

City of Jacksonville

*1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street*



Meeting Minutes - Amended **Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Meeting**

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

9:30 AM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall & Virtual

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Al Ferraro, Chair

CM Randy White, Vice Chair

CM Aaron Bowman

CM Terrance Freeman, Alternate

Jon Michael Barker

Robert Birtalan

Lindsey Brock

Lane Burnett

State Rep. Cord Byrd

Mark Devereaux

Marc Hardesty, Excused Absence

Jill D. Haskell

Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.

Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio

Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

Vonya Balogh & Jessica Smith, Legislative Assistants

Susan Grandin, Asst. General Counsel

Dr. Quinton White, Jacksonville University

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University

Richard Distel, Research Assistant

Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

RULE 4.505 - DISRUPTION OF MEETING

No member of the audience shall applaud nor make any noise or remarks that are audible to the Committee that would indicate approval or disapproval of anything being discussed. Any disregard of this rule may result in removal by the Sergeant at Arms.

REQUEST TO SPEAK:

1. Fill out a speaker card.
2. Sign it if you are going to speak.
3. Read the rules on the back of the card.
4. Place card in tray.

PARKING: If you park in the Library Garage (Entry on Duval St, W of Main St), please see the Legislative Assistant for ticket validation.

MEETING TIME: 9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Physical Location: Council Chambers

City Hall

117 W. Duval Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

(If attending virtually, please join the meeting by 9:15 A.M.)

Meeting ID: 970 3931 6611

Meeting Password: 009730

Council Members, City staff and the public may attend the meeting at the physical location, Council Chambers, but CDC guidelines will be adhered to due to COVID-19. A mandatory mask requirement is in place for all public buildings pursuant to the COJ Emergency Executive Proclamation 2020-005, as extended.

The public will be encouraged to share general comments with individual council members by email or telephone. Public hearings and public participation are required by state statute for specific legislation. We will conduct these hearings as required by state law. CCMeeting03232021@coj.net is the designated email for general comments to be included as a part of this meeting.

Present 8 - Commissioner Robert Birtalan, Commissioner Lindsey Brock,
Commissioner Raymond Pringle, Commissioner Mark Devereaux,
Commissioner Marc Hardesty, Chair Al Ferraro, Council Member
Aaron Bowman, and Vice Chair Randy White

Excused 4 - Commissioner Cord Byrd, Commissioner Jill Haskell, Commissioner
Lane Burnett, and Commissioner Jon Michael Barker

Meeting Convened: 9:36 A.M. Meeting Adjourned: 12:35 P.M.

1. Roll Call & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for February 10, 2021.

Devereaux, Pringle, Brock, Ferraro, White, Bowman, and Birtalan (7-0) - voted to approve the minutes from February 10, 2021.

APPROVE 7-0

3. St. Johns River Status Report on Water Quality and Manatees - Dr. White & Dr. Pinto

Dr. White said the water temperatures have begun to climb, but still are very cold at night and there have been elevated water levels. There has also been abnormally high rainfall and there is a low level of salinity.

Dr. Pinto talked about a flight he took over the intracoastal waterway where he saw 6 manatees. Dr. Pinto said that there have been 4 manatee deaths, 1 has been verified as a cold stress death and none have been due to boats. Mr. Pringle asked about the process of rehab for manatees. Dr. Pinto said that the zoo feeds them wild vegetation to have them prepared to be released back into the wild. Dr. Pinto said that anything above 70 degrees Fahrenheit is safe for manatees.

4. Contact: Ed Lukacovic
2021-0068 ORD Adopting a Small-Scale FLUM Amendmnt to 2030 Comp Plan at 0 Broward Rd., btwn Island Point Dr. & Clark Rd. (5.04± Acres) – CGC to MDR – Trout River Land Holdings. LLC. (Appl# L-5490-20C) (Dist 8-Pittman) (Kelly) (LUZ)
(Rezoning 2021-69)
2/9/21 CO Introduced: LUZ, JWC
2/17/21 LUZ Read 2nd & Rerefer
LUZ PH – 3/16/21
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 163.3187, F.S. & Chapt 650, Pt 4, Ord Code – 3/9/21 & 3/23/21

Ed Lukacovic, Planning Department, detailed the ordinance which is for a small-scale land use amendment. He went over the public hearing dates, the location of the development and he went over the comprehensive plan. Mr. Brock asked how much of the land is able to be built upon. Mr. Lukacovic said the soil and wetland boundaries have to be verified by a wetlands scientist and brought before the Wetland Management Division for a determination. Chair Ferraro asked about the drainage of the site. Mr. Lukacovic said the drainage will go to the north and the west and he does not see any problems with water being redirected. Mr. Devereaux asked if there is city water for the site. Mr. Lukacovic said there is city water at the site.

APPROVE 8-0

Devereaux, Pringle, Brock, Ferraro, White, Bowman, Birtalan, and Hardesty - voted to approve ORD 2021-68

New Business

5. River Reef Report - Dr. White

Dr. White gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the artificial reef. He explained what an artificial reef does to benefit the environment and the impacts it can have on the fish and wildlife in the area. Dr. White said that there are more than 3,700 artificial reefs in the Florida waterways. The reasons for an artificial reef are in order to create relief and space for the fish population to live, to improve recreational fishing and to rebuild the area after damage from hurricanes. Dr. White talked about the two artificial reef sites that were studied in the report. Think It, Sink It, Reef It (TISIRI), a non-profit was very instrumental in making these reefs happen. Dr. White talked about the impact of Hurricane Irma and the impact on salinity over time. Dr. White said going forward they will ask fishing communities for their thoughts on reef placement. Dr. White talked about the economic impact that the artificial reefs can have on the St. John's River. Dr. White talked about the amount of species found in the St. John's River over time and changes due to the impact of Hurricane Irma.

Mr. Adkison suggested an artificial reef to be implemented in the Clapboard Creek area. Dr. White said the area might not work for the artificial reefs because of the soft bottom, but would be interested in looking into that area.

6. Waterfront Park Project Design - Mari Kuraishi with DuPont Fund & David van der Leer (Presenting 4/14/21 at 12pm)

Presentation was postponed until the next meeting.

7. Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Presentation - Alex Fogg

Alex Fogg, Coastal Resource Manager for Okaloosa County, talked about the deployment of 8 FADS in DeSoto Canyon area which will help attract pelagic species to the area and these will be the first in the Continental United States. Mr. Fogg gave a background of the Destin, Florida area which the program is based out of. The deployment of the FADs took place at 4 locations which are found 60-80 miles offshore near Destin-Fort Walton Beach. FADs are designed to attract large fish like mahi-mahi, marlin and tuna. Large game fish are attracted to floating objects and these specially designed buoys will keep them closer to the coastline. This means that anglers of all skill levels will be able to consistently access a pelagic fishery without traveling hundreds of miles. Mr. Fogg said the majority of the five-year process was dedicated to permitting. The first buoy of the eight-buoy system was deployed in August 2020. The economic impact of the FADs is estimated for \$56 million. They will partner with universities and will conduct a post-deployment economic study after the project is finished which has a lifespan of 7 years.

CM Bowman asked if there can be a detriment to the FADs or artificial reefs in terms of over fishing. Dr. White and Mr. Fogg both said there is no clear answer to that question.

Mr. Pringle suggested a committee on local reefs. The committee was named the Artificial Reefs in Northeast Florida Committee. The members on this committee will be Mr. Adkison, Mr. Brock as chair, Mr. Pringle, Mr. Devereaux, Mr. Hoyles, and Captain Suber as a staff member.

Old Business

8. Slow Speed Zone Update - Commissioner Haskell (3/4 Meeting Cancelled; New Date TBD)

9. Next Steps to Rectify Sandbar - DEP (Written Report)

A written report was made available to the Commission for review by the DEP.

10. Storm Water Discharge Ortega River - DEP (Written Report)

A written report was made available to the Commission for review by the DEP.

11. Derelict Vessel/Floating Structure Removal - Bryan Mosier & Jim Suber

Bryan Mosier, Director of Neighborhoods, talked about the removal process and working with the Parks Department and Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to get vessels designated as derelict. Mr. Mosier talked about the code enforcement and the reimbursement funds that will help to fund the removal. These reimbursement requests will be similar to the previous process and there are two being currently processed. In terms of floating structures removal, the process is new and they are training officers on the enforcement. There will be volunteers trained to look for these floating structures. Mr. Mosier said they plan to roll out the process for floating structures in July.

Captain Suber went over a PowerPoint that showed slides of derelict vessels on the waterways. He talked about the timeline on whether they are pending with FWC. Mr. Adkison asked about the impact these structures have when submerged in the waterways.

12. Consent Order Against The Fisherman's Marina, LLC Trout River - Susan Grandin

Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, went over the actions required to be taken by the marina owners, the fines due, and the timelines within which the marina has to take action and pay the fines to avoid being in violation of the Consent Order that was obtained by FDEP. And she thanked FDEP for pursuing this matter. Captain Jim Suber said that one of the vessels that FWC has asked to be submitted as a derelict vessel is the vessel that is along the shoreline of the marina and he asked why that vessel only and not the other vessels that are along the marina. He stressed not wasting grant money if it is pending. Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, echoed that question and stated that they will contact the correct partners to make sure this is clarified.

13. Update on Ft. George Inlet Dredging - Jason Harrah

Jason Harrah, Army Corps of Engineers, said they are currently in the feasibility study phase and went over the time frame for this project. He said that the project has a \$12.5 million spending limit. This project will be 100% federally funded and through the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP). The feasibility study was agreed upon on September 3, 2020. Mr. Harrah went over the expected shoreline changes and possible alternatives of possible dredging areas. The final report is expected to be delivered on November 2022.

14. Contact: Susan Grandin

2021-119-A RESO Apv a Resolution of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission Defining "Extraordinary Circumstances" That Would Allow a Member of the Commission to Attend, Participate & Vote Remotely Under Certain Conditions; Req Emergency Passage Upon Introduction; Notification by Legislative Svcs.

Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, explained the resolution which would allow for attendance virtually for the commission. Ms. Grandin emphasized that quorum is still needed in person for the virtual attendance and voting to be allowed.

15. Public Comment

Brian Burket, Parks Department, gave an update on Shad's Creek and the strategic plan to submit a request to FWC.

John Nooney talked about FIND grants and Launch J.

Stanley Scott said there needs to be more investment in the youth.

16. Adjournment

Note: Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted; but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research
RDistel@coj.net 904.255.5140
Posted 3.24.2021 5:00 pm