

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom – no physical location**

**July 23, 2020**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Virtual meeting via Zoom – no physical location

**In attendance:** Subcommittee members Brooks Andrews (Chair), Adam Hoyles (Vice Chair), Bill Bishop, Shannon Blankinship, J. Logan Cross, Ashantae Green, Mark Middlebrook, Kevin O’Halloran, Leslie Pierpont, Nancy Powell, Joshua Rosenberg, Adam Rosenblatt, Todd Sack, Guillermo Simon, Steve Swann, Quinton White

**Also**: Council Members Randy DeFoor (Chair of the Special Committee on Resiliency), Joyce Morgan; Resiliency Committee member John Sapora; Jeff Clements, Yvonne Mitchell and Anthony Baltiero – Council Research Division; Steve Cassada, Eric Grantham and Melanie Wilkes – Council Support Services; Susan Grandin – Office of General Counsel; Susan Stewart and Beth McCague – Jaxport; Sean Lahav – North East Florida Regional Council; John Pappas and Bill Joyce – Public Works Department; Helena Parola – Planning and Development Department; James Richardson – Environmental Protection Board

**Meeting Convened**: 5:02 p.m.

Chairman Andrews convened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. He introduced Council Member Randy DeFoor, Chair of the Special Committee on Resiliency, to give opening remarks. She talked about the nature of the special committee’s work and expressed great hope that the combined expertise and passion of the committee’s members will produce a great outcome.

Mr. Andrews reviewed the meeting agenda and the special committee charge. He noted that a great deal of research and study has been done on the topic of resilience by previous committees and working groups and there is a great deal of material to work with. He noted that both of the subcommittee meetings earlier in the day talked about needing a good definition of the term “resilience” so that the task is clear, and presented a definition produced by the North East Florida Regional Council for consideration. Mr. Andrews presented a proposal for action items for the Environmental Planning Subcommittee based on relevant portions of the overall Special Committee charge.

The Chair made brief introductions of the subcommittee members and their backgrounds in lieu of self-introductions for the sake of time, given the size of the subcommittee.

Todd Sack recommended climate mitigation efforts (i.e. electric vehicle use) as a discussion topic, as well as environmental justice. Guillermo Simon echoed the importance of environmental justice.

Jeff Clements of the City Council Research Division gave a presentation on the application of the Government in the Sunshine Law to the committee members and announced that more detailed written materials will be sent out and a formal ethics training program will be held at a later date.

Council Member Joyce Morgan, Chair of the Subcommittee on Education, and Community Outreach, said that her committee looks forward to working with both of the other subcommittees. There was considerable discussion at their meeting this morning about the definition of “resilience” and the committee also decided to break into smaller working groups to work on various aspects of publicizing the work of the Special Committee.

Mr. Andrews outlined a potential scope, timeline, meeting schedule and final product for the subcommittee. There are many causes resulting in the current problems the City faces (both man-made, geographic and natural), so the scope is large and decisions need to be made about narrowing the work down to causes to which the City can reasonably respond or that it can in some way influence. Environmental justice will be very important, addressing the underserved and disadvantaged areas and citizens of Jacksonville.

In response to a question about the Special Committee’s timeline, Ms. DeFoor said that its deadline has been extended from this fall to April of 2021 by Council President Hazouri. She urged that the focus be kept on Jacksonville and not extend further. Chairman Andrews proposed meeting every two weeks, but noted that the other two committees have chosen to meet next Thursday to start their work. He will make a decision on doing that in the very near future. The subcommittee will be guided by state mandates about when it is appropriate to return to face-to-face meetings. Yvonne Mitchell of the Research Division cautioned that with Finance Committee budget hearings starting in early August, the meeting availability calendar is filling up rapidly.

Mr. Andrews directed the committee to its web site where a tremendous number of resources are available online, and invited the submission of other information that may be of use to the committee. He reiterated that a tremendous amount of work has been done on resilience in the Northeast Florida area over the past several year and now what remains to be done is to cull the most useful and important recommendations to inform the Special Committee’s final report. He encouraged members to submit any materials that may be useful or relevant to be posted on the committee’s web site for everyone to peruse.

Adam Rosenblatt asked if the committee is interested in expanding its scope to include environmental topics beyond water-related ones, such as heat waves. The Chair said he was open to that given the interrelationship of resilience issues.

Bill Bishop suggested land use planning as a topic with regard to development patterns for encouraging resilience. Interesting work is going on in South Florida on that topic. The Chair suggested that this subcommittee could provide the environmental basis to the Infrastructure Committee for recommendations it might make with regard to development regulations.

Guillermo Simon asked how this subcommittee would interact with the other subcommittees. He also suggested changing rainfall patterns as a relevant topic for consideration. Ms. DeFoor said that the Education Subcommittee plans to play an active role in publicizing the work of the subcommittees and will help to connect those subcommittees and their work. Ms. Morgan pointed out that Ashantae Green and James Richardson are serving on multiple committees and can carry information from one to another. She noted that any Special Committee member is welcome to attend other subcommittee meetings. She pointed out that the start of Finance Committee budget hearings the first week in August will seriously impact meeting availability opportunities for the rest of that month.

The Chair announced that the subcommittee will meet next Thursday, July 30th, at 5 p.m.

Steve Swann recommended water quality as an issue worth consideration.

Ashantae Green urged attention to vulnerable communities and recommended that a work group be established from this subcommittee to deal with that issue in concrete terms for disadvantaged communities.

Sean Lehav of the Northeast Florida Regional Council talked about the regional council’s Resource Resilience Exposure Tool which overlays layers of environmental measures with public facility maps and social and economic measures.

Next meeting – July 30th, 5:00 p.m., pending confirmation tomorrow.

**Meeting adjourned:** 6:07 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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