

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

9:30 AM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall & Virtual

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Al Ferraro, Chair

CM Randy White, Vice Chair

CM Aaron Bowman, Excused

CM Terrance Freeman, Alternate

Jon Michael Barker

Robert Birtalan

Lindsey Brock, Excused

Lane Burnett

State Rep. Cord Byrd, Excused

Mark Devereaux

Marc Hardesty, Excused

Jill D. Haskell

Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.

Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio

Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio, Virtual Attendance

Vonya Balogh & Jessica Smith, Legislative Assistants

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.

MEETING TIME: 9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Physical Location: Council Chambers

City Hall

117 W. Duval Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

(If attending virtually, please join the meeting by 9:15 A.M.)

Meeting ID: 970 3931 6611

Meeting Password: 009730

Council Members, City staff and the public may attend the meeting at the physical location-Council Chambers, but CDC guidelines will be adhered to due to COVID-19. A mandatory mask requirement is in place for all public buildings pursuant to the COJ Emergency Executive Proclamation 2020-005, as extended. The public will be encouraged to share general comments with individual council members by email or telephone. Public hearings and public participation are required by state statute for specific legislation. We will conduct these hearings as required by state law. CCMeeting02092021@coj.net is the designated email for general comments to be including as a part of this meeting.

Present 8 - Commissioner Robert Birtalan, Commissioner Jill Haskell,
Commissioner Raymond Pringle, Commissioner Lane Burnett,
Commissioner Mark Devereaux, Chair Al Ferraro, Vice Chair Randy
White, and Commissioner Jon Michael Barker

Excused 4 - Commissioner Lindsey Brock, Commissioner Cord Byrd,
Commissioner Marc Hardesty, and Council Member Aaron Bowman

Meeting Convened: 9:33 A.M. Meeting Adjourned: 12:16 P.M.

Attendance:

1. Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for January 13, 2021.

The commission voted to approve the minutes from January 13, 2021.

2. Approval - Wake Zone Committee of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for January 22, 2021.
 - Report on Slow Speed Zones - Jill Haskell

The minutes were approved for the Wake Zone Committee meeting from January 22nd. Jill Haskell gave an update on the most recent Wake Zone Subcommittee. Ms. Haskell said that the places where a minimum wake zone signs would be most needed are the Ortega River and Ft. George Inlet.

Marshall Adkison asked if there were wake zone signs needed around bridges. Ms. Haskell said that there are already signs around most bridges. Captain Suber clarified that most, but not all bridge locations are under slow speed zones. Mr. Adkison said that signage is needed around Clapboard Creek. Ray Pringle asked why there have been so many accidents in the Ft. George Inlet area. Captain Suber said it is due to congestion and the use of alcohol. Lane Burnett said he needed to withdraw his name as a member from the Wake Zone Committee for personal reasons.

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

Dr. White said that the water temperature has been much colder, under 60 degrees. There have been higher tides with significant rainfall and high salinity.

Dr. Pinto said there has been one recorded manatee death this year and one death is currently being processed. Both were due to cold stress. One manatee was recently saved.

4. [2021-0053](#) ORD Approp \$74,993.00 in Fund Balance from the Environmental Protection Fund to Fund the Developmnt of a Water Quality Module for Inclusion in a Hydrodynamic Modeling Prog. Created by the University of North Florida (“UNF”), Providing for Carryover of Funds Through 9/30/22; Invoking the Exception of Sec 126.107(G) (Exemptions), Chapt 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code, to Direct Contract w/UNF for Developmnt of the Water Quality Module; Apv & Auth the Mayor, or His Designee, & the Corp Secretary to Execute & Deliver that Certain Research/Academic Svcs. Agreeemnt btwn COJ & the UNF Board of Trustees; City Oversight by the Neighborhoods Dept., Environmental Quality Div; Requiring a Final Report (B.T. 21-028) (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor) (Co-Sponsored by CM Ferraro)
1/26/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, TEU, F, R, JWC
2/1/21 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
2/1/21 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
2/2/21 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
2/2/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
2/9/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred: NCSPHS, TEU, F, R, JWC
2/10/21 JWC Approve 8-0
2/16/21 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0
2/16/21 TEU Amend(NCSPHS)/Approve 7-0
2/17/21 F Amend(NCSPHS)/Approve 5-0
2/17/21 R Amend(NCSPHS)/Approve 6-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 2/9/21

James Richardson, Environmental Protection Board, explained the bill which appropriates money from the trust fund to use a hydrodynamic modeling program to identify water quality.

John Nooney read the bill and asked about the remaining fund balance. Stanley Scott voiced concerns about the Ribault River.

APPROVE

Aye: 8 - Birtalan, Haskell, Pringle, Burnett, Devereaux, Ferraro, White, and Barker

Excused: 4 - Brock, Byrd, Hardesty, and Bowman

5. New Business:

- Update from Visit Jacksonville – Michael Corrigan
- Future of Water Taxi Routes – Heather Surface
- Sandbar Dredging – Commissioner Mark Devereaux
- Boat Ramp Updates – 8505 Beach Blvd – Brian Burket/Jill Enz

Update from Visit Jacksonville

Katie Mitura, Director of Marketing Visit Jacksonville, spoke about the added accessibility updates to the brochures for the 7 Creeks Recreation Area. Ms. Mitura said that tourism has been down due to COVID-19 but has not hit Jacksonville as hard as other areas of Florida in terms of hotel vacancies.

Future of Water Taxi Routes

Heather Surface, St. John’s River Taxi, showed images of docks along the St. John’s River which showed the routes that the taxis use to bring people around Jacksonville. Ms. Surface talked about the impact COVID-19 has had on their ability to transport large groups in the water taxis.

Sandbar Dredging

Mark Devereaux went over the hands-on work he has done to detail the sandbar that has been created by dredging. Mr. Devereaux presented PowerPoint slides which showed the depths of the water currently, and historically going back to 2014. He noted that in the area it is sand and not mud which is new for the area. The impact that Mr. Devereaux noticed in the sandbar has happened in the last year. Mr. Devereaux said he would be able to bring in residents and boat owners that could testify that this sandbar is a new impact to the area. Chair Ferraro said that they will continue this discussion at next month’s meeting. Captain Suber said he would follow up with FWC for possible emergency markings to be used for the area.

Boat Ramp Updates – 8505 Beach Blvd

Jill Enz gave an update on the boat ramp at 8505 Beach Boulevard. The report process has been finished.

Resolution “communications media technology” (CMT)

The Commission discussed the communications media technology resolution which, if passed, would allow for voting to be done over Zoom. Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, explained the resolution which would allow for voting via Zoom for the City’s Boards and Commissions. This would allow for voting virtually if seven members of the

Waterways Commission are physically present in the chambers for the vote. Ms. Grandin gave a historical background of the commission. Mr. Adkison suggested adding death in family or once in a lifetime event be added as an “extraordinary circumstance”. Mr. Pringle suggested adding family circumstance. The agreed upon term to add to the extraordinary circumstance was, “extraordinary family event or mandatory business obligation”.

The Commission voted 8-0 to approve the resolution to be sent to the City Council from the Jacksonville Waterways Commission.

6. Old Business:

- Storm Water Discharge in the St. Johns River – Jim Maher
- Derelict Vessels/Floating Structure Removal – Brian Mosier
- Update on Shad Creek – Brian Burket/Jill Enz

Storm Water Discharge in the St. Johns River

Jim Maher was not available, and this topic was skipped for next meeting.

Derelict Vessels/Floating Structure Removal

Brian Mosier was not available, and this topic was skipped for next meeting.

Updated on Shad Creek

Brian Burket, Parks Department, gave an update on the request for the extension of the slow speed zone at Shad Creek. Mr. Burket said there have been discussions with contracting staff about the scope of the project and the justification for implementation moving forward.

7. Public Comment

John Nooney talked about FIND grants and the importance of Launch J. Stanley Scott said that more education is needed regarding the waterways for the youth.

8. Adjournment

Note: Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

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 - Commissioner Robert Birtalan, Commissioner Jill Haskell, Commissioner Raymond Pringle, Commissioner Lane Burnett, Commissioner Mark Devereaux, Chair Al Ferraro, Vice Chair Randy White, and Commissioner Jon Michael Barker
- Excused** 4 - Commissioner Lindsey Brock, Commissioner Cord Byrd, Commissioner Marc Hardesty, and Council Member Aaron Bowman

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research

RDistel@coj.net 904.255.5140

Posted: 2.19.2021 5:00 pm