

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

10:00 AM

Council Chamber, 1st Floor, City Hall

Special Committee on Parks and Quality Life

*Randy White, Chair
Ron Salem, Vice Chair
Kevin Carrico
Randy DeFoor
Nick Howland
Joyce Morgan
Ju'Coby Pittman*

*Chelsea Carlson, Legislative Svcs
Trista Carraher, Auditor's Office
Mary Staffopoulos, OGC
Colleen Hampsey, Research*

Meeting Convened: 10:01 am

Meeting Adjourned: 10:44 am

Attendance:

Trista Carraher, Auditor's Office; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research; Daryl Joseph and Jill Enz, Parks Department

I. Introductions & Committee Charge - Council Member White

CM White welcomed the group and called for introductions.

II. Update on Park Projects - Daryl Joseph, Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Services Dept.

Daryl Joseph, Parks Director, gave an update on park projects funded through the committee's \$50 million allocation last year. \$20 million of those funds were directed to updates and new equipment for playgrounds, courts, restrooms and the Parks Master Plan. \$30 million was directed towards community centers, athletic complexes and tennis facilities. He highlighted the modern and safe playground designs, additional pickle ball courts and covered basketball courts. There were several before and after photos of park and restroom improvements.

Jill Enz, Chief of Natural and Marine Resources, spoke about the Parks Master Plan that has been in progress for roughly 9 months. The last report was completed in 2003. This year's report will include a scoring matrix that considers social equity and resilience and a site inventory. There will be a public input component in the next few months through in-park interviews and meetings for feedback.

Mr. Joseph talked about specific park projects and sports tourism, like Clanzel Brown Sports Complex, FFamily sport fields, Cecil Softball Complex, and JP Small Museum and Field. He noted the maintenance cost savings from the installation of artificial turf.

Ms. Enz described the Artist Walk project, which will be under the Fuller Warren Bridge and include a skate park and will hopefully provide economic impact to the area because high quality of life locations attract

workers, which attract employers, which in turn attract even more investment and jobs. Mr. Joseph said they are utilizing funds from the Tree Fund to add shade trees.

CM DeFoor asked about completion dates, which for the Artist Walk is estimated to be fall/winter of 2023. She also asked about cost increases due to labor shortages and inflation. Mr. Joseph said that some inflation is included in their estimation process.

CVP Salem asked about the initial \$50 million allocation and what funds it was placed into. Mr. Joseph said that those dollars are in specific accounts and that funds for capital projects may carry over from one fiscal year to the next.

CM Howland spoke highly of the JP Small improvements, and asked about parks in proximity to the Emerald Trail.

CVP Salem also expressed enthusiasm about the JP Small Museum and Field.

CM Carrico asked about security improvements like lights and cameras, for which \$60,000 was set aside for each council district last year. Mr. Joseph said he has been working with district council members to identify the best locations. CM Carrico asked for a presentation at an upcoming meeting about park programming and program/nonprofit partnerships.

III. Next Steps - Council Member White

CM White asked if there are underused parks that should be eliminated from the inventory. Mr. Joseph said that would be identified in the Master Plan.

CM DeFoor spoke about how children benefit from parks near their homes. She also lauded the Administration for investing in parks, and said the public should be made aware.

CM White said he would like a report about regional parks at an upcoming meeting. He asked if the Parks Department has a travel budget to visit other cities to see their park projects. Mr. Joseph said they have some flexible funding that could cover such travel.

CM Carrico said that the next \$50 million should go to creative projects to set the city apart. He asked about what other quality of life issues the committee will look at, like pedestrian safety and speed limits.

CM White directed Mr. Joseph to meet with all council members about possible park projects and they committee will reconvene in January.

IV. Public Comment

Mr. Carter spoke about pedestrian accessibility near the Main Street Bridge, and Friendship Fountain repairs.

Rollcall

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| Present | 5 - | Chair Randy White, Vice Chair Ron Salem, Council Member Nick Howland, Council Member Kevin Carrico, and Council Member Randy DeFoor |
| Excused | 2 - | Council Member Joyce Morgan, and Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman |

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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