

City of Jacksonville

*1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

9:30 AM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Al Ferraro, Chair

CM Ju'Coby Pittman, Vice Chair

CM Matt Carlucci

CM Ron Salem, Pharm. D., Alternate

Garrett N. Barket

Robert Birtalan

Lindsey Brock

Matt Brockelman

State Rep. Cord Byrd

Jill D. Haskell

Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.

Steve Swann

Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio

Bobby Baker, Ex-Officio

Melanie Wilkes, Legislative Assistant

Susan Grandin, Asst. General Counsel

Dr. Quinton White, Jacksonville University

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University

Richard Distel, Research Assistant

Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator

Note: Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 9, 2019.

Meeting Convened: 9:35 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 11:34 AM

1. Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for August 28, 2019
APPROVE 10-0
2. [2019-0309](#) ORD Transmitting a Proposed Large Scale Revision to FLUM of the 2030 Comp Plan Generally located S of Normandy Blvd btwn Maxville-Middleburg Rd & Solomon Rd (1915.12± Acres) - RR/AGR-III/AGR-IV/LI to LDR/CGC/AGR-IV - Diamond Timber Investments, LLC, Timber Forest Trail Investments, LLC, VCP-Real Estate Investments Ltd., Kameron L. Hodges & Duane J. Hodges. (Appl# L-5339-18A) (Dist 12-White)(Reed)(LUZ) (Ex-Parte: CM DeFoor,Boylan)
5/15/2019 CO Introduced: JWW, LUZ
5/21/2019 LUZ Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/28/2019 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred;LUZ
LUZ PH - 6/18/19, 7/16/19, 8/20/19,10/1/19, 10/15/19
Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 163.3184(3), F.S. & Chapt 650, Pt 4, Ord Code - 6/11/19 & 6/25/19, 7/23/19, 8/13/19, 8/27/19, 9/10/19, 10/8/19

Three public speakers talked about the importance of the conservation of land in the area and stated their worries about the zoning aspect. The speakers were against the bill. Steven Diebenow, representing the land owners, said that there has been at least one large community meeting and they have been in ongoing conversation with the community. He stated that the biggest piece of contention within the bill will most likely be the zoning aspect.

DEFER

3. [2019-0609-E](#) ORD Concerning Continuation Grant; Approp \$82,850.00 (\$25,000.00 from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation and \$57,850.00 from the ADA Funds of the Dept of Parks, Recreation & Comm Svcs in FY 2019-2020) for an Adaptive Kayak Launch at Bethesda Park; Providing for a Carryover of funds into Subsequent FY's until Completion of Proj; Auth Mayor & Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver, the Grant Award Letter from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation; Amending the 2019-2023 5-Yr CIP to provide funding for the Project entitled "Bethesda Park – Adaptive Kayak Launch"; Providing for Oversight by The Parks, Recreation & Comm. Svcs. Dept. (B.T. 19-111)(McCain) (Req of Mayor) 8/27/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWW
9/5/2019 NCSPHS Meeting Cancelled/Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/6/2019 F Read 2nd and Rerefer
9/10/19 CO Read 2nd and Rerefer
9/10/19 CO Read 2nd and Rerefer; NCSPHS, F
9/11/2019 JWW Approve 10-0
9/16/2019 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 6-0
9/17/2019 F Amend/Approve 7-0
9/24/2019 CO Amend/Approved 19-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt. 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 9/10/19

Bob Skalitzy, Parks and Recreation Department, detailed the bill which will appropriate \$82,850 for an Adaptive Kayak Launch at Bethesda Park.

John Nooney read the bill, then commended the bill's focus and stated his concern of the estimated timetable of the project.

APPROVE 10-0

Speaker:

Robert Skalitzky, Chief of Natural & Marine Resources

Aye: 10 - Ferraro, Pittman, Carlucci, Barket, Birtalan, Brock , Brockelman, Byrd, Haskell, and Swann

Excused: 3 - Davis, Davis, and Pringle

4. St. Johns River Status Report on Water Quality and Manatees - Dr. White & Dr. Pinto

Dr. White spoke about Hurricane Dorian and the possibility of more hurricanes on the horizon. The salinity levels remain low. Water temperature remains high which can help fuel hurricanes if they end up moving in this direction.

Dr. Pinto had no new news to report in terms of manatees. He just reminded the commission that there have been 5 mortalities overall for the year. He also shared that on Friday there will be the Environmental Summit at UNF.

5. New Business

- Legislative Services has been directed to email the most updated Task Assignment List to all members of the Waterways Commission.

6. Old Business

Update: Reed Island and Harbor Waterways Special District - Commissioner Birtalan
- Speakers: Stanley Pipes, District Manager (Harbour Waterway Special District)
Brian Barket, Waterfront Project Manager (Parks, Rec & Comm Services)

Update: Container Under the Dames Point Bridge - Jim Suber

Update: Derelict Vessels in the Ortega River - Susan Grandin

Reed Island and Harbor Waterways Special District

Commissioner Birtalan made a PowerPoint presentation which gave an overview of the Reed Island project. He was joined by Stanley Pipes, District Manager of the Harbour Waterway Special District. Mr. Birtalan started by giving a history of the Reed Island site. Mr. Birtalan detailed what has been done in the Special District. 4,000 feet of nature trails have been cut by the Special District and there has been a maintenance commitment for the trails and easements. An invasive species has been removed from the island. Mr. Birtalan detailed the contracts that are in place in the Special District.

Mr. Adkison asked about the twenty year plan for dredging. Mr. Pipes said it is possible to dredge, but the issue would be where the dredge spoil could be put after the dredging. Mr. Adkison asked about the nature trail and the city park aspect. Brian Burket, Parks and Recreation Department, said that this was part of the City's wishlist to be added to the project on Reed Island with the amenities such as the trail and overall access. The trail will connect to the dock and a picnic area. Mr. Swann asked how will this plan work with Reed Island Management. Mr. Pipes clarified that Reed Island Management is a dredging company that has purchased disposal space within the area. Chair Ferraro highlighted the amazing work from so many people that have made the project possible.

Container Under the Dames Point Bridge

Mr. Suber detailed the work he has done to get clarity on what can be done with the container trailer. The water was removed from the trailer, but the trailer remains in the river. DEP has given a notice of violation to six different entities which are connected to the trailer. DEP is working to find a resolution to this issue. Mr. Adkison asked if there was something that can be done on the State level about these trailer containers because they just keep being left in the water. State Rep. Byrd said that waterways are a top priority and is looking to build cooperation between the State and local government. Chair Ferraro emphasized that there is money available to remove the derelict vessels with a timetable, and once these structures are recognized by the state as "derelict vessels" then the money can be used to remove them from the waters. Mr. Adkison emphasized the need for communication due to the process being filled with red tape which can become very time consuming.

Derelict Vessels in the Ortega River

Susan Grandin presented information regarding the two derelict vessels in the Ortega River. Pictures of the vessels were handed out to the Commission. Ms. Grandin described that the process begins with FWC and having the vessel identified as derelict. Ms. Grandin explained that there is an issue where a floating structure and a derelict vessel have the same definition. This allows for unregulated floating objects. The State Statute allows local governments to regulate where floating objects can be in the river. Chair Ferraro stated that the issue is two-fold; one is the funding aspect and the second is getting it recognized by the State as a derelict vessel. FWC has started a process with one of the derelict vessels. Mr. Suber gave an update of the 8 derelict vessels that are currently being looked into by the FWC.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Nooney made a donation to the EPB reef in the river.

8. Adjourn

Rollcall

Present 10 - Chair Al Ferraro, Vice Chair Ju'Coby Pittman, Council Member Matt Carlucci, Commissioner Garrett Barket, Commissioner Robert Birtalan, Commissioner Lindsey Brock, Commissioner Matt Brockelman, Commissioner Cord Byrd, Commissioner Jill Haskell, and Commissioner Steve Swann

Excused 1 - Commissioner Raymond Pringle

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Assistant
rdistel@coj.net 904-255-5140
Posted October 3, 2019 4:00 p.m.