

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

9:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Al Ferraro, Chair

CM Ju'Coby Pittman, Vice Chair

CM Matt Carlucci - Excused Absence

CM Ron Salem, Pharm. D., Alternate

Garrett N. Barket - Excused Absence

Robert Birtalan

Lindsey Brock - Excused Early Departure

Matt Brockelman

Lane Burnett

Mark Devereaux

State Rep. Cord Byrd

Jill D. Haskell - Excused Absence

Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.

Marc Hardesty

Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio

Adam Hoyles, 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.

This was Roll Call.

Note: Our next scheduled meeting is TBD Due to Summer Break

Meeting Convened: 9:36 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 12:03 PM

1. Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for March 11, 2020

Vote: Approve 10-0

Minutes were approved from the previous Waterways meeting.

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

Dr. White said we have gone from a drought to the last 9-10 days there has been a lot of rain and now the salinity has dropped. There has been overflow which has caused water quality issues. The issues of water runoff near Roosevelt Mall have been fixed. COVID-19 has slowed down most research and the campus at Jacksonville University which has been slowed down until August 3rd when students can return to campus. Jacksonville University has been working with the City on a boater compliance study in terms of manatee protection zones.

Dr. Pinto talked about being able to fly over the river where he saw 39 manatees in the City of Jacksonville. This is fewer manatees than normal, most likely due to the lack of food available. There have been 4 manatee deaths this year and no deaths since the last meeting.

3. [2020-0265-E](#) ORD Amend Ord 2014-700-E, Which Estab Millers Creek Special District (The "District") to Include Addtn'l Lots within Dist Boundary Created After Dist was Estab; Providing Retroactive Applicability; Providing Amended Boundaries of Dist; Providing All Other Provisions of Ord 2014-700-E Remain Unchanged. (Johnston) (Introduced by CM Cumber)
5/26/20 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, JWW
6/1/20 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/9/20 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefered;NCSPHS,JWW
6/15/20 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0
6/17/20 JWW Amend/Approve 10-0
6/23/20 CO Amend/Approved 19-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 6/9/20

Speakers:

Paige Johnston,
Office of General
Council

Deb Bates

Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel, gave an overview of the bill. The bill will allow a dredging assessment to be put on the property. This Ordinance would become the Special District's Charter. This will allow for an additional subdivided lot.

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 10 - Ferraro, Pittman, Birtalan, Brock, Brockelman, Byrd, Pringle, Burnett, Devereaux, and Hardesty

Absent: 3 - Carlucci, Barket, and Haskell

4. [2020-0267-E](#) ORD Amend Ord 2010-725-E, as Amended by Ord 2015-233-E, by Amending the Boundary & Stated Purpose of Dist; Providing Retroactive Applicability; Providing All Other Aspects of Ord 2010-725-E Remain Unchanged. (Johnston) (Introduced by CM Ferraro)
5/26/20 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, TEU, JWW
6/1/20 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/1/20 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/9/20 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefered;NCSPHS,TEU,JWW
6/15/20 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0
6/15/20 TEU Amend/Approve 7-0
6/17/20 JWW Amend/Approve 7-0-3 (Ferraro, Birtalan, Brock-Abstain)
6/23/20 CO Amend/Approved 19-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 6/9/20

Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel, gave an overview of the bill. The Special District is expanding the boundary to include additional parcels. Commissioner Birtalan abstained because he is a home owner in the Special District. Stanley Pipes explained that all the parcels are marsh land and this is about environmental protection of the land. Commissioner Brock abstained because he is a home owner in the Special District. CM Ferraro abstained because he is a home owner in the Special District.

AMEND/APPROVE

- Aye:** 7 - Pittman, Brockelman, Byrd, Pringle, Burnett, Devereaux, and Hardesty
- Absent:** 3 - Carlucci, Barket, and Haskell
- Abstain:** 3 - Ferraro, Birtalan, and Brock

5. New Business:

- Discussion on the King Fish Tournament - Jim Suber
- Discussion of Private Marinas – JSO Marine Unit/Susan Grandin
- Dredge Spoil Site Schedule - Mark Crosley

King Fish Tournament – Jim Suber

Captain Suber said that on the 13th to 18th of July the King Fish Tournament will go on as planned. The Junior Angler contest will also go on, but the dock portion will be canceled though they hope to be rescheduled for later in the year. The fishing tournament for children with down syndrome will be postponed to September. Commissioner Birtalan asked if other students with special needs are able to compete. Captain Suber said it is open to any child that wants to fish. Commissioner Hardesty highlighted a different fishing tournament; the 3rd Annual Snapper Slapper. Commissioner Devereaux brought up Heroes on the Harbor and highlighted great work being done in the community. Commissioner Pringle stressed the importance of funding for projects that support the ability for disabled persons to be able to fish.

Discussion of Private Marinas – JSO Marine Unit/Susan Grandin

Susan Grandin, Office off General Counsel gave an overview of the issues at the marinas. She said that they are looking to see if the Compliance Division could go out and site these marinas for lack of accessibility. The goal is to bring the marinas into compliance. Ex-Officio Adkison stressed that this is safety concern that could lead to someone's death. Chair Ferraro said he would like to work with Ms. Grandin on these issues. Commissioner Devereaux said that there are statutes already on the books that can help with the actions needed to be taken on this subject. Ms. Grandin said that a committee could be formerly created. Commissioner Devereaux said this could be added to the derelict vessels committee.

Dredge Spoil Site Schedule - Mark Crosley

Mr. Crosley gave an update on the sites and the illegal access. Mr. Crosley said that the urbanization of the areas can be a problem as well as illegal dumping.

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6. Old Business:

- Discussion of the Ft. George Inlet - Jason Harrah 10:00 AM
- Discussion of Discussion of the Derelict Vessel/Floating Structures Committee - Commissioner Lindsey Brock/Susan Grandin
- Discussion of Boaters Skip Day – Commissioner Jill Haskell
- Discussion of Dock/Ramps – Brian Burket
- Discussion of Update on Shad Creek - Susan Grandin

Discussion of the Ft. George Inlet - Jason Harrah 10:00 AM

Mr. Harrah gave an update of the feasibility study. There is a review happening in the DC Office and in a couple weeks it will be sent down here to then work on a 12-18 month study which is aimed at the goal of helping to slow and stop the erosion. The goal is to get the agreement done in about a month.

Discussion of Discussion of the Derelict Vessel/Floating Structures Committee - Commissioner Lindsey Brock/Susan Grandin

Commissioner Brock said they have been working on draft legislation for floating structures and have included derelict vessels and need to set up a new meeting for the committee to look at the future legislation. Mr. Adkison, Ex-Officio, asked if the committee would have to meet on zoom.

Discussion of Dock/Ramps – Brian Burket

Mr. Burket went over his presentation which gave an update on the docks and parks. He said that projects in the que have been slowed down due to COVID-19. Southbank Riverwalk Adaptive Kayak Launch has been completed and has been successful. The waterways have rough waters and although adaptive it is not for new boaters. Mr. Adkison asked about maintenance and spraying down so salt does not deteriorate the launch.

Adaptive Kayak Launch in Bethesda Park is open and available to the public.

Ribault River channel markers were put in through CID money. There are 13 in the river. No need for a dredge and just used to help people find the channels. This project is completed.

Shad Creek slow speed markers have been implemented based on the Ordinance.

Alimacani Boat Ramp: Shoreline Stabilization. The shore was eroding and going into the park and protects the dock structure. That was finished in the spring.

Friendship Fountain Dock is under construction where they look to extend the dock. The permits have been approved and this summer they will start to dredge the area so that the new docks can be implemented and fully functional.

Chair Ferraro asked how many wheelchairs can fit on the docks. Mr. Burket said that

usually one person is brought to the dock at the time, so that it is not overcrowded. Chair Ferraro also asked about securing chairs at the docks so they are not stolen.

Discussion of Update on Shad Creek - Susan Grandin

Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, gave an overview of the history. Detailing that last year in June the Commission had a Resolution about putting signage for slowing boats along Shad Creek. This was only an advisory bill at Waterways. The bill was changed from 800 to 300 feet from Shad Creek through a Substitute since that is the length that the City of Jacksonville is legally authorized to do. NCSPHS adopted the Substitute. Increased amount from \$10,000 to \$30,000 and then was passed by the full City Council. The signs were put in and it was less than \$30,000. It would be FWC's decision to expand the signage. Ms. Grandin went over the email she sent out that details the steps needed for this to be changed and to create a boater speed zone. The only thing that can get a boater speed zone is public safety. Chair Ferraro talked about the safety of the area and said he will be meeting with the community about this issue on Saturday. He said that 300 feet is not enough. Rep. Cord Byrd said that he wants to be helpful for the citizens in his district and that has been difficult because it needs federal, state and local coordination. Rep. Byrd said he will do anything he can do on the State level. Mr. Adkison said that the current in that area is a big safety issue. Captain Suber stressed the need to follow up when the next session begins in July.

7. Public Comment

Andrew Tully talked about the Shad Creek issue. He went over Susan Grandin's email that outlines the reasons. He said that the 320 subsections were cherry picked by the City. Chair Ferraro said he is looking forward to working to fix this problem and have a more detailed discussion on Saturday.

8. Adjournment

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	10 -	Chair Al Ferraro, Vice Chair Ju'Coby Pittman, Commissioner Robert Birtalan, Commissioner Lindsey Brock, Commissioner Matt Brockelman, Commissioner Cord Byrd, Commissioner Raymond Pringle, Commissioner Lane Burnett, Commissioner Mark Devereaux, and Commissioner Marc Hardesty
Absent	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 July 13, 2020 1:00 p.m.