

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

**AMENDED ARTIFICAL REEFS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**October 19, 2022**

**9:00 a.m.**

**In attendance:** Commissioner Haskell (chair), Commissioner Barker, Commissioner Hartley, Mr. Hoyles, Mr. Adkison

Sharon Wyskiel – Office of General Counsel; Brian Burket, Jill Enz – Parks Department; Capt. Jim Suber – Waterways Coordinator

**Meeting Convened**: 9:06 am

Jill Haskell called the committee to order and went over the goals for this subcommittee. Ms. Haskell went over a PowerPoint which detailed the construction materials, the work being done in other counties, the use of vessel registration fees to fund the artificial reefs, and the benefits of enhancing the marine environment. Mr. Adkison talked about the advertising that can be done regarding artificial reefs. Brian Burket, Parks Department, went over the permitting process and explained that the Environmental Quality Division oversees the permitting process on the river. Melissa Long, EQD, went over the oversight of the Artificial Reef Fund and said there is about $1,000 is the fund currently. Ms. Long said that the clearance for reef material must be 60-foot and not be in navigable waters. Mr. Adkison stressed that the city should look at what other municipalities are doing in terms of money spent and available funds for artificial reefs. Lindsey Brock talked about the resiliency of wildlife and the benefits that artificial reefs have to the environment. Mr. Brock talked about the NOAA grants which are open to FADs and discussed additional funding opportunities. Ms. Long said she would reach out to the grants department regarding these opportunities and Mr. Brock said he would lend any additional help needed in the process. Ms. Long said there are currently around 17 reef locations and there can be multiple deployments in one location. Captain Suber talked about the shrimpers and trying to avoid having a live bottom. Mr. Brock said he could talk to divers that would be willing to volunteer their services for research purposes. Mr. Burket said there is no issue finding materials for the artificial reef, but the issue is the cost of hauling the materials. Mr. Adkison said that the focus should be on transportation and storage locations throughout the city. Ms. Long said that the city isn’t involved in the transportation. Mr. Hartley said that the highest priority is in-river and focusing on low-cost options. Ms. Haskell asked is the subcommittee could ask for help from Public Works Department. Captain Suber said that it depends on their availability.

Public Comment:

John Nooney spoke about the Artificial Reef Trust Fund.

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:01 am

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division

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