

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSIONERS BOYER AND BROCK**

**NOTICED MEETING MINUTES**

**City Council Conference Room A, Suite 425, City Hall**

 **July 26, 2018**

**10:00 p.m.**

**Location:** City Council Conference Room A, Suite 425, City Hall – St. James Building; 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Waterways Commission Members Lori Boyer, Lindsey Brock and Matt Brockelman

**Also**: Paige Johnston and Susan Grandin – Office of General Counsel; Adri Segui – Legislative Services Division; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Leeann Krieg – Mayor’s Office

See sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

**Meeting Convened**: 10:02 a.m.

Commissioner Boyer called the meeting to order and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the desirability of attendance of representatives of various relevant organizations at Jacksonville Waterways Commission meetings. Ms. Boyer said that she had correspondence from Dr. Quinton White of Jacksonville University’s Marine Science Research Institute, a long-time advisor to the Waterways Commission on manatee and river-related issues, indicating that in years past a substantial number of local, state and federal water- and environment-related agencies regularly sent representatives to the Commission’s meetings, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and others. Commissioner Brock said that he has been in contact with Captain Todd Wiemers, the commanding officer of the Coast Guard’s Jacksonville Sector, on this subject and he indicated his interest in having representation at the Commission’s meetings since the topics addressed by the Commission are often relevant to the Coast Guard. Part of his interest is in having Jacksonville designated as a “Coast Guard City”, a designation made by the Commandant of the Coast Guard to municipalities that demonstrate consistent and visible support to Coast Guard personnel. Having an integrated relationship with the City would help in achieving that designation.

Ms. Boyer suggested three ways that the Coast Guard and other relevant agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Sheriff’s Office Marine Division) could have an official relationship with the Waterways Commission: 1) as voting members of the Commission (would require amendment of the Ordinance Code chapter authorizing the commission); as liaison (non-voting) members attending on a regular basis and conveying information relevant information to and from their organization; or 3) as informal members included on the Commission’s email distribution list to receive meeting notices, minutes and other correspondence, and invited on occasion to attend meetings to address particular topics as they may arise.

Commissioner Brock said that the Coast Guard would likely prefer not to be a full voting member of the Commission. Assistant General Counsel Paige Johnston said that the Waterways Commission’s current *ex officio* members (representatives of the Planning Commission and the Environmental Protection Board) are not voting members, but by virtue of their *ex officio* status are covered by the Government in the Sunshine law and regulations prohibiting communication among members on Commission business outside of a properly noticed meeting. The group felt that the restrictions on communication imposed by the Sunshine Law made full membership or *ex officio* non-voting membership impractical, so an unofficial liaison status would be preferable to allow the representatives to communicate among themselves on important issues without the restrictions of noticed meeting requirements.

Commissioner Boyer said that she was not interested in having each of these liaison agencies making regular monthly reports, but they would inform the Commission on an occasional basis as issues arise and participate in discussion. She would like to have these additional liaison members seated on the dais if possible to ensure that they feel invested in the work of the Commission and committed to attending. Commissioner Brock said he would contact Capt. Wiemers and explore the Coast Guard’s interest in this arrangement.

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:18 a.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

7.27.18 Posted 9:00 a.m.

Tapes: Waterways Commissioners Boyer and Brock noticed meeting – LSD

 7.26.18