

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HISTORICAL REMEMBRANCE**

**MEETING MINUTES - AMENDED**

**Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall**

**November 27, 2018**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall – St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Council Members Scott Wilson (Chair), Anna Lopez Brosche, Terrance Freeman, Reggie Gaffney, Tommy Hazouri, Greg Anderson

**~~Excused~~**~~: Council Member Hazouri~~

**Also**: Council Members Lori Boyer, Randy White and Jim Love (arr. 2:18); Tommy Carter – Council Auditor’s Office, Peggy Sidman and Steve Durden – Office of General Counsel; Tracey Lockley – ECA, Group 5 At-Large; Jackie Lee – ECA, District 4; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Stephanie Burch – Neighborhoods Department; John Pappas – Public Works Department; Bill Killingsworth – Planning and Development Department; Chiquita Moore – Mayor’s Office; Daryl Joseph – Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department

See sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

**Meeting Convened**: 1:33 p.m.

Chairman Scott Wilson called the meeting to order, and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

In the absence of Yvonne Mitchell of the Council Research Division, the presentation on her research was postponed to the next meeting.

Chairman Scott said that the City currently does not have standard policies or procedures for the acceptance of statues, memorials, or other physical remembrance items. Bill Killingsworth, Director of the Planning and Development Department, discussed a proposal for an approval process for that purpose. The Planning Department staff would accept applications from outside persons/entities which would be reviewed and a recommendation made by Planning staff, then reviewed and a final decision made by the Historic Planning Commission. Appeals of decisions of the commission would go to City Council. Applications initiated by the City itself could be developed by the Planning Department and recommended by the Historic Planning Commission to City Council for a final decision. An application would require information about the applicant, about the subject proposed to be commemorated, site and design information, future maintenance provisions, insurance requirements (from Risk Management Division), etc. He noted that designation of a historic building or site requires that they be at least 50 years old, the State of Florida historic marker program requires a 30 year threshold for the event/person, City honorary street naming requires the honoree to be deceased for 5 years.

In response to a question from Council Member Boyer about whether this process would be applied to any donation of a marker or other item to the City, Mr. Killingsworth said that he envisioned this process applying only to historic markers or statutes; other non-historic items xould be routed through the Art in Public Places process for consideration. In response to another question from Council Member Boyer about non-permanent markers (such as plaques or stickers relating to historical tour sites), Mr. Killingsworth said that all sorts of items might benefit from going through the proposed review process, regardless of their historic nature, to give the City some degree of review and control over placement, maintenance and removal. Council Member Hazouri suggested the need to adopt policies regarding removal, relocation and/or replacement of existing monuments, statues, markers, etc. since that issue is part of what caused the Special Committee to be appointed in the first place. Mr. Killingsworth said that a time period for future review (perhaps 20 years) could be established so that monuments, markers, etc. get reviewed in the future for continued suitability, condition, etc. Council Member Boyer said that the Art in Public Places Commission would like to have a role in overseeing the maintenance and review of all public art, not just the pieces that the commission actually commissioned and had installed. She recommended caution in establishing policies dealing with removal of existing items, because that could hinder the ability of the City to undertake projects like remodeling parks that shouldn’t have to go through a time-consuming review process.

Public Works Director John Pappas distributed and discussed a document showing the Public Works Department’s interest in the installation of monuments, statues, etc., including pedestrian and bicycle impacts, sight line impacts, utility impacts, Americans with Disabilities Act impacts, maintenance responsibility and costs, building structural and functionality impacts, and the like. He discussed another list of questions that would relate to a donated statue or monument and the types of questions the department would need to have answered regarding the location and installation of a monument, including drainage, landscaping, foundation, utility, and other requirements, permitting, right-of-way impacts, etc. Installation and maintenance responsibility and costs need to be known in advance.

Council Member Boyer noted that the Downtown Design Review Board also has a role in the installation of artworks in the downtown area, so they may need to be involved in the application and permitting process as well.

Daryl Joseph, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, distributed and discussed a document proposing installation criteria for items in parks and recreational areas. The criteria cover 4 basic issues: 1) Where is the proposed site and is it sufficient and permitted? 2) Every neighborhood has character and every park has a plan; 3) Are existing amenities sufficient to serve additional visitors to the park? 4) Are there additional costs for this project that will be assigned to the department?

Council Member Hazouri urged that the three departmental issue/criteria lists be combined into a single application document and review process in a single location. Mr. Killingsworth said that the application could contain check boxes for different scenarios (publicly vs. privately initiated, location in a park vs. other public property, publicly vs. privately maintained, etc.) that would trigger different reviews by different affected departments. Council Member Anderson said that evaluation of the context of the site will be important, but that can be subjective. Mr. Killingsworth said that evaluation would be under the purview of the Historic Preservation Commission to determine appropriateness. Council Member Boyer asked if the proposed processes would apply only to third-party initiated donations or to City-initiated projects as well. Mr. Joseph said that his criteria were intended to apply to donated monuments, not City of Jacksonville-initiated projects.

**Motion** (Hazouri): direct OGC to draft legislation reflecting the committee’s discussion today and present it to the committee for consideration at a future meeting – **approved unanimously**.

Council Member Boyer said that the Tourist Development Council has been in discussion with Visit Jacksonville Inc. about the development of several historic walking tours in areas around the city that would involve wall-mounted or ground-mounted markers or signage, and expressed the hope that the criteria and application process being contemplated would not be cumbersome or problematic to that effort. She suggested the possibility of some *de minimus* size below which City review would not be required.

Chairman Wilson said the committee will meet again in two weeks on a date to be determined.

Public comment

Ayesha Covington of Brooklyn said that she is working on getting more of Jacksonville’s African-American history commemorated and publicized and hoped that the new processes would not be burdensome on her efforts

Seber Newsome said that his perception of Council Member Hazouri’s earlier comments is that he wants to remove monuments, which will be very controversial to the community. He favors putting up more monuments to commemorate every part of Jacksonville history, not taking anything down.

Council Member Hazouri said that he wants the processes being discussed to cover every angle – installation, relocation and removal of monuments – but is not advocating for the removal of any existing monument.

Stanley Scott of the African-American Economic Recovery Think Tank said that this discussion of commemoration of all parts of the community is long overdue in Jacksonville. Everyone’s history is important and deserving of remembrance and equality of outcome. Money is always a crucial issue in Jacksonville and no one has mentioned providing any money for monuments. He believes the city lacks leadership.

Chris Elands advocated against the removal of any existing monuments to persons who served in the military. The city needs to add more monuments to everyone who served, not remove any, which will offend a portion of the community unnecessarily.

**Meeting adjourned:** 2:40 p.m.

The written minutes of this meeting are an overview of the discussion. The audio version of the meeting is filed in the Office of Legislative Services.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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11.27.18 Posted 5:00 p.m.

Tape: Special Committee on Historical Remembrance 11.267.18 – Legislative Services Division