, St. Johns RiverKeeper, provided a powerpoint presentation highlighting the clean up efforts along McCoys Creek.

Eric Bersiger, Clean Waterway Society, provided a photo slide show of a clean up on Tomahawk Park along Goodby’s Creek.

Alyssa Bourgoyne, Groundworks Jacksonville, provided a brief overview of Groundworks Jacksonville and the clean up efforts on Hogan’s Creek and S-Line bike rides. A powerpoint was used.

Brian Burket provided a powerpoint presentation regarding:

1. School Board Kayak site – Parks Department wants to fast track this project and has the goal to begin construction in 2018.
2. Gefen park – The project is currently out to bid with bids due in March, construction is expected to begin in September 2017.

Jill Enz provided a brief update about the repairs to the Northbank Riverwalk.

* New substantial lights will be installed in the spring of 2017
* Benches have been secured
* The trash can issue has been resolved
* Painting light poles and benches will occur first near Corkscrew Park
* Corkscrew Park plantings will be completed within the next two months, and irrigation is currently being repaired
* Contractors have been selected to paint the gazebo’s and will begin work within the next couple of weeks
* A contractor has also been selected to replace the loose pavers on the Riverwalk

Marc Hardesty provided a powerpoint presentation update on the Palm Fish Camp boat ramp and restaurant. The floating dock ramp that sank during Hurricane Matthew was reinstalled and a new kayak launch was built. The restaurant is slated to open in Spring of 2017 (possibly May). He expressed an interest in hosting fishing tournaments and working with the City and Timucuan Preserve.

Zachary Schwartz, creator of the Into Go App mentioned that the app now includes search terms for waterfront dining and water based activities.

Council President Boyer provided a powerpoint presentation on aquatic centers and highlighted P1 powerboat racing, Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota, Big Bear Lake in California, Crystal Lagoons – an artificial concept, and Sacramento State Aquatic Center.

Council President Boyer said that Jacksonville has the opportunity to capture water as an identity.

A public comment period was offered. John Nooney spoke.

Council President Boyer recommended to the audience to check the website for updates.

Council President Boyer thanked everyone for attending the meeting and then adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4.00 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes completed by Nicole Spradley, ECA District 5, on Thursday, March 2, 2017

cc: Council Members/Staff

Cheryl Brown, Director/CouncilSecretary

Carol Owens, Chief, Legislative Services Division

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