

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

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

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

**June 22, 2020**

**9:00 a.m.**

**In attendance:** Commissioner Lindsey Brock, Commissioner Mark Devereaux, Commissioner Robert Birtalan (via phone)

Brian Burket – Parks Department; Capt. Jim Suber – Waterways Coordinator

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

**Meeting Convened**: 9:04 a.m.

The minutes from the last meeting were voted on and approved, but Susan Grandin, OGC, stated that since only 3 of the 6 members were in attendance that there was no quorum and the minutes could not be approved.

Commissioner Brock thanked Ms. Grandin for all of her continued work in crafting an ordinance for the floating structures which is still in the process of being edited. Ms. Grandin detailed conversations she had with Stephanie Burch, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, about how to figure out the enforcement park of dealing with floating structures. Ms. Burch suggested using the Environmental Quality Division which is in the Neighborhoods Department for enforcement. The Environmental Quality Division has its own boat which is used for water sampling, but by waiving the Ordinance the Environmental Quality Division could use the boat to find floating structures. Captain Suber said that they actually have two boats. Commissioner Devereaux cautioned that enforcement from the Environmental Quality Division could lead to violent reactions and that the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office is needed on the active enforcement side.

Commissioner Brock stressed that the most important part is getting the structure of the Ordinance outlined and clear. Commissioner Brock expressed support of the civil and criminal penalties in the Ordinance. Ms. Grandin explained the handouts that give more detail of the rules on floating structures in the Ordinance.

Captain Suber said that the Environmental Quality Division would most likely not be looking for these structures, but would be based on what is reported by citizens. Captain Suber also said this will need to be a joint effort between departments in order to enforce. Ms. Grandin said that this Ordinance would be a paradigm shift of responsibility and stressed that this would not make members of the Environmental Quality Division bring a gun. They would be able to tag structures and JSO would be a part of any physical enforcement.

The committee discussed timetables for enforcement in both the cases of derelict vessels and floating structures. Derelict vessels have a 21 day timetable which is based on the FWC rules which has to be followed in order for the removal to be grant funded. For floating structures the suggestion was to make the timetable for removal at 10 days. Captain Suber said that the 21 day timetable for derelict vessels is actually more like 40 to 50 days with all that is required in the enforcement process. Commissioner Devereaux compared removing floating structures to removing trash to explain how difficult removal can be.

Commissioner Brock explained that the City would have to wait on the FWC timeline in order to receive the grant funds and then posed the question about whether it is more important to have it State funded or to appropriate the funds and be able to make our own timeline. Ms. Grandin said that CM DeFoor is looking for funding sources to solve the issue of derelict vessels which has been a big issue in her district. Brian Burket, Parks Department, explained the funding from FWC towards derelict vessels. He emphasized that any cost that is on land would not be funded. Commissioner Brock said he would like a representative from FWC to be at the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:43 a.m.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division

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