



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: Black Hammock Island Park, 15770 Sawpit Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32226

Meeting Date: May 13, 2026

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting Convened: 6:00 PM

I. Welcome and Overview

Councilman Gay opened the meeting with welcoming all in attendance and by clarifying that because it was a formally noticed meeting, the discussion would stay within the agenda items regarding the proposed Cedar Point Preserve renaming. He stated that he was glad Councilman Matt Carlucci brought the request to his attention and emphasized that his first reaction was to bring the information directly to the community for input. Councilman Gay then turned the meeting over to At Large Councilman Matt Carlucci for an overview.

Councilman Matt Carlucci thanked the attendees and Councilman Gay. He then explained that the purpose of the renaming is to honor Mark Middlebrook, who was responsible for connecting and putting together 50,000 acres of preservation land during Mayor John Delaney's administration under the Preservation Project and the Better Jacksonville Plan. Councilman Carlucci stated that the attendees present are leaders who can spread the word, making the process easier. He then stated that Mark Middlebrook gravitated toward purchasing environmentally sensitive land in North Florida to protect wildlife, terrain, and artifacts. Following Mark Middlebrook's passing, Councilman Carlucci immediately felt a responsibility to ensure he was recognized. Councilman Carlucci then introduced Brian Burket with Parks and Recreation Department to speak further.

Brian Burket with the City of Jacksonville's Parks and Recreation Department, who worked alongside Mark Middlebrook, described him as the architect of Jacksonville's land acquisition program and a mentor. He then highlighted Middlebrook's role in establishing the Timucuan Parks Foundation and creating strategies to protect environmentally sensitive properties.

Councilman Carlucci stated that no legislation would be introduced until broader community outreach is completed and further support is confirmed. Councilman Gay agreed to coordinate additional discussion with the community association at its upcoming meeting.

II. Open Discussion

Community members expressed unanimous support for the proposed renaming and thanked Councilmen Carlucci and Gay for seeking community input before moving forward. Mark Middlebrook's son was recognized and given the opportunity to speak. He thanked attendees for their support and reflected on his father's dedication to preserving the area.

III. Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with Councilmen Carlucci and Gay thanking attendees for their participation and encouraging continued community engagement as the proposal moves forward.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00 PM

Meeting Summary Completed by Bethany Bryan, ECA District 2.

NOTICED ON: June 11, 2026, at 11:00 AM, pursuant to 15.103(c), Ordinance Code.

cc:

Council Members and Staff

Jason Teal, Director/Council Secretary

Teresa Eichner, Chief, Public Information Division

Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division

Colleen Hampsey, Chief, Research Division

Bernadette Smith, Chief, Legislative Services

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