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**JACKSONVILLE
WATERWAYS
COMMISSION**

JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSION
February 10, 2005
9:00 a.m

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission was called to order on Thursday, February 10, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in the City Council Chamber by the Chair, Council Member Lynette Self.

The minutes for the January 13, 2005 meeting were approved.

In the monthly Manatee Update, Dr. White reported that there was one manatee fatality in January, the cause of which is undetermined. There were two aerial flights, on January 12th where no manatees were seen in the St. Johns River, and the other flight on January 26th where no manatees were sighted in either Duval or Clay Counties. The Commission voted to adopt the Annual Update on Manatee Protection Plan.

Kelley Boree, Planning & Grants Coordinator, Parks, Recreation & Entertainment Department, provided the Commission with an update on the South bank dredge and on existing projects and the BIG Grant process. The Southbank dredge project has been completed. The status of current FIND projects include: Charles Reece, Mandarin Park, Southeast Regional Park (Julington Creek), 2002 grants; Goodby's Creek (consultant identified), Palm's Fish Camp, Reddie Point, Stockton Park Phase II and Thomas Creek Fish Camp, 2003 grants; Arlington River Dredge Project (de-authorized), Stinson Park Phase II (completed), and Stinson Park Phase II, 2004 grants. The GIG Grant Process was explained and discussed.

A new subcommittee was appointed to evaluate new facilities to accommodate visiting boaters downtown. Ed Grey, Chair, Bronson Lamb and

Carter Bryan, members.

A presentation on Water Taxis in the Timicuan Preserve was made by Steve Long, Engineering Manager, Public Works Department. FDOT provided \$750,00 for two water taxi locations in the Preserve, the Ribault Clubhouse location and the Alimacani location at the base of the new bridge over the Fort George River. The Alimacani locale was the subject of considerable discussion because, it was observed, that the shifting sands resulted in changes in the water's depth at the site. Brad Thoburn of the Mayor's Office provided background information and fielded questions on the project, indicating that the grant originated with the Preservation Project. Commissioners wanted to know specifics on the project plan. **Ordinance 2005-60**, appropriating the \$750,000 FDOT funding for the water taxi stations was deferred.

On other pending legislation, the Commission deferred **Ordinance 2003-1132**, changing the Manatee Protection Motorboat Speed Zone from Year-Round to Seasonal. The Commission voted to recommend approval of **Ordinance 2005-157** on Special Assessments, Neighborhood Assessment Programs and Establishing a Waterway Dredging Assessment Program. The Commission recommended approval of **Ordinance 2005-160**, concerning the Florida Boater Improvement Program - Trust Fund. The Commission voted to amend the measure to require that the Director of the Parks, Recreation and Entertainment Department report to the Waterways Commission and the Finance Committee on all expenditures from the fund during the preceding twelve months. The Commission voted to recommend approval of **Resolution 2005-204** that authorizes the Mayor to apply to FIND for 2005 Waterways Assistance Programs Grants for Specified Waterways-related Projects and Acknowledges Willingness to meet Funding Requirements. After considerable discussion, the Commission voted (2-8) not to recommend approval of **Resolution 2005-207**, requesting a Standing Committee Study the Viability of a Downtown Pedestrian Promenade or Pier.

Waterways Coordinator/Dockmaster Steve Nichols reported to the Commission that the Southbank Riverwalk pilings are deteriorating, that divers had inspected the pilings tree times in 2003-2004 and determined that there are only 7 to 10 years left to the durability of the pilings. Greg Radlinski, Office of General Counsel, was asked to draft a resolution asking the administration to look into the Southbank Riverwalk condition.

In New Business, Commissioner Carter Bryan proposed that the United States Coast Guard be commended for allowing the public to come to the St. Johns River to enjoy the Super Bowl.

It was suggested that at some point in the future, the Commission should look into the matter of the City acquiring a pump-out boat/barge similar to the one that JEA used to service boats moored for the Super Bowl.

Sgt Suber updated the Commission on the status of the JSO Marine Unit officers injured in an accident on the river that occurred during the Super Bowl festivities when their vessel crashed into one of the pilings of the

remnants of the old Fuller Warren Bridge.

It was announced that Commissioner Tullis had resigned and that a replacement was needed.

Commissioner Busey felt that Waterways Coordinator/Dockmaster Steve Nichols was to be commended for his work in helping to make the Super Bowl festivities, particularly the waterways, a success. All went well with a host of individuals and agencies working in tandem.

John J. Jackson
City Council Research Division