

**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**

**September 10, 2020**

**3:30 p.m.**

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

**In attendance:** Subcommittee members Randy DeFoor and Matt Carlucci (arr. 3:40); Subject matter experts Brooks Andrews Adam Hoyles, Shannon Blankinship, Sarah Boren, J. Logan Cross, Mark Middlebrook, Joshua Rosenberg, Adam Rosenblatt, Dr. Todd Sack, Jim Schwarz, Guillermo Simon,

**Excused**: Subject matter experts Bill Bishop, Dr. Quinton White, Kevin O’Halloran, Steve Swann

**Also**: Council Member Joyce Morgan; Citizen subject matter expert Jim Seaton; Jeff Clements, Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division; Steve Cassada, Eric Grantham and Melanie Wilkes – Council Support Services; Kealey West – Office of General Counsel; Susan Stewart and Nick Primrose – Jaxport; Beth Payne – North East Florida Regional Council; Susan Kelly and Helena Parola – Planning and Development Department; Melissa Long– Environmental Quality Division; Kelsey Cox – Public Works Department

**Meeting Convened**: 3:33 p.m.

Council Member Randy DeFoor convened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. She asked Brooks Andrews to conduct the meeting. He said he has reviewed the subcommittee’s past discussions and has created a spreadsheet to track the topics discussed and what progress is being made toward a subcommittee report. In two weeks he will have a presenter to discuss a variety of shoreline protective strategies and will also have a presentation on the effect on property values of flooding and other environmental conditions. On October 8th there will be a presentation by JEA on septic tanks, water quality, stormwater management, and related topics. He is working on the timeline for the subcommittee to make its report to the full Special Committee in order for it to make its report in a timely manner and will discuss that with Council Member DeFoor. Ms. DeFoor said that she has self-imposed a deadline for the Special Committee to wrap up by April of next year, but if the subcommittee feels it has completed its work and is ready to make its report then it should feel free to do so. Council Member Carlucci said that Jeff Clements of the Council Research Division will compile the subcommittee’s recommendations and provide a draft report to the General Counsel’s Office for translation into Ordinance Code language for Council’s consideration. Council Member DeFoor said that Beth Payne and Sean Lahav are also a great resource for converting the subcommittees’ discussions into policy recommendations.

Mr. Andrews asked the Sea/River Level Rise group to work on finalizing a list of impaired tributaries and then to develop a prioritized list of adverse consequences of sea/river level rise that the City can impact with changes within its control (zoning, development regulations, etc.). He asked the Extreme Precipitation/Rain Patterns group to discuss using trees to offset stormwater impacts and other tree canopy issues and develop some recommendations. He asked the Climate Change/Temperature Rise and Heat Waves group to discuss the use of tree mitigation funds to expanding the tree canopy and planting more trees in the right locations for stormwater control and heat reduction purposes. He encouraged the team leaders to organize meetings outside of the subcommittee meeting breakout sessions.

The group split into the three working groups from 4:05 to 4:47 p.m.

Sea level/river rise – Shannon Blankinship reported on her group’s discussion, which focused considerably on lists that already exist or that need to be created to unify the work and data of many different City departments and other agencies into a single comprehensive database for planning and mitigation purposes. The group also discussed the need to identify undeveloped lands for public acquisition to prevent their development as a means of water retention for prevention of flooding.

Extreme precipitation/rain patterns – Adam Hoyles said that his group discussed the 18-item list provided to it to establish priorities for proposing legislation. That process will continue at the next meeting.

Temperature increase/heat waves – Adam Rosenblatt said that his group discussed public relations opportunities with Arbor Day and other holidays to promote tree planting, especially in underserved neighborhoods. They also discussed the need for the City to have a real, long-term greenhouse gas remediation plan. Sarah Boren added that wildfire and drought also need to be addressed since Jacksonville has experienced both.

Brooks Andrews said all three groups had healthy discussions today and he encouraged them to meet outside of the context of these subcommittee meetings in the breakout sessions. He will provide a template for recommendations by the next subcommittee meeting, if not before. He encouraged the development of very specific, actionable recommendations. The Special Committee could also be helpful in guiding the City toward developing some larger scale decision making policies or strategies based on data and sound methodologies rather than just reacting to the “squeaky wheel” of complaints. He asked to be kept in the loop on all additional meetings that are scheduled so that he can attend as many as possible. Sarah Boren said focus should be given to scale (citywide, neighborhood, individual) and audience (City Council, City departments, neighborhood groups, not-for-profits, etc.) when making recommendations. Todd Sack urged the participants to utilize the good work that has already been done by the Adaptation Action Area working group to inform the work still to come in the smaller breakout groups.

Council Member Carlucci said he is very pleased with the work that is going on and thanked everyone for their participation and their great ideas. He is anxious to see the final products of all this work and propose them to City Council. He thanked Council Member DeFoor for taking the reins of the Special Committee and leading it in fine style toward a very productive outcome. Council Member DeFoor added her thanks to everyone for their caring and their participation.

Next meeting – September 24 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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