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| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** |
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**Meeting Minutes for Council Member Boyer**

**Friday, May 17, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Topic:** The meeting was held to discuss waterway/waterfront activation

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

**Attendees**: Council Member Lori Boyer, Council Member Jim Love, Council Member Bill Gulliford, Council Member Al Ferraro, and Nicole Spradley (ECA – District 5)

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

**Meeting Convened:** 1:37 p.m.

Council Member Boyer convened the meeting and recognized Council Members and Council Members-Elect in the audience. She asked the audience to sign up on the sheets provided to stay informed and volunteer to chair initiatives.

Will Ketchum provided a powerpoint presentation and discussed the vision and identity of Jacksonville. The vision: Jacksonville is the waterlife center of America.

Council Member Boyer explained that the remainder of the meeting would be about the five experiences that revolve around our waters: nature; sports and fitness; marine life; beach; and downtown.

Brian Burket provided a powerpoint presentation and gave an update on City parks including Pumpkin Hill, Cedar Point, Betz-Tiger Point. This grouping of parks is now being called the 7 Creeks area. He also discussed Seaton Creek, Half Moon Island Preserve, Alimacani Park and Boat Ramp, and Reddie Point Preserve.

Council Member Boyer discussed potentially having an archeological center at Betz-Tiger Point.

Michelle Waterman, Florida State Parks, discussed a couple of programs including She’s a Park Explorer (Girl Scouts) and Friends of Talbot Island. Funding is available to develop the Grand site on Big Talbot Island. The State has been conducting control burns to restore the ecosystems.

Chris Hughes, National Parks Service, spoke about the 47 acres of National Parks in the area. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve received $170,000 in grants for wayside exhibits. He expects the National Parks Service will receive Federal money from Washington to cover expenses incurred due to damage from the hurricanes. Ted Johnson is the new local Community Engagement Coordinator. The National Parks Service offers programs like night hikes, bird walks, yoga and more. A complete list of events can be found at [www.nps.gov/timu/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/timu/index.htm).

Mark Middlebrook, Timucuan Parks Foundation, mentioned that a site has been selected to build an archeological museum, class rooms and meeting space. The project has been on hold, but will likely reconvene next year. A visitor contact center is also possible in the future somewhere on Talbot Island. The Foundation is working with Florida Fish and Wildlife to enhance the signage along the Florida Birding trail. He announced that Council Member Boyer is the recipient of the Kathryn Hanna Abbey award.

Jim McCarthy, North Florida Land Trust, discussed acquiring infill properties for preservation. The Land Trust owns approximately 36,000 to 37,000 acres of land in the Timucuan area. He mentioned that Bogey Creek has a trail and picnic tables.

Jordan Pope provided a brief overview of Pelotes Island and the meeting center on it. Remediation should be complete in late 2020 and JEA anticipates reopening the meeting center to the public once again.

Council Member Boyer advised incoming Council Members to keep an eye on this project to ensure that the City acquires the island.

Michelle Waterman asked for feedback on the handouts she provided.

Jill Enz briefly talked about the proposed rowing center on the Arlington River. The City is working with the State of Florida on a land swap deal, but they are still in the early phases of the process. The rowing center has not been designed yet.

Rowing groups were given the opportunity to discuss upcoming events. Peter King with the Jax Rowing Club announced that there is a First Coast Head Race on October 12, 2019. The group also offers a learn how to row program May through November. More information can be found at [www.jaxrow.org](http://www.jaxrow.org).

Jim Alabiso discussed swimming in the St. Johns River. He announced that the Up the River Downtown 10k swim will be held on September 28, 2019. He offered to provide the City any drone footage from the event.

Jodi Weinbecker, Florida Yacht Club, said that there are 50 kids in the year round sailing program and two high school sailing teams. There will be over 300 kids enrolled in the water sports programs this summer which are open to the public. There is a Junior Regatta today that brought in sailors from across the United States.

Larry Wagner, Rudder Club, mentioned a race held on May 4th. The Rudder Club offers summer camps for kids and adults starting June 10, 2019.

Keith Keller, Epping Forest, explained that repairs are still being made to the facility after sustaining damage from the Hurricanes. They will be hosting five regattas a year.

Council Member Boyer thought it would be great to have an event over Labor Day weekend as there appears to be nothing going on in Jacksonville.

Steven Davis, Jacksonville University, said the sailing program is attracting students because of the resources available in Jacksonville. JU’s team has gone to Nationals six times.

Dennis Thompson, Adventure Kayak Florida, spoke about recent events held at Hanna Park. The new adaptive kayak launch was just completed and they had a clinic with Brooks Rehab and the following weekend hosted Wounded Warriors.

Brian Burket shared a powerpoint presentation about the following City Parks that are under construction or complete: Pottsburg Creek, Mayport boat ramp, Wayne B. Stevens boat ramp, County Dock boat ramp, Bert Maxwell boat ramp, Hood Landing boat ramp, Northshore Park, Charles Reese Memorial Park, Jim King boat ramp, Harborview boat ramp, Joe Carlucci boat ramp, Palms Fish Camp boat ramp, Blue Cypress Park. Other projects starting construction soon include Ribault River channel markers and a kayak launch at Tillie Fowler Park. Projects in design include Mandarin Park dock extension and adaptive kayak launch; Oak Harbor boat ramp dredge; Zoo dock; Berk Maxwell boat ramp dredge; Goodby’s Creek boat ramp dredge; Castaway Island Preserve dredge; Riverview Park boat ramp; and Reed Island dock and park development. He also provided copies of the new paddling guides.

Colin Moore discussed the Core 2 Coast Trail. He explained that the East Coast Greenway approved 50 miles worth of trail in December. The next Greenway Conference will be held next spring in Jacksonville, FL. He hopes to see the Timucuan Trail completed in a few years.

Kay Ehas, Groundwork Jacksonville, announced that Groundwork is looking to hire someone to fill a Trail Management position. She said approximately 300 people attended the Emerald Trail event on April 13th and she hopes to see the trail completed by 2029. Groundwork needs to raise $1.45 million over the next 10 years to fund the project.

Marshall Adkison and Jim Suber discussed upcoming fishing tournaments.

Council Member Gulliford briefly talked about Mayport.

Chris Flagg provided a powerpoint presentation about the 2-part plan for Mayport.

Council Member Gulliford mentioned that the target date for OCEARCH to occupy the building in Mayport is June 12, 2019 and that the lease has been executed.

Quint White explained that having the docks are key. The OCEARCH ship won’t be operating at or docking in Mayport for a couple of years.

Marshall Adkison discussed harvesting oyster beds. The beds are located near the Joe Carlucci Boat Ramp and extend north to the Nassau County line. He expects that it will take a few more years before the State will approve harvesting the oysters.

Steve Swann discussed projects in Atlantic Beach including a new walk over at 10th Street. He announced that there will be summer programs for kids at Tideviews Preserve and Dutton Island. The City of Atlantic Beach has been working with the City of Jacksonville to purchase Johnston Island. He explained that there is a new investor interested in building restaurants on the island.

Council Member Gulliford is concerned that the restored dunes are not being policed and that more plantings will need to be done. He mentioned that work on the pier is progressing; however a local entity should manage the shop.

Brian Burket provided a powerpoint presentation on Mayport, Huguenot Park, Hanna Park and downtown facilities like Geffen Park and Exchange Island.

Jill Enz provided a powerpoint presentation on Corkscrew Park, the new Riverwalk Design Standards and wayfaring signage, Friendship Fountain and the Times Union Center.

Council Member Boyer provided a powerpoint presentation on Downtown regarding the experience, signs and trees, The Times Union Center, Southbank Riverwalk loop and updates on McCoys Creek.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:39 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes completed by Nicole Spradley, ECA District 5, on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

cc: Council Members/Staff

Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary

Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division

Carol Owens, Chief of Legislative Services

Jessica Matthews, Supervisor of Legislative Services

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