

City of Jacksonville

*1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 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, December 11, 2019.

Meeting Convened: 9:33 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 11:39 AM

1. Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for October 9, 2019

The minutes were approved from the October 9th meeting.

2. Discussion of Visit Jacksonville - Micheal Corrigan, President & CEO, Visit Jacksonville & Katie Mitura, Vice President, Marketing & Communications, Visit Jacksonville

Michael Corrigan, President & CEO of Visit Jacksonville, described what Visit Jacksonville does as the City's tourism marketing agency. He expressed his interest in Visit Jacksonville having a closer relationship with the Waterways Commission. He detailed the three aspects of Visit Jacksonville. They are the official tourism bureau of the City of Jacksonville operating 3 visitor centers; operate a Convention sales and services division which focuses on finding groups to come to Jacksonville; and marketing for tourism around the country. Katie Mitura, Vice President of Marketing at Visit Jacksonville, went over the website which covered the Waterways and Outdoors section. She emphasized that Visit Jacksonville is contracted to market Jacksonville's water amenities to tourists. Mr. Pringle asked what kind of outreach is done for those with disabilities. Ms. Mitura said that more could be done and Visit Jacksonville would love to work with him to do more outreach. CM Pittman asked about African American tours and Ms. Mitura said that there are some and they have made it a priority to grow that amount. Ms. Mitura said that currently events are less during this time of year, but will pick up during the holiday season.

3. [2019-0773](#) ORD Approp \$1,500,000.00 in Grant Funds from the St. Johns River Water Mgmt. Dist for its participation in the costs of McCoy's Creek Improvemt Proj; Amending the 2020/2024 5 Yr. CIP Apvd. by Ord 2019-505-E to provide funding for the Proj. Entitled "McCoy's Creek Restoration"; Auth Mayor & Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver, for & on behalf of the City, the Cost Share Agreemt btwn the St. Johns River Water Mgmt. Dist & the City; Oversight by the Engineering & Constrn Mgmt Div of the P.W. Dept. (B.T. 19-128)(McCain)(Req of Mayor) (Co-Sponsored by CM Dennis, Ferraro,Carlucci, Newby, R. Gaffney, Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Salem, Pittman, Freeman & Bowman) 10/22/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWW 11/4/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer 11/5/2019 F Read 2nd and Rerefer 11/12/2019 CO PH Read 2nd and Rerefered; NCSPHS, F 11/13/2019 JWW Approve 7-0 11/18/2019 NCSPHS Approve 4-0 11/19/2019 F Approve 7-0 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 -11/12/19

APPROVE

Robin Smith, Public Works, detailed what this bill will do and how this grant will help to reestablish McCoy's Creek. John Nooney expressed his support of the legislation during the public comment period. Mr. Brockelman asked if this appropriation was additional funding from what was already in the CIP. Mr. Smith clarified that the \$1.5 million is additional funding.

Speaker:

Robin Smith - Chief of Engineering Construction Management, Public Works

Public Comment:

John Nooney

Aye: 7 - Ferraro, Pittman, Birtalan, Brock, Brockelman, Pringle, and Swann

Excused: 4 - Carlucci, Barket, Byrd, and Haskell

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

Dr. White talked about the drastic drop in temperature from the 80s to the 40s as a good example of climate change and the large fluctuations that can occur. The City of Jacksonville is in a drought and that could create concerns about fires. There have been foaming incidents at in the St. John's River Memorial Park and in Little Fishweir Creek which have been puzzling.

Dr. Pinto said that most of the manatees have left the area due to the cold weather and there have been no new deaths, leaving the total at 5 for the year.

5. New Business

Discussion of the Ft. George Inlet and River - Commissioner Swann

Discussion of the FIND Subcommittee

Speakers:

Brian Barket, Waterfront Project Manager (Parks, Rec & Comm Services)

Daryl Joseph, Director (Parks, Rec & Comm Services)

Discussion of Jacksonville Docks/Park Updates

Speakers:

Robert Skalitzky, Chief of Natural & Marine Resources (Parks, Rec & Comm Services)

Brian Barket, Waterfront Project Manager (Parks, Rec & Comm Services)

Daryl Joseph, Director (Parks, Rec & Comm Services)

Ft. George Inlet and River:

Mr. Swann detailed the issues on the Ft. George River in regards to the river eventually filling in with sand which will close up the area and make it impossible to reach by boat. During high tide more sand is coming in then going out so over time the river is becoming filled in, and over time if no action is taken it will become fully filled in. If the inlet closes up there will be many ecological changes and if the inlet closes up the State will take over Huguenot Park as a part of Talbot Island State Park. Mr. Adkison stressed the need to take action. Mr. Swan explained that he will be rotating off of the Waterways Commission at the end of the year, but would be happy to continue to assist on these issues in an advisory role. Dr. White said the biggest unknown will be what kind of damage will occur when a hurricane makes impact.

FIND Subcommittee:

Brian Burket, Parks Department, talked about the grant projects that are upcoming. In the FIND Subcommittee the Park's Department staff will give their recommendations based on what is already planned. Mr. Adkison emphasized the importance of funding these projects. Daryl Joseph, Parks Department, explained that \$250,000 is the approximate amount which is spent yearly on improvements and repairs to the docks. Mr. Joseph detailed the broader picture of the Parks Department budget and said they go into the year with \$3,000,000 to focus on Countywide projects.

Jacksonville Docks/Park Updates:

Bob Skalitzky and Brian Burket, Parks Department, went over slides that cover dock damage and needed repairs around the County. CM Ferarro, Mr. Swann, Mr. Adkison, Mr. Birtalan and Mr. Pringle all congratulated the Parks Department on their great work and stated their excitement for great things in 2020.

6. Old Business

Update: Water Activation Focus Areas - Council Member Ferraro, Chair

Update: Shad Creek Speed Zone signs – Robert Skalitzky, Chief of Natural & Marine Resources (Parks, Rec & Comm Services)

Update: Derelict Vessel/Floating Structure Committee – Commissioner Brock

Shad Creek Speed Zone signs:

Mr. Skalitzky updated the Commission on the Shad Creek Speed Zone. They have reached out to the dock maintenance contractor and they will do the permitting and installation. The expectation is the cost will be below what is available in the budget.

Derelict Vessel/Floating Structure Committee:

Mr. Brock reviewed the handouts which cover the work done at the meeting focused on derelict vessels/floating structures. The subcommittee found that the area which could be immediately impacted without having to worry about State and Federal coordination is the floating structure. This allows the City to go in and regulate based on the current definition. The subcommittee was looking at adopting models from other municipalities to make floating structures defined under the Building Code, regulate what they can pump out into the waterways, and require that they can only be permitted in licensed marinas. Ms. Grandin emphasized that the funding portion is key in order to follow through with enforcement. Capt. Suber talked about the removal process.

7. Public Comment:
John Nooney

John Nooney made a donation to the artificial reef trust fund. Mr. Nooney said that any CRA in Duval County should have a waterway component.

8. Adjourn

NOTE: 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.

Rollcall

Present	8 -	Chair Al Ferraro, Vice Chair Ju'Coby Pittman, Commissioner Robert Birtalan, Commissioner Lindsey Brock, Commissioner Matt Brockelman, Commissioner Cord Byrd, Commissioner Raymond Pringle, and Commissioner Steve Swann
Excused	3 -	Council Member Matt Carlucci, Commissioner Garrett Barket, and Commissioner Jill Haskell

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Assistant
rdistel@coj.net 904-255-5140
Posted November 26, 2019 4:00 p.m.