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**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION URBAN SERVICES DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
NOTICED MEETING MINUTES
Don Davis Room, 1st floor, City Hall**

**November 1, 2019
9:00 a.m.**

In attendance: Commissioners Ann-Marie Knight (Chair), Charles Griggs, Frank Denton, Celestine Mills (via telephone)

Also: Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Jeff Clements and Anthony Baltiero – Council Research Division; Jessica Matthews and Jessica Smith – Legislative Services Division; Steve Cassada and William Coffee – Council Support Services

Meeting Convened: 9:05 a.m.

Call to Order and Introductions – Chairwoman Knight called the meeting to order and had the subcommittee members introduce themselves.

Subcommittee Discussion – Chairmen Knight started a brief discussion about the charge of the subcommittee and the plans and procedures for the initial subcommittee meetings. Chairwoman Knight went over the agenda and discussed the different topics including the proposed plan timeline which includes gather historical facts, assess current state, understand/define opportunities, and summarize proposal. Commissioners Griggs and Denton showed support for the proposed plan and asked about the deadline to complete their work. Jessica Matthews of Legislative Services provided an update from CRC Chair Brock about his desire for the subcommittees to provide monthly reports of their progress during the full CRC meetings. A date for the completed recommendation proposal has not yet been determined. The discussion continued to note the subcommittee members' thoughts on the scope of their mission. They discussed identifying the pockets of poverty within the City and the creation of an urban core investment authority type of group.

Chairman Knight went over multiple handouts that were provided to the subcommittee by the Council Research Division to show some of the history of consolidation as it is written in policy. Jeff Clements, Chief of Research, provided clarification of the handouts. The subcommittee had a discussion about the documents and historical implications of the provided data. The discussion touched on multiples topics including septic tanks, tax levies, the setup of the original Urban Services District, and unintended consequences from consolidation.

Mr. Griggs continued the conversation talking about different indicators that lead to poverty or determine an impoverished area including race, health, transportation, education, crime, and others. The group discussed the possibility of creating a map to showcase how things looked before consolidation and how they look currently. Mr. Griggs talked about the possible structure of an urban core investment authority including the inclusion of multiple projects under a single umbrella. Mr. Griggs provided the examples of Durkeeville and the Laura Street Trio as possible projects under an urban core umbrella.

Chairwoman Knight shifted the conversation to focus on data that the subcommittee will need to make its recommendation. The subcommittee discussed multiple topics and provided a list of topics that they would like more data on, including current poverty efforts in the urban core; poverty indicators; historical data including policies; health disparities in Jacksonville and more. The Council Research Division will conduct the research on these topics and provide the data at the next meeting. Chairwoman Knight provided information about the UF Health program, Urban Health Alliance and how it can be helpful to the subcommittee's task.

Jessica Matthews provided an update from CRC Chair Brock stating that he expects the final recommendations from subcommittees to be presented by the February 28th full CRC meeting.

Mr. Griggs discussed the precedent of local and federal policies that have kept communities essentially segregated or ghettoized. The subcommittee had a discussion around this issue and requested the Council Research Division to provide more historical information about policies that have impacted Jacksonville in a way that has kept the city not fully integrated. The discussion shifted to previous speakers that presented during the full CRC meetings. The subcommittee asked the Council Research Division to compile a summary of any previous speakers that have referenced the creation of an urban core investment authority from the meeting transcripts.

Ms. Mills noted that she was having difficulties hearing and understanding what was being said during the meeting. Chairwoman Knight adjusted the microphone and provided her with a brief synopsis of the meeting thus far.

The group had a discussion about the timing of the process and agreed that dedicating a month to each of the four topics in the proposed plan would be sufficient. They continued to discuss the City's budget from previous years and how that information could show where financial disparities stem from within the urban core. They discussed possible speakers to come and present, including Chris Hand, Alton Yates, and Warren Jones who could speak to the previous City budgets.

Jeff Clements provided a brief synopsis of the various handouts that were given out at the start of the meeting. Mr. Clements noted their significance to the subcommittee, their sources, and the rationale behind providing the various datasets. The group discussed the data and asked questions for clarification. The data included previous budgets, previous City policies, Blueprint for Improvement I & II; original 1968 Charter, revised 68 Charter, and the current 2019 Charter; and the Water and Sewer Infrastructure Task Force Report. The following discussion included topics about septic tanks, impact fees, and other aspects relating to the provided research.

Other Business – Chairwoman Knight opened the floor to other business. Mr. Griggs noted that a financial component should be included in any final recommendation for an urban core investment authority. The group concluded Other Business by discussing scheduling and the timing of future subcommittee meetings and potential speakers. Jessica Matthews noted that the CRC subcommittees are going to be scheduled on Thursdays or Fridays due to other City Council and staffing needs, and that she will attempt to schedule the requested guest speakers.

Public Comment (as time permits) – Chairwoman Knight opened the floor to public comments.

- Victoria Mobley: Ms. Mobley thanked the group for their efforts and noted that she has a strong desire to be involved in a charter school.
- John Nooney: Mr. Nooney talked about having CRAs providing mandatory access to Jacksonville waterways. Additionally, Mr. Nooney shared his displeasure with the subcommittee not including the Pledge of Allegiance in the meeting and the lack of a court reporter at subcommittee meetings.

Chairwoman Knight adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 10:47 AM

Minutes: Anthony James Baltiero, Council Research Division
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