

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

904-255-5137

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY**

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

**AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

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

**November 13, 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 Mike Bonts, John Burr, Joshua Gellers, Barbara Gubbin, Bill Hoff, Kelly Rich, John Sapora

**Excused**: Subcommittee Member Michael Boylan

**Also**: Subcommittee subject matter experts Sarah Boren, Mark Green, Joshua Rosenberg; 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; Susan Stewart – Jaxport; Melissa Long – Neighborhoods Department; Nick Primrose – JPA; Sandra Mohrig – Ethics Office

**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.

Kristen Reed of the Planning and Development Department reported that the RFP for the Adaptation Action Area outreach program has been closed and the grant project was folded into the Public Works Department’s contact with CDM Smith Construction and Engineering for the City’s resiliency study for capital improvements. The addendum to that contract should be discussed at next week’s Professional Services Evaluation Committee meeting. She has talked with FDEP about the possibility for an extension of the grant until June 2021 if necessary to complete the task. Sarah Boren asked other methods will be used in addition to going to CPAC meetings to get a wide variety of input. Ms. Reed said the engagement effort is not solely focused on CPACs, but the Planning Department has committed to doing outreach in all areas of the City so the CPACs are a means of accomplishing that commitment. They are looking at virtual participation options because they are not official meetings that require a physical presence of attendees. John Sapora said he would be happy to help be a facilitator for downtown where LISC (his employer) is located and for Avondale where he lives. Ms. Reed said the goal is to get wide participation in the community.

Sean Lahav of the Northeast Florida Regional Council said he is grateful for the contributions of members of the 3 subcommittees who are writing pieces for the next resiliency newsletter about the work of their subcommittees. He will put the document together and it should be ready to release by the end of next week. NEFRC has a lot of resilience resources that they will be happy to share with the AAA workshop process and be a partner in the effort. Ms. Morgan thanked Mr. Lahav for all that NEFRC has contributed to the Resiliency Committee thus far.

Chairwoman Morgan posed the question - where do we go from here? Council Member DeFoor said it is time to start summarizing what each subcommittee has heard and done so far (Mr. Lahav will facilitate that process) and to start collecting subcommittee recommendations. The Infrastructure Subcommittee will be presenting the AAA Working Group’s Comprehensive Plan amendments. This morning that Subcommittee heard about the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact which could be a model for the Jacksonville area. Ms. Morgan said that a constant theme has been the importance of continuing education and action after this Special Committee sunsets. The question is how to keep the topic in front of the public. Ms. DeFoor noted that Council Member Boylan had suggested Resilient Jax as a potential leader of the effort. John Sapora said the Public Works Department has a big resilience study underway that the Infrastructure Subcommittee heard about it this morning. He believes engagement needs to be a 2-way street, not just the City pushing information out to the public but also neighborhoods sending information back to the City about their problems and suggestions and ideas. The Resiliency Committee could take the big list of CIP infrastructure projects out to the neighborhoods to get their help in prioritizing and developing community buy-in. Assistant General Counsel Grandin recommended that everybody read the Urban Land Institute presentation given this morning top the Infrastructure Subcommittee on the business case for resiliency, which contained a lot of good information. That South Florida study had heavy business engagement because they recognize the costs and the need to deal with resiliency issues. Barbara Gubbin said consideration should be given to requiring all City departments to consider resiliency issues in their annual budget proposals to the Mayor. Budgets reflect priorities so having resilience as part of the budgeting process gives it more importance both inside the government and to the community. Thought should be given about how to get resilience reflected in the budget process.

John Burr said Resilient Jax is a resource that’s willing and able to help the City get the word out to the community about resiliency and would be happy to be a partner. Sarah Boren suggested, in addition to putting resilience in the budget process, to include it in employee job descriptions and performance metrics so that its importance is clear. She thinks the JEA board needs to have members with experience in the electric and water/sewer areas who understand the issues and how resilience is important to the future of the utility. Ms. Morgan said the work the Special Committee has been doing should be a tremendous help to the new Chief Resilience Officer and show the City’s commitment to taking action.

John Burr asked how is the CRO hiring process is going and said he hopes the Resiliency Committee subject matter experts will be kept in the loop about what’s happening. Council Member DeFoor reported that Council Member Carlucci has filed legislation to put the CRO position in the Ordinance Code as a permanent position.

Mr. Godwin said the City’s elected officials need to lobby federal officials for net zero carbon emissions because that’s the only thing that’s going to keep sea level rise to only 3-6 feet in the next century. Ms. DeFoor said she’s talked to Congressman Rutherford and he’s indicated he will do what he can to help the City with issues of importance. Mr. Godwin said Congressman Rutherford does not believe that climate change is man-made so he won’t be supportive of the carbon neutrality legislation pending in Congress. Barbara Gubbin said some agencies hold public meetings to allow the public to meet finalists for important positions (i.e. library directors, the area she knows best) so they can get a feel for what the interested public thinks and the public gets a sense of inclusion and ownership in the selection process. Ms. Grandin said pending Ordinance 2020-672 puts the CRO in the Planning Department as a division. She has not seen the CRO position advertised on the City web site yet. Ms. Morgan said she will put an update on CRO hiring on the December subcommittee agenda.

Chairwoman Morgan asked the subject matter experts to send in any topics or update requests for the December 3rd meeting agenda before the subcommittee takes its holiday break. John Burr said he would like to see money allocated by the City to the Special Committee’s work, particularly to the resilience education effort. John Sapora asked if Council Member Boylan is still working on his Resiliency Council idea. Ms. Morgan said he is, but he’s been temporarily sidetracked by his work on the Election Canvassing Board wrapping up election activities. Susan Grandin reported that Mr. Boylan had talked with Miami-Dade County CRO Jim Murley about how to structure such a council, whether inside or outside of government. Mr. Murley suggested waiting until the CRO is hired to make a final decision about how a council should be formed. Ms. DeFoor said this subcommittee could recommend that the Resiliency Council concept should be explored. Subject matter experts can be making recommendations for this subcommittee to consider and then make a recommendation to the full Special Committee. This subcommittee could list all the known resilience-related assets and make a recommendation for a resiliency council structure based on what has been learned about other areas (South Florida, Houston). Long term education and citizen engagement on resiliency will be vital, and it goes beyond just hiring a CRO and having a City resiliency division.

Council Member DeFoor said the next Special Committee meeting will be on Friday November 20th, and the full committee is ready to start hearing recommendations from the three subcommittees. The Special Committee doesn’t need to wrap up its work in December if more time is needed; work can certainly carry over to 2021 if needed.

Chairwoman Morgan said she is looking to the subject matter experts for lots of ideas and suggestions for how to make resiliency a big issue in the Jacksonville community and how to structure public engagement. Joshua Rosenberg said resilience doesn’t need to be expensive or complicated. There are lots of options that can produce great results without a great deal of expense. Ms. Morgan said resilience should not be a major “thing” that’s so big and intimidating that it seems too daunting to handle.

Ms. Morgan congratulated subject matter expert Ashantae Green for her recent election to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Public Comment

None

Next meeting – December 3rd, 11 a.m. The full Special Committee on Resiliency will meet on November 20th.

Ms. Morgan noted that the Keep Jax Beautiful tree giveaway and paper shredding event announced at the last meeting has been rescheduled from tomorrow to next Saturday.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:04 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

[jeffc@coj.net](mailto:jeffc@coj.net) 904-255-5137

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