

City of Jacksonville

117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202



Meeting Minutes

Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Subcommittee Meeting

Friday, October 18, 2024

2:00 PM

Lynwood Roberts Room,
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

Representative Kiyon Michael

Mark Devereaux

Andrew Fraden

Marc Hardesty

Richard Hartley

Richard J. Redick

Jill Haskell - General Public Rep

Jack Meeks, Ex-Officio

Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

Rebecca Bolton, Legislative Assistant

Shannon MacGillis, Office of General Counsel

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University

Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator

Meeting convened: 2:01 pm

Meeting adjourned: 3:18 pm

Attendance: Commissioner Jon Barker; Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator; Adam Hoyles, JWC ex-officio; Brian Burket, Parks Department

Also: Shannon MacGillis, OGC; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

1. Call To Order

Commissioner Barker convened the meeting and called for introductions.

2. Review of Potential 2025 FIND Projects

Brian Burket, Parks Department, explained the FIND grant process, the stages of design and construction, how projects are reimbursed after completion, and the timeline wherein applications are due in March and awards are decided in October. Mr. Burket talked about the 2023-24 FIND projects, the Liberty Street Marina halfway through the design phase with CIP funding for construction, the Pottsburg Creek Boat Ramp in the permitting phase, the Mike McCue Boat Ramp and Bulkhead which is fully funded, the Oak Harbor Boat Ramp where construction is about to begin closing the amenity for 9 months, and the Tom's Creek Adaptive Kayak Launch that has the design phase complete and CIP funding for the construction phase.

Mr. Burket discussed the 2025 staff recommended projects, with an anticipated FIND funding cap of \$2.3 million:

- 1. Pottsburg Creek Boat Ramp is in a deteriorated state and the facility needs bulkhead replacement and improvements to the ramp, dock and parking lot. The total project cost will be roughly \$4.4 million, with \$2 million covered through FIND grant funds if awarded.**
- 2. Seiden Park is located off Heckscher Drive, undeveloped land donated to the City for park usage. The plan is to develop the parcel into a passive waterfront park with a kayak launch and walking trail. The total project cost will be roughly \$550,000, with \$250,000 covered through FIND grant funds if awarded.**
- 3. Hopkins Creek Kayak Launch with a parking lot in Neptune Beach, in conjunction with a separate road improvement project off Forest Avenue. The FIND portion of the project will be roughly \$100,000 if awarded.**

3. Prioritize and Rank Projects

The group discussed the proposed projects. They said that the Pottsburg Creek project is critical due to the degraded conditions and visibility from Beach Blvd. They said that Seiden Park would provide public access in an area with limited access currently. The group talked about the Hopkins reek project and Mr. Burket emphasized the importance of supporting the Beaches communities.

Commissioner Barker asked if the Parks Department has a paddling map for kayaking areas and points of interest. Mr. Burket said there is a paddling guide, printed on waterproof paper, distributed for free at several locations in the city, and updated periodically as needed.

The group talked about the alternative projects list to identify any that they may want to substitute for the any of the staff recommended projects. Mr. Burket explained the pros and cons for each one. He said some have structural concerns, limited parking and high costs making them not ideal projects at this time. They talked about property acquisition, for which 25 percent may be reimbursed through FIND grant funds. No one in the group thought any of the staff recommended projects should be replaced by one of the alternatives.

As Commissioner Barker was the only JWC voting member in attendance, he said that he will recommend the Pottsburg Creek, Seiden Park and Hopkins Creek projects to the full Waterways Commission at the next meeting.

4. Public Comment

Mr. Nooney talked about public access to the waterways, the Tree fund and citrus trees.

5. Adjournment

With no further business, Commissioner Barker adjourned the meeting.

Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151
Posted: 10.23.24 5:00 pm