

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY MEETING MINUTES**

**Hybrid City in-person/virtual meeting**

**City Council Chamber and Zoom virtual platform**

 **January 22, 2021**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** City Council Chamber and Zoom virtual platform

**In attendance:** Council Members Randy DeFoor (Chair), Matt Carlucci (arr. 2:08 p.m.), Michael Boylan, Joyce Morgan (via Zoom), Garrett Dennis (arr. 2:28 p.m.)

**Also**: Susan Grandin and Kealey West – Office of General Counsel; Jeff Clements and Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division; Cheryl Brown – Council Secretary/Director; Steve Cassada, Eric Grantham - Council Support Services; Tommy Carter – Council Auditor’s Office; Kristen Reed and Susan Kelly – Planning and Development Department; Melissa Long – Neighborhoods Department; Kelsey Cox and Rose Nettles – Public Works Department; Nick Primrose – Jaxport; Sean Lahav – Northeast Florida Regional Council; citizen subject matter experts Guillermo Simon, Brooks Andrews, Joshua Gellers, Gloria Teague, Steve Swann, Kelly Rich, Jim Seaton, Shannon Blankinship, Mike Bonts, Sarah Boren, Kevin O’Halloran, Bruce Fouraker, Mark Green, John Burr, Lisa King, Todd Sack, Joey McKinnon, Ken Green, Mark Middlebrook, J. Logan Cross, Barbara Gubbin, Mark Green, Adam Hoyles, Quinton White

**Meeting Convened**: 2:04 p.m.

Council Member DeFoor called the meeting to order and the attendees were noted for the record.

Sean Lahav reviewed the process for incorporating all of the subcommittee reports into a final report of the Special Committee.

Environmental Planning Subcommittee Report

Citizen subject matter expert Brooks Andrews thanked everyone who supported the work of the subcommittee and contributed so much experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to the project. He reviewed the division of the subcommittee into 3 subject area working groups and touched on the highlights of the observations provided by each. Sea/river level rise: create a green infrastructure action plan; new septic tanks need more scrutiny; tributaries should become natural again; keep shorelines intact; absolutely protect existing wetlands. Climate change/extreme precipitation and rain events: prioritize tree planting; precipitation and stormwater management; urban design – incentivize low impact development, eliminate off-street parking minimums. Climate change/mean temperature increase: increase and maintain the city’s tree canopy by 40% by 2040; develop a heat emergency preparedness plan; strengthen and enforce sustainability building ordinances; create and implement a greenhouse gas inventory; obtain LEED for Cities certification. Mr. Andrews said that there are a number of immediately actionable items in this listing that could get underway immediately.

Council Member Boylan said this looks like great work but he doesn’t want to vote today before having a chance to read it thoroughly. Council Member Carlucci agreed that he would prefer to have a chance to read the report and vote at a future meeting. Mr. Carlucci thanked Mr. Andrews and the subcommittee subject matter experts for their great work on these issues.

As Chair of the Environmental Planning Subcommittee Mr. Carlucci accepted the observations of the subject matter experts, which will be considered for adoption by the Special Committee at its next meeting.

Infrastructure Subcommittee Report

Subject matter expert Jim Seaton made the report for the subcommittee, noting that this draft has not yet been reviewed and approved by the subcommittee. Important observations: 1) quantify the magnitude of Jacksonville’s resilience requirements; 2) adopt one sea level rise figure to guide infrastructure project planning and construction across the city; 3) update the Building Code; 4) incorporate neighborhood-specific criteria while prioritizing resilience decisions; 5) promote the private sector business case for resilience; 6) promote developer/property owner resilience roles; 7) explore ways to disclose flood zone and prior flooding information on real estate transactions and on lease agreements; 8) examine how the North Florida Land Trust could potentially acquire land to provide flood storage capacity; 9) identify flood-prone areas where people and home are the most vulnerable and recommend solutions to protect those neighborhoods; 10) publicize the drainage system’s 92 outfall spot cleaning locations in a way that the general public is aware of where the work is taking place to prepare for potential heavy rains; 11) submit projects for inclusion in the 2022 Water Projects Bill; 12) assess private sector assets such as grocery stores, gas stations, hospitals, etc. to see how vulnerable they are and their impact on resilience; 13) pursue creative funding measures to address the City’s resilience needs; 14) consider resilience when appointing JEA board members.

Chairwoman DeFoor asked the Infrastructure Subcommittee to hold another meeting to review and finalize its report and said she hoped the Special Committee could wrap up its work and adopt its final report within the next 3 weeks. February 18th was chosen as the date for the final meeting of the Special Committee.

Education and Community Outreach Subcommittee Report

Council Member Morgan thanked the subject matter experts for their tremendous work in producing the subcommittee’s report. She discussed the following highlights of the observations: 1) adopt a uniform definition of resiliency, expandable over time to include more than just flooding and sea level rise; 2) establish a community engagement structure for the office of the Chief Resiliency Officer; 3) create a community engagement process that helps City officials prioritize neighborhood resource allocation and support community revitalization plans; 4) establish education and public engagement tools such as user-friendly websites, newsletters, social media platforms, and resource guides to reach diverse audiences; 5) use a social justice and equity lens that will help change public discourse and resource allocations to be more inclusive of various populations and address unfair or exclusionary practices by governments and businesses; 6) participate in resiliency learning, advocacy and funding networks; 7) implement the Adaption Action Area (AAA) Working Group recommendations on education and community outreach and align with other recommendations; 8) adopt a list of Community Assets; 9) include citizen subject matter experts in the Chief Resiliency Officer selection process.

Chairwoman DeFoor lauded the quality of the three subcommittee reports and the tremendous amount of work and expertise invested by the citizen subject matter experts. The list of community assets included in the Education Subcommittee report shows the wide range of community organizations that have an interest in and a role to play in resilience issues.

Ms. DeFoor reiterated that the full Special Committee will meet on February 18th to finalize its report incorporating the three subcommittee reports. Brooks Andrews suggested ordering and highlighting the many observations in a way that makes them easily understandable and accessible to the general public. Sarah Boren presented a Quadrant Graph format as a potential for organizing the recommendations on twin axes of time and ease/difficulty of implementation. Ms. DeFoor asked Ms. Boren to create quadrant graphs for the observations made today as a sample for consideration. John Sapora said that members of the Education and Community Outreach Subcommittee stand ready to assist in the finalization of the subcommittee reports and Special Committee final report as needed.

Council Member Carlucci asked about the status of the Chief Resilience Officer hiring process. Assistant General Counsel Susan Grandin said that all legislative steps to create the position have been completed and funds budgeted; the next step is for the Employee Services Department to advertise the position. Regarding the salary of the CRO, Ms. Grandin said there had been testimony at previous meetings about $75,000 being use as a placeholder figure early in the process, but Deputy CAO Stephanie Burch had said that a salary of $125,000 was the likely figure to be advertised. Mr. Carlucci said he would contact the Mayor’s Office and Employee Services to get an update on the position.

Public Comment

Bruce Fouraker said he has sat in on almost all of the subcommittee meetings and feels very comfortable with the observations being made and the subcommittee reports. He believes the final adoption will be a relatively simple process at the next meeting once everyone has had a chance to read all three reports.

Todd Sack said that the Chief Resilience Officer can’t do everything alone and community input is needed.

Joshua Gellers said he sees considerable variance in the specificity of the observations from the three subcommittees and asked how the public could have further input in the future after the final report is adopted. Council Member Boylan advocated for the creation of an independent Resiliency Council to advise the City, assist and support the Chief Resilience Officer, take public input, work with neighborhoods and citizen groups to address their particular needs, etc. Council Member Morgan said that concept is included in one of the recommendations of her Education and Community Outreach Subcommittee.

**Meeting adjourned:** 3:25 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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2.1.21 Posted 12:00 p.m.