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LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**  
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June 26, 2019

**TO:** Dr. Cheryl L. Brown, Director/Council Secretary/VAB Clerk  
Jacksonville City Council

**FROM:** Jessica B. Matthews, Legislative Services Supervisor  
Legislative Services Division

**SUBJECT:** 2018-19 Jacksonville Waterways Commission

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Per your request, below is a summary of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission activities for the 2018-19 year for the reporting period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

**Summary of Commission Prior Year Activities**

The following subcommittees have continued to meet and report back to the Jacksonville Waterways Commission:

**1) Downtown River and Waterfront Activation Task Force**

- Task Force Members: Jed Davis-Chair, Jake Gordon, Christian Harden, John Ream, Brian Shell, Ryan Tiedeberg, Matt Brockelman

**2) Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Subcommittee**

- Subcommittee Members: Jill Haskell-Chair, Raymond S. Pringle, Jr., Garrett N. Barket

The Chair of Jacksonville Waterways Commission, Council Member Lori Boyer tasked for volunteers from the Waterways Commission Members and interested citizens. They have been tasked with getting information regarding prior years 2017-18 subcommittees' recommendations and report back to the Waterways Commission with their progress.

According to Council Member Boyer in the 2019 May Waterways Meeting, discussion in Waterways last year regarding water quality impacts and loss of wetlands led to a deeper examination of a whole range of issues regarding development approvals, the filling of wetlands, and what authority the City had. In the 2018 August Waterways Meeting, a resolution was adopted encouraging the Council President to appoint a task force or a subcommittee to look at those issues and see how both our stormwater infrastructure and our resiliency to flood events could be enhanced. Thus, the Council President and Administration together created the Storm Resiliency and Infrastructure Development Review Committee, chaired by Mr. Sam Mousa, and included participants of many of the regulatory agencies, such as the US Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, the DEP, and the Water Management District. Council Member Love, John Pappas (Public Works Department), and JEA are also members that serve on the Committee.

On June 12, 2019, Bill Killingsworth presented before the Waterways Commission a Stormwater Resiliency Report preceding Sam Mousa's formal presentation at the June 25, 2019 City Council Meeting. He discussed outcomes from the Storm Resiliency & Infrastructure Committee Meeting including changes to 652 adopted at the recent meeting, a bill adopted but that had not made it to committee yet and that added changes to 654 &

656, and the reestablishment of an inner agency working/coordination group that is composed of the Water Management District, DEP, and the City of Jacksonville which will all take part in cross-training of systems. Mr. Killingsworth also discussed long-term strategies that were in the works, in addition to reporting the Committee's recent recommendation of a 25-foot average buffer with a minimum of 15-foot buffer around the wetland, consistent with what is already in the Comp Plan but that will require the buffer at all times. Mousa's formal presentation at City Council on June 25, 2019 will include a discussion regarding the intent of the Storm Resiliency & Infrastructure Committee, the challenges that were identified both for new and existing developments, and the responses of the committee.

Ex-Officio Marshall Adkison, Commissioner Matt Brockelman, and Executive Director of TISIRI Corp. Joe Kistel held two meetings on Reef Restoration to find available locations for artificial reefs and to create additional reefs within the 3-mile radius. In March's meeting, Mr. Sam Mousa agreed to present a recommendation to the Mayor for the inclusion of a "Reef Coordinator" position in the 2019-2020 Budget. This contract position will entail monitoring/extending reef permits and locating/monitoring reefs. The appropriate candidate will be a consultant on an as-needed basis.

Commissioner Steve Davis and Council Member Lori Boyer held one meeting to discuss awareness of Sailing Events on the St. Johns River. Council Member Boyer requested that James Croft, Senior Public Affairs Officer, Executive Office of the Mayor, have his office engage the Special Events staff in a discussion on how the City could best support sailing events and activities in the area, in collaboration with the many different sailing groups in Jacksonville.

Commissioner Raymond R. Pringle, Jr. and Council Member Lori Boyer held one meeting on Kayak Launches and Adaptive Sports. Commissioner Pringle reported at the April Waterways Meeting that a Kayak Launch will be delivered to Hanna Park.

Commissioner Jed Davis held one meeting on Downtown River and Waterfront Activation Taskforce to assess and make recommendations on downtown loading and unloading docks.

Commissioner Jill D. Haskell and Council Member Al Ferraro held one meeting on Waterways Special Events to raise and discuss ideas for possible future special events that can be done on the river, particularly boating activities.

Council President Aaron Bowman and Council Member Lori Boyer held one public meeting to learn more about the proposed Jacksonville Waterways Commission's (JWC) resolution supporting the creation of a City Council special committee addressing drainage and flooding issues.

Additionally, the Jacksonville Waterways Commission voted 8-0 at the June Waterways Meeting to support the drafting of legislation regarding Shad Creek Eligible Speed Zones (F.S. 327.46).

The Jacksonville Waterways Commission meets every second Wednesday of the month. The current positions are filled and there have been no vacancies in this past annual reporting year. The Commission is charged to formulate an overall plan for dealing with any problems that exist in the St. Johns River and Duval County tidal waters and devise methods of developing future uses of those waterways.

The Commission serves as the Duval County committee to review rules proposed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission governing speed and operation of motorboats to protect manatees. The Jacksonville Waterways Commission acts as a coordinating agency and specialized advisor for governmental units and for programs and activities affecting the improvement, development and protection of the St. Johns River and all tidal waters in Duval County. In the course of its work, the Commission conducts research, collects and analyzes data and prepares maps and charts.

Meeting minutes, as well as video from the meetings, are published on the Jacksonville Waterways Commission page through the City of Jacksonville, Florida website <http://www.coj.net/city-council/jacksonville-waterways-commission.aspx>

**Commission Members for July 2018-June 2019**

- Councilmember Lori Boyer, Chair
- Councilmember Al Ferraro, Vice Chair
- Councilmember Bill Gulliford
- Councilmember Jim Love (Alternate)
- Commissioner Garrett N. Barket
- Commissioner Robert Birtalan
- Commissioner Lindsey Brock
- Commissioner Matt Brockelman
- Commissioner Jed Davis
- Commissioner Steven Davis
- State Representative Cord Byrd
- Commissioner Jill D. Haskell
- Commissioner Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.
- Commissioner Steve Swann
- Ex-Officio Marshall Adkison
- Ex-Officio Bobby Baker

Attachment(s): 2018/2019 Jacksonville Waterways Attendance Matrix

Attachment(s): 2018/2019 Water Activation Focus Areas

JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS ATTENDANCE ROSTER-JANUARY 2018 through December 2018

KEY:	
P-PRESENT	A-ABSENT
E-EXCUSED    EH-Hurricane	T-TARDY
LE-LEFT EARLY	
ET-EXCUSED TARDY (IE: TIED UP IN ANOTHER COMMITTEE MEETING	
R-RESIGNED    TE - Appointment Expired	

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Water Activation Focus Areas	Responsible person/entity	Waterways Commissioner providing oversight
<p>1. <u>Communication and marketing</u> of water related events and opportunities to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Periodic review and updates of City website “things to do” water pages</li> <li>B. Periodic review and updates of Visit Jacksonville website for water -related events and activities</li> <li>C. Pursue development of App by City and or Visit Jacksonville that contains this content and is regularly updated (includes boating app)</li> <li>D. Work to coordinate collection and dissemination of relevant event info from all sources</li> <li>E. Reef locations should be added to the website and mobile water sport applications.</li> <li>F.</li> <li>G.</li> </ul>	<p>Visit Jacksonville/Dalton assumed responsibility under TDC Marketing Contract; COJ revised website to provide extensive info on water facilities and parks but updated event info lacking; <u>need event info from all sources</u></p>	<p>Barket</p>
<p>2. Expand the number of, and improve existing, <u>water access facilities</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. <i>Strongly encouraging new waterfront developments to provide water access facilities as well as the</i></li> <li>B. <i>Building new city facilities through the CIP and FIND projects.</i> (Expanding the number and quality of the access points would greatly improve the chances of a successful water taxi and other commercial operations such as dinner cruises, history cruises, wildlife cruises, shopping cruises, museum cruises, Zoo cruises or other tourist related cruises.)</li> <li>C. Modify Maritime Management Plan as needed to allow additional water access and marinas as well as seasonal events</li> <li>D. Zoo dock access (Swann/Jed Davis)</li> <li>E. Ft. George/Alimacani (Swann)</li> <li>F. Water Taxi docks/access (Jed Davis)</li> <li>G. Liberty Street Basin (Barket)</li> </ul>	<p>COJ Planning, Waterways Commission and City Council to consider when reviewing and approving new developments</p> <p>CIP and FIND grants responsibility of Parks and Waterways Commission</p> <p>Active effort to modify MMP should be addressed by Waterways in conjunction with Dr. White and COJ Planning as staff</p>	<p>Adkison Pringle Ferraro J. Davis Swann</p>

3. <u>Make facilities accessible for all users.</u> Jacksonville should retrofit or build new boating facilities that may be used by citizens of all abilities including the handicapped.	COJ Parks	Pringle
4. Jacksonville should add more <u>artificial reefs</u> both offshore and inshore. These reef locations should be added to the website and mobile water sport applications.	EQD for permitting	Brockelman Adkison Brock
5. Increase number of <u>waterfront restaurants</u> , etc.	Planning	
6. Pursue development of <u>Rowing Center</u> in Arlington	Parks	S. Davis
7. Create/review/update <u>waterfront master plans</u> and establish funding priorities, including master planning preserve areas for future amenities (e.g. Dutton Island Preserve as example of facilities)	Parks	
8. Updating existing <u>paddling guides</u> and the creation of new paddling guides a. (Existing) Intracoastal Paddling Guide: ICW between St. Johns County line to SJR (just received grant to update this guide which was originally developed in 2008) b. (Existing) Timucuan Trail Paddling Guide: Timucuan Preserve area, including ICW from SJR to Nassau River c. (Existing) Greater Jacksonville Paddling Guide: main stem of SJR from Julington Creek to Trout River at Jacksonville Zoo d. (Proposed) Thomas Creek & Nassau River (including Pumpkin Hill Creek and other nearby tributaries) to Atlantic Ocean e. (Proposed) St. Johns River from Jax Zoo to Mayport f. (Proposed) Trout and Ribault Rivers g. (Proposed) Ortega River, including McGirts, Fishing and Cedar Creeks h. (Proposed) Julington and Durbin Creeks	Parks; Visit Jacksonville  Timucuan Parks Foundation has trail info as do other groups- needs to be consolidated and confirmed	Brockelman Haskell
8. The city should <u>cultivate a culture</u> that proclaims the great attributes of our rivers and ocean.	JAXUSA; TruJax; Chamber; COJ Public Affairs and Special Events; TDC	
9. The city should create a strategic plan for ongoing <u>waterfront maintenance and</u>	Parks	Birtalan Brock

<u>dredging activity.</u>		
<p><b>10. Increase <u>Boat Show presence and access</u></b></p> <p>A. During local boat shows the city should have a presence where information is distributed on the many water sport opportunities in Jacksonville.</p> <p>B. Jacksonville should expand on the boat shows to include transportation to and from the hotels and the exhibition center</p>	<p>Sports and Entertainment; Visit Jacksonville</p>	<p>Haskell</p>
<p><b>11. <u>Create and promote more water related events</u></b></p> <p>A. Jacksonville should develop more annual and seasonal events related to boating and fishing such as a Jacksonville Boating Week or a "Captain Day" to highlight the local charter boat captains available for hire</p> <p>B. Add to the Bartram Frolic to recognize our role in Bartram's travels on the St. Johns</p> <p>C. During the Lighted Boat Parade Jacksonville should provide onshore activities such as a snow village or holiday event.</p> <p>D. Have the Jacksonville Sports and Entertainment Division get more involved with water sports including promoting an annual Poker Run</p>	<p>Sports and Entertainment; TDC</p>	<p>Haskell</p>
<p><b>12. Develop and post consistent system <u>of signs or markers identifying water routes/trails;</u></b> pointing to website or app; and grading launch and route for skill level, etc.</p>	<p>Parks</p>	<p>S. Davis</p>
<p><b>13. <u>Increase number of concessionaires/vendors</u></b> providing services for water related recreation; Create policies to allow private, for-profit vendors to use public facilities with waterway activation equipment and services; to adopt parks</p> <p>A. Boat and jet ski rental opportunities as well as charter boat operations.</p> <p>B. Kayak and Canoe</p> <p>C. Paddleboards</p> <p>D. Sailboats</p> <p>E. Food Vendors</p> <p>F. Bicycles</p>	<p>Parks; Chamber</p>	

G. Horses		
<b>14. Expand <u>Nature Experience</u></b> A. Recognize Betz/Cedar Point/Pumpkin Hill as the hub B. Complete Betz Tiger Point amenities C. Coordinate with State and National Parks D. Consider Sisters Creek for nature center/kayak center E. Acquire Pelotes Island and include in Nature Experience F. Work with Land Trust and Timucuan Parks Foundation to expand sites and facilities along route	Parks	Ferraro Swann
<b>15. Complete Mayport redevelopment as center of <u>Marine Life Experience</u></b> A. Reconstruct Docks for commercial fishing, charter boats and rec. users B. Develop OCEARCH museum at Mayport C.	Parks; Public Works; Mayport Waterfront Partnership	Pringle
<b>16. Develop the <u>Downtown Waterfront Experience</u></b>		Brockelman J. Davis
17.		