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| **LORI N. BOYER**  President  Council Member, District 5  Office (904) 630-1382  Fax (904) 630-2906  E-Mail: [lboyer@coj.net](mailto:lboyer@coj.net) |  | 117 West Duval Street  City Hall, Suite 425  Jacksonville, FL 32202  TDD: (904) 630-1580 |
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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**

**Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 1:00 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, Council Member Joyce Morgan, Council Member Bill Gulliford, Nicole Spradley (ECA, District 5), Brian Burket (Parks), Bob Skalitzky (Parks), Annette Hastings (TDC), James Richardson (EPB), Jill Enz (Parks), Amy Ingles (Planning Department), Colin Moore (COJ Grants), Renee Hunter (Real Estate), Kevin Kuzel (ECA, District 14), Paige Johnston (OGC), Colleen Hempsey (Research Division), Darren Mason (ECA, District 1), Carol Harper (ECA, District 13), Daryl Joseph (Parks), Margie Petraglia (Neighborhoods), and Terrance Freeman (ECA, District 3)

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

**Meeting Convened:** 1:06 p.m.

Council President Lori Boyer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She provided a brief overview of this initiative and mentioned the positive feedback she has received regarding the improvements at Tomahawk Park.

John Williams provided a powerpoint presentation and a showed a video called Jacksonville Heritage video. His efforts are focused on Downtown and can be found on his website [www.jaxrivervision.com](http://www.jaxrivervision.com). He suggested creating a maritime culture and questioned why the City of Jacksonville could not be known as the river of fountains.

Council Member Jim Love provided a Sports Subcommittee (Waterways Committee) report. The Subcommittee met approximately 6 times and created a list of 18-20 items that will be prioritized. The top five items on the list include:

1. Communication – recommended that Visit Jacksonville offer an app that includes boating and water access
2. Expand water access facilities in the City of Jacksonville
3. Boating guide – recommended that the City create a boating guide which includes boating locations, baitshops, gas stations ect.
4. Retrofit boating facilities to meet ADA standards
5. Add more artificial reefs in shore and off shore

Council Member Love liked John Willliams’ ideas.

Council President Boyer mentioned that the intogo app offers many of the communication components that are part of the Sports Subcommittees prioritized list.

Council President Boyer discussed rowing on the Arlington River and provided a powerpoint presentation. She mentioned that there is potential to host head racing events on the Arlington River and property owned by DCF that may be available for purchase.

Brian Burket provided a Jacksonville trails system update with a powerpoint presentation that focused on the Timucuan area. He talked about Thomas Creek fish camp, Seaton Creek, Half Moon Island, Betz Tiger-Point Preserve and Pumpkin Hill area, Cedar Point, Alimacani Park, Timucuan Trail segment and the East Coast Greenway.

Council President Boyer is looking for the TDC and/or Visit Jacksonville to promote this so people can find these trails. She also mentioned that if the City had $1 million in available funding that Pumpkin Hill and Tiger Point are great locations to spend it on and that there is an opportunity to highlight the areas Indian heritage at the Timucuan Preserve.

Council Member Joyce Morgan said that if people like Cumberland Island that they need to continue south to Pumpkin Hill.

Council Member Bill Gulliford provided a post Hurricane Matthew update on the beaches and showed photos of the sand dunes. He said that natural vegetation is starting to grow on its own and they will begin planting sea oats on the dunes next month. He is continuing to pursue the possible purchase of the 130 acres of land and wetlands on the northside of Beach Marina on Beach Blvd. This purchase would allow the City to expand the parking at the boat ramp and the wetlands would tie into existing City owned property. He will talk about Dutton Island and Johnston Island at a later date. He mentioned that Hanna Park is underutilized and that Daryl Joseph may have ways to enhance it.

Michelle Baldwin, past president of the Mayport Civic Association, provided a powerpoint presentation on Mayport and its shrimping industry. She explained that the Mayport seafood industry is part of tourism and ecotourism and needs support from a private investor and the City of Jacksonville. Acres of land have sat dormant for ten years and structures are failing. She mentioned that no one bid on the recent RFP to develop the land. Ms. Baldwin recommended setting up a special taxing district.

Council Member Gulliford said that OED will send this out to bid again and will to be more aggressive. He explained that there are restrictions placed on the property such as easements and density limitations. He has asked the Navy to clarify the density limitations of 5 units per acres.

Janie Thomas, Shrimp Association, stressed the importance of having a working waterfront for boats, ice, fuel service, ample docks space and the role it would play in bringing back shrimp boats.

Council President Boyer suggested having a noticed meeting with OED to discuss getting the dock at Mayport added to the RFP.

Council President Boyer provided a presentation she called the Downtown Experience. She talked about having a vibrant Riverwalk, boat services, nodes, a dramatic waterfront element and completing the greenways; the crown of the city. The City has the opportunity to build a continuous trail along McCoys and Hogan Creeks since the City already owns most of the parcels along McCoys Creek. She asked the audience to let her know what projects should be a priority so that she can add them to the CIP.

Members of the audience recommended talking to Groundworks Jacksonville, removing the pipes along the creeks and adding signage and lighting along the path in Klutho Park.

Council President Boyer explained that she must submit the list of priority projects for the CIP in April and that TPO funding list is also required in April. She mentioned proposed legislation that she will file that will create a parks partnership program that will allow donation and naming rights opportunities.

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

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:18 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes completed by Nicole Spradley, ECA District 5, on Wednesday, April 5, 2017

cc: Council Members/Staff

Cheryl Brown, Director/CouncilSecretary

Carol Owens, Chief, Legislative Services Division

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