



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
RESEARCH DIVISION**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425  
4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, CITY HALL  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202  
904-255-5137

**JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSION  
FIND Subcommittee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 25, 2023 1:00  
p.m.**

**Location:** Don Davis Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, City Hall

**In attendance:** Jon Michael Barker, Chair; Robert Birtalan; Andrew Fraden; Richard Hartley; Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

**Also:** Eamon Webb - City Council Research Division; Rebecca Bolton - Legislative Assistant; Brian Burkett – Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department

**Meeting Convened:** 1:02 p.m.

The subcommittee chair, Jon Michael Barker, welcomed the subcommittee to order.

Review of Potential 2024 FIND Projects

Brian Burkett of the City Parks Department presented to the subcommittee the Park Department's recommendations on how to use the annual grant funding received by the City. He divided projects into three tiers: the first tier being his recommendations for the most pressing and achievable projects, the second tier being viable alternative options, and the third tier being possible but not recommended options.

The three recommended projects included the McCue Boat Ramp Bulkhead Project, the Blue Cypress Fishing Pier Project, and the Wayne B. Stevens Boat Ramp Project. The McCue Boat Ramp Project would be the most expensive, costing in total \$3.52 million, with about half that covered by the FIND grant.

The McCue Boat Ramp Bulkhead Project proposes to add a revetment and to repair or replace the bulkhead.

The Blue Cypress Fishing Pier Project proposes to replace the existing, partially demolished fishing pier in the same footprint.

The Wayne B. Stevens Boat Ramp Project proposes to replace access piers and floating docks and to add lighting to the parking lot to convert the site to a 24-hour ramp.

Mr. Burkett described alternative options for the subcommittee, including an adaptive kayak launch at Thomas Creek Fish Camp, a development for a park off Heckscher Drive, a renovation of the Trout River Fishing Bridge, renovations to the New Berlin Boat Ramp, bulkhead and dock improvements to the Curtis Lee Johnson Marina Boat Ramp, bulkhead and dock replacements at the T.K. Stokes Boat Ramp, bulkhead and ramp improvements at the Harborview Boat Ramp, a new kayak launch on the Arlington River near University Boulevard, and waterfront park development at Mill Cove.

Richard Hartley expressed concern that the southeast portion of Duval County including Mandarin and Southside lacked recommended or alternative projects. Mr. Burkett stated that a Tier Three project near Clark's Fish Camp in Mandarin was considered but would have undesirable ecological effects on nearby wetlands.

Andrew Fraden asked about possible development of Exchange Club Island near the Matthews Bridge; Mr. Burkett explained that water levels make certain uses of the island nearly impossible, but legitimate use of the island like use of the nature trail and picnic areas is pushing out illegitimate use of the island.

Mr. Burkett reported that North Florida Land Trust is looking into unused or inactive properties, like Goat Island, for resiliency goals.

Mr. Burkett outlined potential projects for the following year, which included a boat ramp off Pottsburg Creek.

### Prioritize and Rank Projects

The subcommittee moved and unanimously approved the projects and rankings recommended by Mr. Burkett of the Parks Department.

### Public Comment

John Nooney described a potential project near Pottsburg Creek, where a FEMA house is located in Category 1 wetlands. He expressed his approval of the subcommittee's stewardship of Jacksonville wetlands.

### Next Meeting

At the call of the Chair.

**Meeting adjourned: 2:13 p.m.**

Minutes: Eamon Webb, Council Research Division  
[ewebb@coj.net](mailto:ewebb@coj.net) 904-255-5140 10.26.23 Posted  
9:30 a.m.