

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes - Amended

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

9:30 AM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Al Ferraro, Chair

CM Ju'Coby Pittman, Vice Chair

CM Matt Carlucci

CM Ron Salem, Pharm. D., Alternate

Garrett N. Barket

Robert Birtalan

Lindsey Brock

Matt Brockelman

State Rep. Cord Byrd

Jill D. Haskell

Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.

Steve Swann

Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio

Bobby Baker, Ex-Officio

Jessica Smith, Legislative Assistant

Susan Grandin, Asst. General Counsel

Dr. Quinton White, Jacksonville University

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University

Richard Distel, Research Assistant

Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

RULE 4.505 DISRUPTION OF MEETING No member of the audience shall applaud nor make any noise or remarks that are audible to the Committee that would indicate approval or disapproval of anything being discussed. Any disregard of this rule may result in removal by the Sergeant at Arms.

REQUEST TO SPEAK:

1. Fill out a speaker card.
2. Sign it if you are going to speak.
3. Read the rules on the back of the card.
4. Place card in tray.

PARKING: If you park in the Library Garage (Entry on Duval St, W of Main St), Please see the Legislative Assistant for ticket validation.

Note: Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, November 13, 2019.

Meeting Convened: 9:31 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 12:02 PM

1. Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for September 11, 2019

APPROVE

2. [2019-0712-W](#) RESO Withdrawing from membership in the Northeast Florida Regional Council; Providing written notice of withdrawal in accordance with that Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement which establish the NE FL Regional Council and its membership. (Grandin) (Introduced by CM Ferraro)
 9/24/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, R, JWW(added on 10/8/19)
 9/30/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd and Rerefer
 10/1/2019 R Read 2nd and Rerefer
 10/8/2019 CO Read 2nd and Rerefered;NCSPHS,R,(F,JWW added on 10/8/19)
 10/9/2019 JWW Amend/Approve 4-5 (Pittman, Barket, Brock, Brockelman, Swann)
 10/15/2019 R Withdraw 6-1(Boylan)
 10/22/2019 CODisch;NCSPHS,F Withdrawn 17-1 (Diamond)

Chair Ferraro explained the reasons for the bill which would withdraw the Council's membership in the Northeast Florida Regional Council based on duplicative services. Beth Payne, CEO of the NEFRC, explained the work that the Northeast Florida Regional Council does for the city and that the relationship between NEFRC and the City Council has existed since 1977. Ms. Moehring explained the waterways policy that the NEFRC has done to support the Council and the City's waterways. Mr. Woodard said that the City of Jacksonville is fortunate to have the assets to do the work that the NEFRC does with its own resources. Dr. White cautioned against pulling out of the NEFRC because of the valuable work they have done with the Maritime Management Plan. Chair Ferraro asked Chief Powers if the work done by the NEFRC was a duplication of services that the Fire and Rescue Department already provides. Mr. Powers explained that with the City's budget the Fire and Rescue Department is able to self-sustain, but the Department does use every possible resource which includes the NEFRC.

Mr. Killingsworth echoed the previous speakers that the City is blessed to have enough resources to handle things on their own, but that the City has utilized the help of the NEFRC. Shannon Blankenship, Advocacy Director at St. Johns Riverkeeper, came before the Council to echo the statements which were sent via email from Lisa Rinaman of the Riverkeeper which oppose the withdrawing from the NEFRC. Mr. Nooney said that although positives can be seen coming from the NEFRC, there is a lot of duplication and he supports the legislation to withdraw from the NEFRC.

Speakers:

**Elizabeth Payne, CEO, North East Florida Regional Council
 Margo Moehring, Policy Director, North East Florida Regional Council
 Steven Woodard, Director of Emergency Preparedness Division, Fire & Rescue
 Keith Powers, Chief of Fire Operations, Fire & Rescue
 Bill Killingsworth, Director of Planning & Development, Planning & Development**

Public Comment:

Shannon Blankenship
John Nooney

FAILED

Aye: 4 - Ferraro, Birtalan, Haskell, and Pringle

Nay: 5 - Pittman, Barket, Brockelman, Swann, and Brock

Absent: 1 - Byrd

3. St. Johns River Status Report on Water Quality and Manatees - Dr. White & Dr. Pinto

Dr. White said that water has remained warm at 81 degrees. He highlighted the issues of storm waters to the range of salinity. Dr. Pinto had to leave early, so Dr. White covered the manatee portion with an update that no manatees have died since the last meeting leaving the total at 5 for this year.

4. New Business

Proposal to Rename a Stream in Northern Jacksonville

Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, gave details regarding an email which requests a renaming of a stream in Northern Jacksonville. The National Parks Service is against the renaming. Chair Ferraro said that the Commission will wait until next meeting to look into it and at the current moment the position is, no comment.

5. Old Business

Update: Water Activation Focus Areas - Susan Grandin

Update: Container Under the Dames Point Bridge - Greg Strong/Jim Maher

Update: Process for Removal of Derelict Vessels/Floating Structures - Susan Grandin

Update: Adaptive Kayak Launches – Commissioner Pringle

Water Activation Focus Areas Update: Container Under the Dames Point Bridge

Greg Strong, Director of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Northeast District, detailed the success of removing a trailer in the St. John's River. Mr. Adkison added that it would be great if DEP could work with the port in order to make sure these vessels could not become submerged.

Process for Removal of Derelict Vessels/Floating Structures

Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, talked about the last meeting which was held about derelict vessels with Council Members Ferraro, Pittman, Diamond and DeFoor and Mr. Brockelman and Captain Suber from Waterways as well as Rep. Cord Byrd and Wyman Duggan and Parks and Recreation staff and members of the law enforcement division of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Ms. Grandin found that not just the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has the ability to say something is a derelict vessel versus a floating structure, but the Council does have the power to make that determination through JSO. Ms. Grandin explained that the Council can go through the process to remove the vessel/structure. Ms. Grandin highlighted the dangers of having these vessels/structures in the river. Ms. Grandin made a recommendation to the Chair to form a committee which would look into the process for removing derelict vessels. Chair Ferraro asked who would like to participate in the committee and Mr. Adkison and Mr. Brock indicated that they would.

Adaptive Kayak Launches

Mr. Pringle detailed the recent kayak launch which was built and said that four more are planned to be built next year. A video was played that showed the adaptive kayak launch in action.

6. Public Comment

John Nooney talked about the value of the Artificial Reef Trust Fund. Mr. Nooney gave credit for the work Mr. Pringle did to help create the Adaptive Kayak Launch.

7. Adjourn

Rollcall

Present 10 - Chair Al Ferraro, Vice Chair Ju'Coby Pittman, Council Member Matt Carlucci, Commissioner Garrett Barket, Commissioner Robert Birtalan, Commissioner Matt Brockelman, Commissioner Jill Haskell, Commissioner Raymond Pringle, Commissioner Steve Swann, and Commissioner Lindsey Brock

Absent 1 - Commissioner Cord Byrd

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Assistant
rdistel@coj.net 904-255-5140
Posted November 1, 2019 4:00 p.m.