

City of Jacksonville

117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 15, 2024

2:00 PM

Lynwood Roberts,
1st Floor, City Hall

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Mike Gay, Chair

CM Ken Amaro, Vice Chair

CM Jimmy Peluso

CM Tyrona Clark-Murray, Alternate

Jon Michael Barker

Robert Birtalan

Lane Burnett - Late Arrival

Representative Kiyon Michael

Mark Devereaux

Andrew Fraden

Marc Hardesty

Richard Hartley

Richard J. Redick

Jill Haskell - General Public Rep - Absent

Jack Meeks, Ex-Officio

Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

Rebecca Bolton, Legislative Assistant

Carla Lopera, Office of General Counsel

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University

Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator

Meeting Convened: 2:02 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 3:32 PM

1. Call To Order

Chair Gay convened the meeting and called for introductions.

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion/2nd move to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2024 meeting: Amaro/Peluso

5. Opening Remarks from the Chair

Chair Gay reviewed the JWC charge and processes. He said that public comment will be limited to 2 minutes, and that commissioners would be allotted a reasonable amount of time for debate.

6. OGC Overview of the Sunshine Law

Carla Lopera, OGC, provided an overview of Sunshine and Public Record Laws. She referenced the 3 requirements for public meetings: location accessible to the public, notice of meeting posted at least 24 hours prior, and written minutes of the meeting. Ms. Lopera explained limitations on commissioner communication outside of a public meeting, to include neutral topics like sports and the weather not items that could come before the JWC. She said email communication should be one-way. She talked about penalties for violations. Ms. Lopera talked about retaining public records, including photographs and text messages. Shannon MacGillis, OGC, mentioned the prohibition on staff acting as a "middle man" to convey information between commissioners, with an exception for logistical planning (time, date of meetings).

7. St. Johns River Status Report on Water Quality & Manatees

Dr. Pinto, Jacksonville University, provided a status report on the St. Johns River. He said that salinity levels are low due to heavy rain. He also said the rain increases the chance for algae blooms. Dr. Pinto talked about a JU webpage in the works to be a platform to report manatee and dolphin sightings. He said there have been no new local manatee deaths since June 16, with 4 total deaths locally this year (one from a watercraft). Statewide this year, Dr. Pinto said that there have been 62 watercraft manatee deaths out of 412 total deaths (the low end of normal). When asked about the health of the river, Dr. Pinto said that the State of the River Report will be out in October, but that overall the river is healthier than it was 30-40 years ago despite population growth.

8. Public Comment

Mr. Nooney spoke about parking enforcement near kayak launches and public access to waterways.

Ms. Shelfer talked about flooding in Ortega.

9. New Business

2024-0622 ORD Approp \$113,609.00 in Fund Balance from the Environmental Protection Fund to Provide Funding for the 17th State of the River Report for the Lower St. Johns River Basin; Prov for Waiver of Sec 111.755 (Environmental Protection Fund), Pt 7 (Environment & Conservation), Ch 111 (Special Revenue & Trust Accounts), Ord Code, to Auth Utilization of Funds from the Fund to Continue Funding the Annual State of the River Report; Prov for Waiver of Sec 360.602 (Uses of Fund), Pt 6 (Environmental Protection Fund), Ch 360 (Environmental Regulation), Ord Code, to Allow for the Utilization of Funds from the Fund to Continue Funding the Annual State of the River Report; Apv, & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Secretary to Execute & Deliver an Agrmt btwn the City & JU for the Proj; Invoking the Exemption in 126.107(g) (Exemptions), Pt 1 (General Regulations), Ch 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code, to Direct Contract with JU for the Proj; Waiving Sec 118.107 (Nonprofits to Receive Funding through a Competitive Evaluated Award Process), Pt 1 (General Provisions), Ch 118 (City Grants), Ord Code, to Allow a Direct Contract with JU; Prov for Oversight by the Neighborhoods Dept, Environmental Quality Div; Requiring Annual Reports (B.T. 24-130) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor) (JWC Apv) 8/13/24 CO Introduced: R, F, TEU, JWC
8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/20/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

There was discussion regarding this bill that is an annual appropriation of \$113,609.00 in Fund Balance from the Environmental Protection Fund that will fund the 17th State of the River Report for the Lower St. Johns River Basin. Dr. Pinto explained the level of collaboration and time that goes into the report each year. Commissioner Devereaux asked about state funds for the report. There was mention of asking neighboring counties to contribute to the cost for the report. Mr. Hoyle said that the funds for the appropriation come from the Environmental Protection Trust Fund, and he emphasized the importance of the report to keep stakeholders and the public informed and to impact policy decisions. Chair Gay concurred as to the importance of the report.

**Motion/2nd to approve: Peluso/Amaro
Approved unanimously.**

There was discussion about adding JEA representatives to an upcoming agenda to speak about the Reed Island Spoil Site and raising power lines.

10. Subcommittee/Task Force Discussion

The commissioners talked about task forces and subcommittees.

Chair Gay said the River Accord Task Force will continue its work with CM Peluso as the chair, with meetings beginning at the end of September.

The Derelict Vessel Task Force will continue, with Commissioner Barker as the chair.

Initially Chair Gay said the Shoaling Subcommittee will only meet as needed. The commissioners then decided to incorporate shoaling together with artificial reefs into a blended subcommittee chaired by Commissioner Hardesty.

The FIND Subcommittee will continue with Commissioner Barker as the chair.

Brian Burket, Parks Department, talked about the Maritime Management Plan. He spoke about recent improvements to marina facilities and plans for future land acquisition. When asked he provided an update about the erosion damaged road at Huguenot Memorial Park. He said a temporary road has been constructed to allow the park to reopen, and the City is coordinating with state and federal entities to re-route the roadway.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Gay adjourned the meeting.

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: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151

Posted: 8.22.24 5:00 pm