

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, PROTECTION OF LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS**

**AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

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

**October 22, 2020**

**11:00 a.m.**

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

**In attendance:** Subcommittee Members Joyce Morgan (Chair), Randy DeFoor; Subject matter experts John Burr, Joshua Gellers, Ashantae Green, Barbara Gubbin, Kelly Rich, John Sapora

**Excused**: Subcommittee Member Michael Boylan

**Also**: Special Committee Member Matt Carlucci; Subcommittee subject matter experts Shannon Blankinship, Mark Green, Bruce Fouraker, Sarah Boren; Jeff Clements, Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division; Steve Cassada, Eric Grantham and Melanie Wilkes – Council Support Services; Susan Kelly and Kristen Reed – Planning and Development Department; Susan Grandin and Kealey West– Office of General Counsel; Sean Lahav – Northeast Florida Regional Council; Greg Pease – Procurement Division; Susan Stewart – Jaxport; Melissa Long – Neighborhoods Department; James Richardson – Environmental Protection Board

**Meeting Convened**: 11:00 a.m.

Chairwoman Morgan convened the meeting and welcomed the subcommittee attendees. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Ms. Morgan reported that 2020-526 appropriating funds for Adaptation Action Area (AAA) outreach efforts was approved by Council and responses to the RFP for outreach providers was due yesterday. Greg Pease, Chief of Procurement, reported that no responses had been received yesterday and the RFP deadline was extended to October 28th. The companies that were initially invited to propose will be contacted to seek feedback on why they didn’t reply and to see if there are any changes that could be made to make it more attractive for a proposal. Ms. DeFoor asked if the Northeast Florida Regional Council, the St. Johns Riverkeeper or other similar organization could be a proposer; Mr. Pease said yes, any person or organization that could perform the required functions is eligible to propose. He read the requirements a proposer would need to meet. Sean Lahav of NEFRC said he thinks that his organization could do a direct contract with the City to perform the function because of the City’s membership relationship with the NEFRC. Bruce Fouraker asked if the City could directly contact educational institutions to do the job if there are no responses to the RFP; Mr. Pease said he could explore that. Ashantae Green asked where the RFP could be found. Mr. Pease referred to the COJ web site under Doing Business With the City – Procurement.

Council Member Michael Boylan said he requested to be on the agenda for the Infrastructure Subcommittee to make a presentation on his Resiliency Council idea. He will be meeting with Todd Sack to discuss his idea for a similar council or commission within the government structure rather than outside of government. He would like to have a more extensive discussion with Shannon Blankinship about how such a council could interface with the work of Resilient Jax.

Shannon Blankinship with the St. Johns Riverkeeper who was also a member of the AAA Working Group made a presentation on the recommendations of the AAA Working Group with regard to Education and Community Outreach. It will be very important to inform the public about the vulnerability of lands to rising sea level, storm surges, flooding from heavy rains, etc. both now and in the future. The AAA made six high-level recommendations with regard to education and outreach: 1) the City needs to educate, inform and disclose flood hazards to the public in many ways; 2) the City should fund and gather post-storm mitigation efforts to document flood extent and impact; 3) the City should establish a technical advisory committee to provide expertise on all aspects of flooding and sea level rise; 4) if deemed appropriate, a member of the technical advisory committee should be appointed as an *ex officio* member of the DIA, Downtown Design Review Board, Planning Commission and similar organizations to provide advice regarding sea level rise and storm surge; 5) the AAA sea level rise and infrastructure vulnerability assessments should be updated every 5 years based on best available data; and 6) the City, through educational campaigns, promotional materials, partnerships with other agencies and entities, etc. should promote and participate in implementation of green infrastructure solutions to mitigate flooding. Ms. Blankinship emphasized the importance of both public and private sector action in solving community-wide problems. Private property owners need to understand their role in helping the community deal with resiliency issues.

Ms. Blankinship then made a presentation on Resilient Jax, an organization promoting collective action by various member institutions to advocate, educate and promote community action with regard to the causes and effects of climate change in Jacksonville in an equitable and proactive way. There are currently 10 member organizations ranging from The Sierra Club and St. Johns Riverkeeper to garden clubs and Riverside Avondale Preservation. Education is vital because the general public doesn’t have much background or knowledge in the area of resiliency, what the problems are and what solutions might be possible. Barbara Gubbin asked if the City could require property owners to disclose past flooding events during property sales. She noted that the City is considering two developments very close to the river (Lot J in the Sports Complex and the River City Brewing site on the Southbank) and wondered what, if anything, the City is doing to take sea level rise and flooding potential into account when evaluating those development proposals. Council Member Matt Carlucci said he did not know of any requirement for property owners to disclose previous flooding to potential buyers, but buyers should always check that on their own with their realtor and via available databases. Susan Grandin said the City can’t require such disclosure, but noted that the state of Texas recently passed a law requiring such disclosure there. The City can encourage such disclosure, i.e. through the Jacksonville Board of Realtors, but can’t mandate it. Mr. Carlucci said that yesterday he received a copy of the resiliency study for the Lot J proposed development. Kealey West said the Florida Association of Realtors has a standard form for such disclosure which is purely voluntary.

Mr. Carlucci discussed his pending ordinance to create the position of Chief Resiliency Officer and asked all of the members of the Special Committee on Resiliency to be co-sponsors. He wants the CRO to be a separate division within the Planning and Development Department but the Mayor’s administration has not yet agreed to that. The bill amends the authorization and duties of the Planning Department to add resiliency issues to its portfolio and sets out the qualifications of the CRO. Sarah Boren asked if the words “climate change” appear in the bill and if the definition of “resilience” that the Special Committee has been discussing was included. Ms. Grandin said neither of those are included at this point but can be added.

Sean Lahav of the Northeast Florida Regional Council said the focus of the November newsletter will be the work of the three Resiliency subcommittees. He invited a representative from each of the subcommittees to volunteer to work with him to summarize the work of their subcommittee for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Chairwoman Morgan displayed the definition of “resilience” that the subcommittee discussed at the previous meeting for recommendation to the full Special Committee tomorrow. Sarah Boren thought that the group had agreed to add the word “equitably adapt” to the definition. Susan Grandin suggested that the terms “chronic stressor” and “adverse event” may not mean much to the general public and might merit some further explanation for clarity. Mr. Carlucci and John Burr agreed with adding that clarity for better understanding by the public. Ms. Gubbin recommended using the term “climate” or “climatic” resiliency to be clear that the definition refers to climate change rather than other stressors like chronic poverty or adverse actions like plane crashes. Mr. Fouraker suggested adding a couple of parenthetical examples of stressors and adverse actions for clarity. Sarah Boren said her working group urged that the word “prevention” be included in the definition and suggested heat waves as an adverse action example. She noted that Orlando takes a much broader view of resilience than just climate-related issues, including social and economic factors.

Council Member DeFoor reported that tomorrow’s Special Resiliency Committee meeting will feature presentations by Roderick Scott (Flood Mitigation Industry Association) on flood mitigation best practices and Julie Shiyu (Smart Home America) on best practices for residential and commercial building.

Next meeting – November 5th, 11 a.m.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:32 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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