

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

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
Joyce Morgan
Ju'Coby Pittman*

*Steven Libby, Legislative Svcs
Trista Carraher, Auditor's Office
Carla Lopera, OGC
Jeff Clements, Research*

Meeting Convened: 10:01 am

Meeting Adjourned: 11:25 am

Attendance: CMs White, Pittman, Carrico, Morgan, DeFoor and Salem

Also: Carla Lopera, Office of General Counsel; Trista Carraher, Auditor's Office; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

I. Introductions - Council Member Randy White

Chief Castleman, JFRD, spoke about placing AEDs in park athletic facilities. He spoke about the recent event when Damar Hamlin collapsed after a cardiac arrest during a game on an NFL field, and the Buffalo Bills medical team used an AED on the sideline that saved his life. He told a story about when a young athlete died from a cardiac incident at Dinsmore Park a few years ago, and how that tragedy may have been avoided if AEDs were on site.

Chief Castleman demonstrated how the AED machine is designed for layman use and that it has bilingual directions. He said the battery lasts approximately 8 years, and the units cost between \$1200-\$1400 to purchase.

CM Pittman asked about AED maintenance. Daryl Joseph, Parks Director, said that will be included in regular park inspections. CM Morgan asked about locations for the devices and who would have access. Mr. Joseph said the AEDs will be placed at facilities with enclosed buildings like concession stands and that athletic association volunteers will be trained on the usage. CMs Carrico and Salem asked about AED training, and Chief Castleman said JFRD will assist and that the device manufacturer provides training as well. Mr. Joseph said that several parks are already equipped with AEDs.

II. Master Plan Update - Kristin Caborn, GAI Consultants

Kristin Caborn, GAI Consultants, provided an update on the Parks Master Plan. The last Master Plan was completed in 2003. She talked about the Trust for Public Land park score, where Jacksonville received 81/100, and how there is room for improvement. Ms. Caborn said the master plan report is created in phases, and that the public input phase will begin this summer and the strategy/recommendations phase will take place in the fall. She explained the upcoming surveys, one that will be mailed to 10,000 random households, and one that will be online.

Garold Smith, Acuity Design Group, outlined the public involvement portion of the master plan. He said that in addition to the surveys, there will be a series of public workshops and focus groups to gain public input.

III. Update on Park Projects - Daryl Joseph, Director of Parks Recreation and Community Services

Daryl Joseph, Parks Director, shared a video of recent park projects funded by this committee. CM DeFoor praised the efforts made by Mr. Joseph and his team. CVP Salem asked if Mr. Joseph has enough staff to complete all of the upcoming projects. Mr. Joseph said yes, and that he coordinates on projects with Public Works and DIA.

Jill Enz, Chief of Natural and Marine Resources, gave a presentation about park needs. She said that 55 playgrounds have been replaced with the committee's funding. She said that 38 of 195 are in poor condition. Ms. Enz talked about other park needs, like trail and boardwalk replacements due to age, flooding and root encroachment.

Mr. Joseph spoke about new project funding requests. He mentioned improvement projects for: the Brentwood and Blue Cypress golf courses, lighting for Ed Austin softball fields, the Fort Family fishing pier, lighted pickle ball courts at Sheffield Park, Patton Park Senior Center, Beach and Peach Urban Bike Park, Pine Forest Senior Center, Flossie Brunson Eastside Park field lighting, rehabbing West Jacksonville Elementary, Cecil Gym, Beaches Community Center expansion, Glynlea Park, and the canning center.

Ms. Enz spoke about the installation of artificial turf at certain athletic fields and how that will increase longevity/durability, save money on maintenance costs and decrease pollution from fertilizer.

Mr. Joseph talked about funding requests for projects that have begun already but need more funding to continue. He described projects such as the Blue Cypress pool, remediating the ash contamination at Lonnie Miller Park, Cecil Field improvements to be a site for softball tournaments, phase 2 of the JP Small museum, Lift Every Voice Park, and Friendship Fountain restoration.

CM Morgan asked if pickle ball courts can be reverted to tennis courts if the sport becomes less popular. She asked about the timeline for playground replacements, which have been extended due to equipment shipping delays.

CM DeFoor asked about park maintenance and selecting materials that extend equipment life on playgrounds. She asked for an update on Riverside Park, and Mr. Joseph said that the Riverside project is funded through the CIP.

CM Carrico asked about funds for park projects in each council district, and Mr. Joseph said that \$100,000 per council district (not at large seats) is included in his funding request. Mr. Joseph said that, if approved, those funds would be available after July 1st and would be in accordance with the new district map boundaries. CM Carrico asked about security upgrades and cameras, and talked how each park has different needs. Mr. Joseph said camera installation is now considered in all park planning processes.

There was a motion (CVP Salem) and second (CM DeFoor) to approve Mr. Joseph's funding request for \$50 million. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

IV. Next Steps - Committee Members

CVP Salem asked about the park at the former Landing location. Mr. Joseph said that project is funded through the CIP and that work is slated to commence in June of this year.

CM Pittman said she is excited about the projects in NW Jacksonville and she asked about signage updates.

CM DeFoor said that two of these projects will be transformational for the city and good for neighborhood morale, the ash remediation at Lonnie Miller and the Lift Every Voice park.

CM White commented that he wants to use his district dollars for AEDs at athletic fields.

There was a hand vote to introduce the appropriation legislation as sponsored by this committee, and it was 5-0 to approve.

V. Public Comment

Mr. Nooney talked about FIND projects, the reef trust fund and Pottsburg Creek.

Mr. Zarka talked about increasing pickle ball programming, more lesson options for folks of differing skill levels, and the need for an updated reservation system for pickle ball courts.

Mr. East talked about rowing, and the possibility of a land swap between the City and the state for a kayak launch to access Exchange Island.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted: 2.9.23 5:00 pm