

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

904-255-5200

**JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

**DERELICT VESSELS AND FLOATING STRUCTURES COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Lynwood Roberts Room, 1ST floor, City Hall**

**January 29, 2020**

**9:00 a.m.**

**In attendance:** Chair Brock, CM DeFoor, Commissioner Barket, Commissioner Birtalan

**Also**: Susan Grandin – Office of General Counsel; Richard Distel– Council Research Division; Jessica Smith – Legislative Services Division; Jim Suber – Waterways Coordinator; Bob Skalitzky – Parks Department

**Meeting Convened**: 9:03 a.m.

Commissioner Brock called the meeting to order. He went over the distinctions between derelict vessels and floating structures. Floating structures don’t have the same rights or protections as derelict vessels. The Florida Legislature has given local communities the right to regulate floating structures. Mr. Brock detailed the goal which is to create a framework for what kind of policy can be created regarding floating structures and once that framework is built then it could be used to create similar policy for derelict vessels.

Susan Grandin went over the handouts which covered photos of derelict vessels, legislation, emails regarding derelict vessels and floating structures issues in the community, and news articles. Ms. Grandin went over the 2019 Florida Statutes which cover the removal or relocation, anchoring and when a vessel becomes at risk of becoming derelict. Ms. Grandin asked Officer Pete Goody, JSO Marine Unit, what the path forward is if a vessel is determined derelict and whether it can be removed and destroyed.

CM DeFoor said that there needs to be a detailed process clearly defined and that she would work on the funding aspect. Mr. Brock highlighted that one of the biggest issues is that facilities do not exist for storage after a vessel has been removed and is needed to be impounded. The issue with derelict vessels is the implementation of fines. Mr. Barket asked if stricter standards could be set than those implemented by the State. Captain Suber explained that FWC sets the rules and it is up to JSO to enforce these rules. Captain Suber asked what could be done with these vessels before they become derelict, since it is a long process once it has become derelict. Mr. Brock said that there should be a minimum of insurance needed based on the size of the vessel. Mr. Birtalan stated that the issue all comes back to enforcement and when a vessel is derelict or not permitted the ability for it to be towed, stored or destroyed. Mr. Goody echoed those statements and emphasized that a funding source is needed to do the towing.

Ms. Grandin explained that the first chapter of the proposed legislation is taken from the city of Destin and the second chapter dealing with construction of the floating structure is taken from Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Brock said that they would take out the section covering liveaboards. Mr. Brock said he is trying to create a blueprint to go after vessels. CM DeFoor said she had investigated mooring fields and has had trouble looking for a possible location. Mr. Brock emphasized the need for help from the State to be able to go after these vessels. Then there was public comment that brought up the issues in the Ortega River dealing with vessel registration and clean up.

Commissioner Brock adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:20 a.m.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division

rdistel@coj.net (904) 255-5140

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