

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

**URBAN SERVICES DISTRCT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Don Davis Room, 1st floor, City Hall**

 **February 14, 2020**

**1:30 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Commissioners Ann-Marie Knight (Chair), Frank Denton, Celestine Mills (arr. 1:46)

**Excused:** Commissioner Charles Griggs

**Also**: Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Jeff Clements and Anthony Baltiero – Council Research Division; Jessica Matthews, Jessica Smith and Vonya Balogh– Legislative Services Division

**Meeting Convened**: 1:32 p.m.

Chairwoman Knight convened the meeting without a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the committee meeting and town hall meeting of January 30, 2020 were deferred pending arrival of a quorum.

Committee discussion

Commissioner Denton announced that he will not be in attendance at the next committee meeting because of a conflicting meeting of the Commission on Crime and Public Safety of which he is a member. He may be able to arrive at the meeting late depending on the length of the other meeting.

The committee reviewed the draft recommendation document presented by Commissioner Denton at the last meeting, as slightly rearranged by the commission staff to match the format of the other committees’ recommendations. Mr. Denton will draft a short paragraph to make the recommendation flow properly in the new arrangement. Mr. Denton asked that a map of Urban Core Health Zone 1 be attached to the report for clarity. The group discussed the findings paragraphs and made minor wording tweaks. Staff was asked to look for the City’s sidewalk construction prioritization methodology.

Approval of Minutes

A quorum having arrived, the minutes of the town hall meeting of January 30, 2020 were **approved unanimously**.

The minutes of the committee meeting of January 30, 2020 were amended to correct a scrivener’s error in the attendance list and approved **unanimously as amended**.

Committee discussion (continued)

Mr. Denton noted that he had made reference to the Jacksonville Integrated Planning Project from 2012, a document he found that originally dealt with a strategic plan for clean-up of EPA Superfund sites in the city, but expanded beyond simply environmental issues to many other areas. Commissioner Knight asked if the findings section should conclude with a statement about what the JIPP initiative does not do, which would match the wording of the previous paragraphs about what other organizations/initiatives do not do. The group discussed whether the Findings section was sufficiently complete and incorporated all of the relevant factors leading the committee to the recommendation it subsequently makes. Commissioner Mills advocated for inclusion of a statement acknowledging the need for something to change to make improvements in the community. She doesn’t feel a sense of urgency in the text that would make a compelling case for substantive change. Commissioner Denton explained his balancing act between describing the current situation based on facts and data in the findings section and advocating for change in the recommendation section and with the City Council after the recommendations are presented to them, which is where he envisioned more passion and urgency being exerted.

The committee discussed the possible funding sources. Mr. Denton said he did not envision the Urban Core Development Authority taking over any service provision from existing City agencies, but helping to identify, plan and coordinate projects to deal with community needs. Paige Johnston suggested that the references to the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) be combined, since TIF revenue is only generated from a designated CRA and the two go hand-in-hand. Chairwoman Knight suggested mentioning the potential challenges to CRAs in the state legislature as an acknowledgement that they are not universally popular. Ms. Johnston said she would like to have the opportunity to meet with attorneys in the General Counsel’s Office to explore the legal implications of variable millage rates and increasing the JEA franchise fee to determine if they are viable possibilities. Ms. Knight asked if the committee wanted to prioritize the listing of funding sources. The group decided to move a dedicated annual CIP allocation from the Set-asides category to be listed with the first three Potential Funding Sources.

Commissioner Denton agreed to rework the Challenge section to emphasize the need for change and the consequences of failing to act on the recommendation. Chairwoman Knight asked that a map be produced of Health District 1 with the Downtown Investment Authority jurisdiction subtracted out to illustrate the boundaries of the Urban Core Development Authority. The “powers of the UCDA” section will be reformatted to a bulleted list. A Consequences of Inaction section will be added following the recommendation to drive home the importance of adopting the recommendation and taking action.

Paige Johnston reminded the group that a public comment period will need to be scheduled before the committee votes on the final recommendation on February 21st; after that, only non-substantive grammatical changes should be made.

Next meeting

February 21, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to review the Denton re-write of the committee recommendation, which he will send out to the committee prior to the meeting for advance review.

The committee will hold a town hall meeting on February 18th at 6:00 p.m. at Highlands Middle School.

Public Comment

Carnell Oliver suggested a “Marshall Plan” for revitalizing the urban core with the CRC making a recommendation to the City Council to recommend to the Florida Legislature to amend state law to permit a local option sales tax for designated districts such as the proposed Urban Core Development Authority to keep local sales taxes within the community to provide infrastructure and services.

John Nooney quoted from the committee’s draft regarding the JIPP and advocated for a Charter amendment requiring the DIA, CRAs, UCDA and other publicly funded entities to require public access to waterways in their projects. He quoted from the minutes of other CRC committee meetings regarding is recommendations to those committees.

**Meeting adjourned:** 3:25 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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