

**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 30, 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, Patrick Krechowski, Mark Middlebrook, Kevin O’Halloran, Joshua Rosenberg, Adam Rosenblatt, Todd Sack, Guillermo Simon, Steve Swann

**Excused**: Quinton White

**Also**: Council Member Randy DeFoor; Resiliency Committee member Bruce Fouraker; 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 – Jaxport; Sean Lahav – North East Florida Regional Council; Bill Killingsworth and Kristen Reed – Planning and Development Department; James Richardson – Environmental Protection Board; Kurtis Wilson – JEA; Melissa Long – Environmental Quality Division

**Meeting Convened**: 5:01 p.m.

Chairman Andrews convened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. He reviewed the agenda for the day which focuses on committee structure and work assignments. He proposed a structure with overarching themes of land use planning and environmental justice and relevant topics assigned as subgroups under those themes. Land use planning topics: 1) sea/river level rise, coastal surge and extreme tides; 2) extreme precipitation events and rain patterns, and 3) mean temperature increase and heat waves.

Guillermo Simon asked about the difference, if any, between the topics of resilient shorelines and shoreline protection. Adam Hoyles suggested the inclusion of the topic of strategic retreat from untenable flood-prone areas; Chairman Andrews said he thought the Infrastructure Committee was handling that topic. Todd Sack said that greenhouse gas mitigation is an important topic, but probably not appropriate for the Special Committee on Resilience because it is such a multi-faceted and potentially overwhelming topic that merits its own special committee. Council Member DeFoor said it would be an appropriate topic if the outcome was some actionable outcomes at the local level, otherwise not. Kevin O’Halloran felt it is such an important issue that it should be one of 3 overarching headings. He suggested drought and wildfire as additional topics under the temperature increase and heat wave heading. James Richardson cautioned that greenhouse gas mitigation is such a big topic that it may well exceed the time frame the Special Committee has in which to work, but a recommendation might be made to commission a study on what could be done locally. He also suggested that the green infrastructure topic may be larger than just the mean temperature increase subgroup and some aspect could fit in all three groups. Sean Lahav suggested “living shorelines and nature-based solutions” rather than resilient shorelines as a topic because they are common terms of art in the field. Susan Grandin of the Office of General Counsel agreed that “green infrastructure” is a very broad topic and may need some refinement. Steve Swann suggested that wetlands adaptation/preservation is important. Adam Rosenblatt suggested green rooftops as a topic. Ashantae Green recommended land preservation for both environmental conservation and for future farming use. Guillermo Simon asked if saltwater intrusion into groundwater is an appropriate topic for inclusion; Mr. Hoyles suggested that would be more appropriate in the Infrastructure Committee.

Chairman Andrews displayed a set of proposed committee member assignments to the two overarching theme areas and the three proposed working groups. Land Use Planning – led by Bill Bishop and Mark Middlebrook; Environmental Justice – led by Ashantae Green and Todd Sack; Sea/River Level Rise – Steve Swann, Quinton White, Kevin O’Halloran, and Guillermo Simon; Extreme Precipitation/Rain Patterns – Adam Hoyles, Joshua Rosenberg, Patrick Krechowski, and James Richardson; Climate Change/Heat Waves – Adam Rosenblatt, Leslie Pierpont, J. Logan Cross, Shannon Blankinship.

Todd Sack asked about the Chair’s expectation of the overarching theme chairs. Mr. Andrews said he wants them to ensure that the topics they represent are discussed and incorporated in the working groups. Kevin O’Halloran expressed a preference to be in the land use planning overarching team to bring that perspective to all the working groups. Joshua Rosenberg offered to help with the land use planning issue as well. Sean Lahav recommended that some members may want to participate in the regional resilience planning effort that’s going on. Adam Hoyle noted that there are many resilience studies and planning efforts going on in Northeast Florida and expressed the hope that all of the available data will be shared and used to develop the Special Committee’s recommendations. There’s no need to reinvent the wheel and do data collection when so much work has already been done. Sean Lahav said that he would share the names of all of this committee’s members with the Army Corps of Engineers to connect them with the South Atlantic Regional Study that’s currently ongoing. Ashantae Green hoped that all of the data, studies, and other information collected by the working groups is sorted, stored and made available to everyone on the Special Committee and in the general public as a resource. She said the Education Committee at its meeting this morning talked about having its subgroups meet simultaneously at their next meeting. Yvonne Mitchell of the City Council staff briefly described how the Zoom platform accommodates breakout groups within a larger noticed meeting, including the need for clear meeting notices for the working groups so members of the general public can be assigned to the group of their choice when the groups break out from the main meeting. Bruce Fouraker volunteered to assist in the Extreme Precipitation/Rain Patterns work group. Kevin O’Halloran asked the chairman how he envisioned climate change being addressed by the subcommittee. Mr. Andrews asked the working groups to think about how it might be addressed in practical terms and suggest possible recommendations. Ms. Green asked who would be drafting this community’s information and recommendations for transmittal to the Education Committee. Sean Lahav said the Northeast Florida Regional Council produced newsletters reporting the action of the Special Committee’s first couple of meetings and will continue to do so in conjunction with the Special Committee staff.

Open Input: None

Next meeting – August 12th at 4:00 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned:** 6:16 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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