

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

9:30 AM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Al Ferraro, Chair

CM Ju'Coby Pittman, Vice Chair - Excused Absence

CM Matt Carlucci

CM Ron Salem, Pharm. D., Alternate

Garrett N. Barket

Robert Birtalan

Lindsey Brock

Matt Brockelman

Lane Burnett

State Rep. Cord Byrd - Excused Absence

Jill D. Haskell

Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.

Steve Swann

Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio - Excused Absence

Bobby Baker, Ex-Officio - Absent

Jessica Smith, 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

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

RULE 4.505 DISRUPTION OF MEETING No member of the audience shall applaud nor make any noise or remarks that are audible to the Committee that would indicate approval or disapproval of anything being discussed. Any disregard of this rule may result in removal by the Sergeant at Arms.

REQUEST TO SPEAK:

1. Fill out a speaker card.
2. Sign it if you are going to speak.
3. Read the rules on the back of the card.
4. Place card in tray.

PARKING: If you park in the Library Garage (Entry on Duval St, W of Main St), Please see the Legislative Assistant for ticket validation.

Note: Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

Meeting Convened: 9:32 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 12:05 PM

1. Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for November 13, 2019

The minutes were approved for the November 13, 2019 Jacksonville Waterways Commission meeting.

2. 2020 Census - William Killingsworth, Director, Planning and Development

Mr. Killingsworth, Director of the Planning Department, detailed the importance of the 2020 Census. He highlighted the redistricting that would take place based on the count. The Census will also impact the amount of federal funding. He explained the process and how to be careful of anyone that asks for your Social Security number, because that would be a scam. He detailed the Duval Counts 2020 campaign which will cover building immediate awareness and providing education from January to March and then motivating people to participate during March and April and follow up from May onward. Chair Ferraro asked about hard to reach populations and those that do not speak English. Mr. Killingsworth said that Census administrators are available in other languages and would have to get back with information on how they will work to reach out to hard to reach populations.

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

- Manatee Implementation Report 2019

Dr. White said that December has been a crazy month for weather and it highlights the new normal. Tides are above the predicted levels and there is a large range in salinity.

Dr. Pinto reported that there have been 3 more manatee deaths and a manatee was released back into the wild after being rehabilitated at the zoo. This brought the total up to 8 manatee deaths for the year. Dr. Pinto went over the 2019 Manatee Protection Plan Implementation Report.

4. New Business

- Discussion of Anchoring of Vessels in Anchoring Limitation Areas (House Bill 417 and Senate Bill 606) - Susan Grandin

Anchoring of Vessels

Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, went over legislation that was filed by Rep. Wyman Duggan, House Bill 417 and Senator Aaron Bean filed Senate Bill 606. Ms. Grandin detailed the legislation which would not allow for vessels to be anchored overnight in the three locations listed on the handout (section of Middle River in Broward County, Sunset Lake in Miami-Dade County and sections of Biscayne Bay in Miami-Dade County). Ms. Grandin detailed the enforcement aspects, which allows for a law enforcement officer to remove a vessel from an anchoring limitation area and impound the vessel for up to 48 hours. The City of Jacksonville does not have an impoundment area, so the issue would be in regards to possible contracting with a private company to have the ability to enforce. Then Ms. Grandin went over the maps which were attached on the packet. Captain Suber explained that anchoring happens in Ortega River because it is a safer area during storms. Captain Suber also echoed the issues regarding enforcement and the cost of having officers enforce the legislation. Mr. Brockelman emphasized the need to communicate these issues with the State Representatives, so that these concerns about funding and implementation can be worked on to fit the legislation. Ms. Grandin answered questions about funding. In 2008 there was a \$50,000 fund for derelict vessels removal, which was used and now is open to be funded again. She highlighted the work of the derelict vessel and floating structures task force in terms of both regulations and funding.

5. Old Business

- Discussion of the Ft. George Inlet and River - Commissioner Swann
- Discussion of the FIND Subcommittee - Brian Burkett, Waterfront Project Manager, Parks, Recreation & Comm Services

Recomendations of the FIND Subcommittee
APPROVE 9-0-1 (Brockleman) (Voice Vote)

- Discussion of Task Assignment: "Cultivate a Culture that proclaims the Great Attributes of our Rivers & Ocean" - Commissioner Jill Haskell

Recomendation in favor of drafting a Resolution to designate a
"Boater Skip Day"
APPROVE 10-0 (Voice Vote)

- Discussion of the Derelict Vessels/Floating Structures Task Force - Commissioner Lindsey Brock/Susan Grandin

Discussion on the Ft. George Inlet and River

Commissioner Swann detailed the work he has done on the impacts of erosion in the Ft George River. He had maps which showed the errosion over time and the gradual relocation of the inlet mouth due to shifting sands. If the inlet closes then there will be a loss of boater access, Simpson Creek will cease to flow, Huguenot Park will become a part of Talbot Island State Park and there will be potentially irreversible impacts to the area's ecology. Mr. Swann suggested having a stakeholder meeting and said that although a project to fix the inlet would be expensive, it is very important.

Discussion of the FIND Committee

Commissioner Jill Haskell talked about the previous FIND Subcommittee meeting and although they could not vote due to not having a quorum, the Subcommittee supported the suggestions. Brian Burket, Parks Department, went over the proposed applications which are in the construction phase. Mr. Burket emphasized that the four projects cover all different parts of Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Zoo Dock is in Council District 7 and costs \$1,100,000 and the focus is on constructing a new boat dock at the zoo in a new location for 10 boats plus a water taxi. The Riverfront Park Fishing Platform is in Council District 5 and costs \$715,000 and the focus is on constructing a 12' x 40' fishing platform attached to the park bulkhead. The Bert Maxwell Boat Ramp Dredge is in Council District 8 and will cost \$990,000 and its focus is on implementation of dredge from the ramp to channel at 7' depth. The Goodbys Creek Dredge is in Council District 5 & 6 and will cost \$770,000 and its focus is on the implementation of dredge from ramp to St. Johns River at 7' depth. The Commission voted to support the project.

Discussion of Task Assignment: "Cultivate a Culture that proclaims the Great Attributes of our Rivers & Ocean"

Commissioner Jill Haskell talked about the importance of Boater's Skip Day which emphasizes the waterways in Jacksonville and celebrates boating. The event occurs annually on the second Friday in June. Mr. Brockelman said he would help with the process to get the Mayor to sign a Proclamation making the second Friday in June Boater's Skip Day. The Commission voted to support writing a resolution for the Mayor to sign.

Discussion of the Derelict Vessels/Floating Structures Task Force

Susan Grandin talked about how the task force is starting with a focus on floating structures. The legislation regarding floating structures would focus on defining what is a floating structure. The floating structure has to be in an approved marina or at a private dock and the bill would create regulations with a chapter in the Building Code. This will be one piece of legislation that will cover the regulation, enforcement and funding.

6. Public Comment:

John Nooney said that Florida Ocean Alliance has been working on strategic plans for waterways issues in Florida and stated that he attended the November 6th meeting. He also asked for a requirement that any City funded project with a waterways component must allow for public access.

7. Adjournment

NOTE: Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted; but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division
rdistel@coj.net (904) 255-5140
Posted 1.3.19 4:00 p.m.