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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**

**Monday, May 8, 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 Aaron Bowman, Nicole Spradley (ECA, District 5), Brian Burket (Parks), Bob Skalitzky (Parks), Annette Hastings (TDC), James Richardson (EPB), Amy Ingles (Planning Department), Colin Moore (COJ Grants), Colleen Hampsey (Research Division), Daryl Joseph (Parks), Jim Suber (COJ Waterways), John Flowe (EQD), and Guy Parola (DIA)

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

**Meeting Convened:** 1:01 p.m.

Council President Lori Boyer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She provided a brief overview of this initiative.

Marshall Adkison provided a report from the non-motorized subcommittee of the Waterways Commission. The committee defined non-motorized activities to include canoeing, kayaking, rowing, sailing, sunset watching, camera pathways and many more. The committee talked about eight zones: Intercoastal waterways, St. Johns County line to the River, Timucuan guide, Jacksonville guide, Thomas Creek, St. Johns River, Trout River, Durbin Creek. Some of the suggestions that came from the Committee include online forums to report issues that all agencies can view, posting signs, trails leading to launch sites, updated apps. He used kayaking as an example when talking about an app that would list locations to launch, but also includes the skill level.

Council President Boyer mentioned that Visit Jacksonville has partnered with the IntoGo app which offers water related activities. She offered to update the wateractivation.coj.net website to include accomplishments.

Council Member Jim Love provided a report from the Sports subcommittee of the Waterways Commission. The final report has 18 recommendations. He provided the top five which include: Visit Jacksonville communicating what the City has to offer, expand and improve access to the water, boating and fishing guides, retrofit boating facilities to meet ADA standards, and add more artificial reefs.

Council Member Aaron Bowman said that the Entertainment Subcommittee will meet on June 7th.

Council President Boyer said that the Management Plan recommendations report will be available around June.

Mayor Elaine Brown discussed the 40 mile scenic byway which is the 26th one in the state of Florida. A committee of volunteers worked for four years with FDOT to make this possible. She mentioned that the State doesn’t pay for the signage and that she is working to raise funds now. She announced the AIA Scenic Byway Garage Sale will take place the weekend of November 3rd and that Duval County has been asked to participate.

Brian Burket shared a map of the Core 2 Coast bike/ped trail.

Amy Ingles said that State and local roads make up the Core 2 Coast trail, and some sections will be enhanced sidewalks while other segments will be more like a trail.

Council President Boyer suggested that the trail will be completed in 2021 or 2022, essentially each section of the trial is either designed, seeking funding or is already funded.

Council President Boyer mentioned that Bob McNally is working with Visit Jacksonville to promote fishing.

Marshall Adkison mentioned that the artificial reefs are working and that the King Fish Tournament is in July.

Council President Boyer provided a presentation called Experiences. She spoke about how critical it is to add landscaping to the Downtown Riverwalk, and creating nodes that are a place-making feature located at mobility crossroads to tell the story/history of Jacksonville.

Daryl Joseph said that the landscape portion of Corkscrew Park will be complete in June and that gym equipment that looks like an art piece could be installed by late summer of 2017. A photo of what the gym equipment could look like was included in Council President Boyer’s powerpoint presentation.

Council President Boyer said that they have funding in the upcoming year to make repairs at Friendship Fountain and she has asked for additional funding for signage. She is also looking to add a node on the Riverwalk behind the FTU building.

Council President Boyer talked about the beach experience, including rebuilding the pier, repairing facilities and adding Pelican Park at Hanna Park, bike trails at Talbot Island, the new road at Hugenot is opening soon, and adding an archeological museum at Betz-Tiger Point.

Council President Boyer also discussed the marine life experience and sports and fitness experience.

Council President Boyer allowed meeting attendees to ask questions or provide comments.

Mayport Village was mentioned by an audience member. Council President Boyer mentioned that Council Member Bill Gulliford is working on acquiring the land and that she is focused on the docks.

A meeting attendee mentioned that Jacksonville Beach is working to acquire the land North of McCue Boat ramp.

Mayor Elaine Brown would like to see Jarboe Park become a trailhead for the scenic byway. She asked to meet with the City of Jacksonville’s bike/ped department to discuss this and find ways to make it safer for everyone to get around the beaches.

Dennis Thompson is working with Brookes and the City to adopt ADA kayaking at Hanna Park. There will be an event on June 10th.

Council President Boyer mentioned that there will be two new sites with ADA access for kayakers 1. Geffen Park, due to be completed in August or September, 2. The School Board site, the agreement is complete and the project is funded by FIND.

Council President Boyer addressed concerns of blight and maintenance stating that other Cities have an entity that assumes responsibility for maintenance and suggested asking DVI to oversee this.

Joe Kistel is launching a website and youtube page to showcase fishing and diving videos from Jacksonville. They will begin taping the first video next week.

Council President Boyer said bids have been received for the Shipyards.

Council President Boyer discussed activities on the water for those that don’t fish. She explained there are several water taxi stops on the Southbank and is looking for additional locations such as at River Place Towers and Baptist. Additional water taxi sites on the Northbank include A. Philip Randolph which will be ready in June or July, 245 Riverside is a possible stop and Post Street in Five Points should have funding through FIND next year.

Eric Smith said that the lighthouse at the Mayport Navy base is a tourism opportunity.

Mayor Elaine Brown said that the light house is underground and is on the base.

Council President Boyer is meeting with the Chamber to identify locations on the water for potential businesses such as restaurants and kiosk facilities.

Alicia Grant inquired about an aquarium at the Shipyards.

Council President Boyer explained that the City received Federal dollars to pay for Met Park. The Shipyards bid moved the park space; therefore re-payment to the Federal Government is not necessary. Waterfront activity could be an aquarium or other venue such as a swimming hall of fame.

Joe Kistel mentioned that Crowley is getting rid of some of its barges. He has an interest in using a barge for an off shore reef and asked if anyone had a contact at Crowley.

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

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:15 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes completed by Nicole Spradley, ECA District 5, on Thursday, April 11, 2017

cc: Council Members/Staff

Cheryl Brown, Director/CouncilSecretary

Carol Owens, Chief, Legislative Services Division

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