

Derelict Vessel/Floating Structure Committee of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission 1/29/20

Based upon emails and comments at the last Waterways Commission meeting, the following are the categories of issues being faced by citizens:

1. Congested Waterways
 - a. People are using the river as a free long-term storage facility for boats.
 - i. Some of these boats have not moved in years, and no one visits
 - ii. Many appear to be derelict.
 - b. Some boats are permanently moored (via "permanent" anchors and a mooring ball).
 - c. Boats are moored/anchored in high traffic areas in or near the channel and docks.
2. Safety
 - a. Boats are not lit at night.
 - b. When the boats sink they become even more of a hazard
3. Property damage
 - a. Boats drag anchor or break free and collide with other boats or docks and no one helps the victim boat or dock, either physically or financially.
 - b. The boats may break free and damage the Ortega Bridge
4. Environmental
 - a. People are living on boats that do not have the proper marine sanitation device and are not pumped out.
 - b. Boats in the water are being repaired with paint chips and other debris going in the water.
 - c. If the boat sinks, its sewage and fuel go into the water.
5. Nuisance
 - a. Boat occupants anchored relieve themselves into the river or take showers above deck in full view of upland residences.
 - b. Boat occupants run loud generators.
 - c. Air BNB has a category of lodging for boats – so it's only a matter of time it is done here.
 - d. Floating junk yard is being created.

Solutions suggested in emails:

1. Establish Mooring Fields that would provide pump out and garbage collection.
 - a. Ortega River, east of Exchange Island, and in ICW at Beach Blvd.
2. Enforcement of the derelict vessel law and the vessels at risk of becoming derelict law.
3. Enforcement of the noise ordinance.
4. Provide local funding for the enforcement.
5. Enforce the "no parking" at night in Stinson Park.
6. Do not allow the dinghies to tie up to the Park or floating dock.
7. No boats should be allowed to anchor between the draw bridge and Roosevelt.
8. Require boats that anchor to have insurance.