**Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization**

**of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission**

**Niki Brunson – Chair**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**January 9, 2019**

**1:00 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room A**

**Suite 425, City Hall**

**Attendance:** Commissioner John Roberts (Chair)

**Excused**: Commissioner Niki Brunson

**Also**: Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Commissioner Roberts described his work to date on the various collections of park-related data that several City departments have provided. Some park problems are reported to the City’s CARE complaint system (either by phone call, e-mail or smartphone app) and he has analyzed a year’s worth of park-related complaints (1,612 cases from October 2017 through September 2018)) for the most common issue types and for a comparison of estimated versus actual time of completion of the issue. There is sometimes a considerable discrepancy between estimated and actual completion times, which may indicate that the method of estimating time of completion is less than perfect or that departmental performance in resolving issues needs to be improved.

Mr. Roberts believes that maintenance standards for the City could be set by using the same standards as in recognized quality parks, such as the Florida state park system and the city/county park systems in Orlando/Orange County and Miami/Miami-Dade County. Jacksonville’s expenditures for park maintenance can be compared to the other systems either on the basis of dollars spent per acre or dollars spent per park system value. He has posed a set of written questions on maintenance expenditures to the state park system and to park administrators in Orlando and Miami and is awaiting responses.

The group discussed which maintenance responsibilities belong to the Parks and Rec Department versus the Public Works Department’s Public Buildings and Mowing and Landscape Maintenance Divisions, and how work issues are tracked by the Parks and Rec Department and/or the CARE system in the Neighborhoods Department.

Walter Bryant said that all state parks and conservation areas of 1,000 acres or more are required to have a management plan that is evaluated for compliance every 5 years by a committee composed of experts from various relevant fields; he suggested that a similar process for City parks might be useful. Interested citizens might be willing to volunteer their time to serve on those committees and do inspections to evaluate compliance with the management plan.

Staff was requested to circulate the various items of information distributed previously to the committee to Mr. Bryant and Mr. Mazur.

The committee will meet again on Wednesday, February 13th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Jeff Clements, City Council Research Division

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Posted 1.9.19 4:30 p.m.

Tape –1.9.19 TRUE Parks and Recreation Committee – Legislative Services Division