

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 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
CM Terrance Freeman, Alternate
Jon Michael Barker
Robert Birtalan
Lindsey Brock
Lane Burnett
State Rep. Cord Byrd
Mark Devereaux
Andrew Fraden
Marc Hardesty
Jill D. Haskell
Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.
Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio
Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

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

Absent 2 - Commissioner Cord Byrd, and Commissioner Jon Michael Barker

Meeting Convened: 9:33 A.M. Meeting Adjourned: 12:13 P.M.

Attendance:

1. Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for March 10, 2021.

APPROVE 9-0

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

Dr. White said that the water temperature is warming up which is good for manatees and the water levels are high. There have been no reports of algae blooms and no red tide in the area. Dr. White talked about the dam that was breaching in Tampa and talked about how that situation has been handled. Dr. White said there will be a big problem this summer in that area due to all the nutrients that have dumped in the area. Dr. White talked about a barge which was carrying coal ash from Puerto Rico that is still currently stuck out in the water due to a sandbar. The coal ash aboard was ultimately headed to a landfill in Southeast Georgia. Dr. White talked about the potential environmental impacts.

Dr. Pinto said that there have been 11 manatee deaths this year and none of these deaths were from vehicles.

New Business:

3. Contact: Ed Lukacovic
2020-0680 ORD Transmitting a Proposed Large Scale Revision to FLUM of 2030 Comp Plan at 0, 14370, 14380 & 14410 Normandy Blvd, btwn Normandy Blvd & Manning Cemetery Rd (103.85± Acres) - AGR-III & AGR-IV to LDR & RR – Wilbur C. Bell, Donna F. Bell, Pamela D. Burch-Dyer, Geoffrey P. Dyer & Rory E. Vilett (Appl# L-5482-20A) (Dist 12-White) (McDaniel) (LUZ)
11/24/20 CO Introduced: LUZ
12/1/20 LUZ Read 2nd & Rerefer
12/8/20 CO PH Addn'l PH 1/12/21/Read 2nd & Rereferred: LUZ
1/12/21 CO PH Cont'd 1/26/21
1/26/21 CO PH Cont'd 2/9/21
2/9/21 CO PH Cont'd 2/23/21
2/23/21 CO PH Cont'd 3/9/21
3/2/21 LUZ PH Sub/Rerefer 4-0
3/9/21 CO PH Sub/Rereferred: LUZ 16-0
LUZ PH – 1/5/21, 1/20/21, 2/2/21, 2/17/21, 3/2/21 & 4/20/21
Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 163.3184(3), F.S. & Chapt 650, Pt 4, Ord Code – 12/8/20 & 1/12/21, 1/26/21, 2/9/21, 2/23/21, 3/9/21 & 4/13/21 & 4/27/21

Ed Lukacovic, Planning Department, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the timeline of the legislation and the proposed large scale revision.

Mr. Burnett, Mr. Devereaux, Mr. Pringle, Ms. Haskell, Chair Ferraro, CM White, CM Bowman, Mr. Fraden, Mr. Brock and Mr. Birtalan voted yes.

APPROVE 10-0

4. Contact: Brian Burket
2021-205 ORD Approp \$2,260,000.00 in Previously Approp Matching Grant Funds by Reallocating \$1,410,000.00 Approp in Ord 2020-504-E for Three Unsuccessful 2020 Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") Grant Project Applications to Fully Fund Construction of the Jax Zoo Dock Project & Reallocating \$850,000.00 in Unexpended Matching Grant Funds Approp in Ord 2019-504-E for 2 2019 FIND Grant Construction Projects That Will be Completed Under Budget to Fully Fund Construction of the Riverfront Park Fishing Platform Project; Purpose of Approp; Amending the 2021-2025 5 Yr CIP Apvd by Ord 2020-505-E to Fully Fund Construction of the Jax Zoo Dock & the Riverfront Park Fishing Projects; Providing for City Oversight by the Dept of Parks, Recreation & Community Svcs; Reporting Requirements. (B.T. 21-061) (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
4/13/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWC
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 4/27/21

Jill Enz, Chief of Natural and Marine Resources, explained the legislation which would reallocate funding from last year since the projects were not funded and use it for this year. The additional funding would be allocated to the projects that did not receive FIND funds. Mr. Devereaux asked when these projects will be completed. Ms. Enz said that they have to go out to bid and then once the contractor is chosen they can move forward and it is estimated it would take about a year. CM Bowman said he will look into why the projects were rejected by the FIND Commission. John Nooney read the bill and talked about the importance of the FIND projects.

Mr. Burnett, Mr. Devereaux, Mr. Pringle, Ms. Haskell, Chair Ferraro, CM White, CM Bowman, Mr. Fraden, Mr. Brock and Mr. Birtalan voted yes.

APPROVE 10-0

5. Contact: Paige Johnston
2021-0206 ORD Apv the Millers Creek Dependent Special District Proposed FY 21-22 Budget, per Ord 2014-700-E & Sec 189.02, F.S. (Johnston) (Introduced by CP Hazouri, Per Ord 2014-700-E)
4/13/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWC
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 4/27/21

Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel, explained the 4 ordinances which will allow the special districts to change their charters provided their budget is reviewed by the City Council.

Mr. Burnett, Mr. Devereaux, Mr. Pringle, Ms. Haskell, Chair Ferraro, CM White, CM Bowman, and Mr. Fraden voted yes, and Mr. Brock and Mr. Birtalan abstained due to conflict.

APPROVE 8-0-2 (Birtalan & Brock)

6. Contact: Paige Johnston
2021-0207 ORD Apv the Tarpon Cove Dependent Special District Proposed FY 21-22 Budget, per Ord 2017-154-E & Sec 189.02, F.S. (Johnston) (Introduced by CP Hazouri, Per Ord 2017-154-E)
4/13/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWC
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 4/27/21

Mr. Burnett, Mr. Devereaux, Mr. Pringle, Ms. Haskell, Chair Ferraro, CM White, CM Bowman, and Mr. Fraden voted yes, and Mr. Brock and Mr. Birtalan abstained due to conflict.

APPROVE 8-0-2 (Birtalan & Brock)

7. Contact: Paige Johnston
2021-0208 ORD Apv the Isle of Palms Dependent Special District Proposed FY 21-22, Per Ord 2011-724-E & Sec 189.02 , F.S. (Johnston) (Introduced by CP Hazouri, Per Ord 2011-724-E)
4/13/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWC
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 4/27/21

Mr. Burnett, Mr. Devereaux, Mr. Pringle, Ms. Haskell, Chair Ferraro, CM White, CM Bowman, and Mr. Fraden voted yes, and Mr. Brock and Mr. Birtalan abstained due to conflict.

APPROVE 8-0-2 (Birtalan & Brock)

8. Contact: Paige Johnston
2021-209 ORD Apv the Harbour Waterway Dependent Special District Proposed FY 21-22 Budget, Per Ord 2010-725-E & Sec 189.02, F.S. (Johnston) (Introduced by CP Hazouri, Per Ord 2010-725-E)
4/13/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWC
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 4/27/21

Mr. Burnett, Mr. Devereaux, Mr. Pringle, Ms. Haskell, Chair Ferraro, CM White, CM Bowman, and Mr. Fraden voted yes, and Mr. Brock and Mr. Birtalan abstained due to conflict.

APPROVE 8-0-2 (Birtalan & Brock)

9. Contact: Mari Kuraishi - Waterfront Public Spaces @ 9:45am (10 Minutes)

Mari Kuraishi, President of Jessie Ball duPont Fund, talked about how public input can be used for waterfront development. Mr. Pringle said he would like to help give his input to make sure waterfront public spaces are made accessible. Ms. Kuraishi said they are working with city partners to make sure the private and public partnerships are made positive for the community and enhance the waterfront experience.

10. Contact: Lori Boyer - DIA Plans for Downtown Presentation (30 Minutes)

Lori Boyer, DIA CEO, went over a PowerPoint presentation for the plans for Downtown and riverwalk connectivity. The presentation went over the existing riverwalk and the planned extensions. The presentation covered the Emerald Trail master plan as well as the riverwalk connection and extension which bring together downtown walkability. Ms. Boyer showed the cultural institutions in the area and how this development will make them more accessible. Ms. Boyer highlighted the current and planned kayak launches in the downtown area. Mr. Pringle asked about wheelchair accessibility to the landing area. Ms. Boyer said that all of the riverwalk projects will be fully accessible and they plan to explore opportunities to build more restaurants along the water. Adam Hoyles said he was very excited about the projects and asked what in the plans respond to the resiliency issues. Ms. Boyer said that there are three sides to resiliency and flood protection, water quality and the importance of making any new development resilient, and the impact of the development on surrounding developments.

11. Contact: Lindsey Brock - Artificial Reefs in Northeast Florida Committee Update

Mr. Brock talked about the first meeting the committee had and the differences in reefs and their impact on the water. Mr. Brock said artificial reefs will be more beneficial at the mouth of the river. Mr. Brock said it will be important to work with the fishing community for their opinions on the benefits. Dr. White showed a video that covered the artificial reef program in Jacksonville.

Old Business:

12. Contact: Jill Haskell - Wake Zone Committee Update

Jill Haskell gave an update from the recent Wake Zone Committee. The committee looked at the possible implementation of safety zones in Clapboard Creek. The committee looked into wake zone signage in Ortega River, but there was significant citizen resistance to wake zone signs. The committee does agree that safety zone signs are needed for the Fort George area.

13. Contact: Kara Tucker & Jill Enz - ADA Waterways

Kara Tucker, Chief of Disabled Services, gave an overview of accessible fishing docks and future plans to make spaces more accessible. Mr. Pringle talked about the importance of having accessible fishing docks and public spaces. Chair Ferraro suggested that a representative from Disabled Services attend future Waterways Commission meetings.

14. Contact: Susan Grandin - Fisherman's Marina Enforcement Update

Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, gave an update on the enforcement at Fisherman's Marina. DEP has received a letter from the Fisherman's Marina's agent regarding the schedule of the vessel removal. JSO has been working on the uplands area and this will be a coordinated effort.

15. Public Comment

Stanley Scott said he is concerned about ADA accessibility for docks.

John Nooney read the public comments from the previous Waterways meeting and talked about the Beach Boulevard boat ramp.

Andrew Tully voiced his concerns about wake zone signage.

16. Adjournment

Note: Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 14, 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** 10 - Commissioner Robert Birtalan, Commissioner Lindsey Brock, Commissioner Jill Haskell, Commissioner Raymond Pringle, Commissioner Lane Burnett, Commissioner Mark Devereaux, Chair Al Ferraro, Council Member Aaron Bowman, Vice Chair Randy White, and Commissioner Andrew Fraden
- Excused** 1 - Commissioner Marc Hardesty
- Absent** 2 - Commissioner Cord Byrd, and Commissioner Jon Michael Barker

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research
RDistel@coj.net 904.255.5140
Posted 5.4.2021 5:00 pm