

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

**DERELICT VESSELS & FLOATING STRUCTURES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

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

**March 6, 2020**

**2:30 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Commissioners Lindsey Brock, Marshall Adkison, Commissioner Mark Devereaux. Adam Hoyles, Commissioner Robert Birtalan

Pete Goody– Jacksonville Sheriff Office Marine Division; Andrew Kantor – Jacksonville Sheriff Office Legal; Brian Burket – Parks Department; Capt. Jim Suber – Waterways Coordinator

**Also**: Susan Grandin – Office of General Counsel; Richard Distel– Council Research Division; Jessica Smith – Legislative Services Division

**Meeting Convened**: 2:34 p.m.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by the Committee and then Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, detailed the derelict boat on Matthews Bridge and showed pictures of the area. Then Ms. Grandin went over the basis for the ordinance and the legal standings which the ordinance only covers floating structures. Commissioner Devereaux explained the complications and the differences between a derelict vessel and a floating structure. He said that they can be similar problems, but the funding from Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission depends on if it is defined as a structure.

Pete Goody, JSO, explained that liveaboard vessels cannot be derelict vessels and the ordinance would have no impact on liveaboards. Commissioner Devereaux suggested an annual registration to treat these similarly to buildings. Mr. Adkison said that the problem is getting the Department of Environmental Protection involved. Mr. Hoyles suggested having a sticker similar to stickers of occupancy.

Larry McGill from the public commented that he believed if the structural definition was to be held up then this would solve 90% of the problem.

Brian Burket said that to expedite the process with the State the City Council could allow the Mayor to sign off on the removals and allow for 100% reimbursement.

Lisa Grubba from the public commented on the lack of clarity and why FWC didn’t have someone at this meeting.

Officer Goody talked about the training for enforcement and that there is no towing on the water because there is no financial incentive to tow boats. There is also no place for boats to be towed and the current removal process is currently total destruction of the structure. Officer Goody said this could be done, but would just need the funding from the City Council.

Commissioner Birtalan said that there is no residual value for a towing company and there needs to be funding by the City or State funds. Mr. Hoyles stressed the important environmental problems caused by leaving these vessels and structures in the river.

Stephanie Burch, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, said that there is $200,000 in the October 1st budget for derelict vessels. Commissioner Devereaux detailed a $1 million State grant funding opportunity for derelict vessels. Ms. Grandin went over a map of derelict vessels in the city of Jacksonville.

**Meeting adjourned:** 3:58 p.m.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division

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