

**JACKSONVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/  
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA  
MEETING MINUTES**

*Thursday, March 18, 2010 – 4:00 p.m.*  
**Police & Fire Pension Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Stephen Berry, Richard Berry, Melody S. Bishop, Calvin Burney, and Andy Sikes

**Board Members Absent:** Louis Meyers and Earl Lewis

**JEDC Staff Members Present:** Karen Underwood and Joseph Whitaker

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Stephen Berry called the JIA/CRA Committee Meeting to order and introduced members and JEDC Staff

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY LOUIS MEYERS AND SECONDED BY STEPHEN BERRY TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 20, 2009 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.**

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

**III. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Richard Berry presented the review of the sidewalk project. Richard Berry thought that he would give the board an opportunity to review the historical file.

Richard Berry pointed out that this issue goes back to September 2008. The JIA Management Board submitted a letter to him requesting funding for a sidewalk to begin at the intersection of Duval Road (south shoulder) and proceed east, under the I-95 overpass to the River City shopping area. In addition to this package is a cover letter from Henry Vorpe, Jr., P.E., President of AVA Engineers with a color photograph of the area showing where the sidewalks would begin and end. Gene Hagan, Public Works Engineer Manager, prepared the original estimate.

A motion was approved on September 18, 2008 by former member Jeffery Ludwig and seconded by Stephen Berry to take the Airport Road Sidewalk project under advisement to report to the next board meeting.

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Richard Berry stated that the JIA/CRA Advisory never voted to approve the sidewalk project. After December 2008, Jim Klement communicated with the FDOT and Gene Hagan. Supposedly, all of the people that saw the project thought it was a good proposal and the dollars were a good estimate of what it would cost.

Richard Berry said that the reason he is bringing this up is that some things have changed a little since December 2008. He provided another handout to share with the members and commented that Ray Holt, City Council Member for District 11 is supportive of this project.

Richard Berry referred to the second handout from the North Florida TPO 2<sup>nd</sup> Stimulus Prioritized List of Projects Adopted December 10, 2009. He highlighted a sidewalk project in St. Johns County, another sidewalk project in Nassau County, and a sidewalk project in Clay County. All of these projects were approved because FDOT received an extra 10 million in stimulus funds.

Richard Berry asked the members if they felt that this was a worthwhile project to make a proposal through JEDC and to the Planning Department. To his knowledge, it does not require Council approval because all of the jobs go through the TPO. Three (3) City Council Members are on the TPO board plus the authorities, which would make a majority.

During the time when Sam Mousa served on the board, he used to submit a list of road projects every year. He made suggestions directly through FDOT without approval from any elected officials. Since the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was in the Planning Department and are now an independent group, there has not been any road projects submitted to Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and MPO since then because the Public Works Department has working exclusively with Better Jacksonville projects. Almost fifty percent of the projects that were in the Better Jacksonville Plan were city projects and the other fifty percent were assigned to JTA because they were state and federal road projects.

Enclosed in the second handout is a copy of a proposed budget for JIA/CRA Tax Increment District GSA Sub-Fund 185 2009/10. It has been projected that this year we will have 4.3 million dollars in reserve. Last week the Northbank Tax Increment District Fund Balance introduced Ordinance 2010-171 to City Council. This bill appropriates \$395,366.72 to provide funding for the development of a 210 foot-long L shaped floating dock with a 60 foot-long gangway attached to the Northbank Riverwalk adjacent to the northern approach to the Fuller Warren Bridge for use by boaters wishing to access the Riverside Arts Market from the St. Johns River.

Richard Berry asked if there were any comments from the members.

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Chairman Stephen Berry stated that he was interested in the NorthBank Riverwalk Project and is not familiar with the way their funds work versus the JIA/CRA funds. He asked if we would be able to take advantage of this. Richard Berry responded that Ray Holt is a sponsor of this bill.

Joseph Whitaker advised that it would help to have the mayor's support because he can always veto the bill, then you would need fourteen sponsors.

Chairman Stephen Berry asked if Councilman Ray Holt expressed any interest in trying to gain support from other City Council members for this project, mostly with the safety factor. Richard Berry responded that he invited him to join our meeting today but he had a conflict with the time and was unable to attend, but he is in support of our project.

Chip Seymour asked Richard Berry if there was any reason that the JIA/CRA had not voted on this project. Richard Berry responded that he thought we had voted but Ron Barton, JEDC Executive Director, said staff needed to look into it, and Jim Klement reviewed the project and contacted FDOT.

Joseph Whitaker commented that Jim Klement reviewed a proposed plan from an architectural prospective and made some suggestions that were mostly soft scaping as opposed to hard scaping. From the JEDC staff prospective the political will to submit a four hundred thousand dollar sidewalk project was not in place due to the budgetary constraints. The position that the JEDC has taken with the project was that they would recommend it to the city to put in their sidewalk fund. They would submit it to public works and it would then become a prioritization issue with the city as a whole. Whether or not you are able to gain the political support to take money from the CRA reserve account is unknown.

Richard Berry stated that sidewalks in most areas fall under the safety requirements and there is safety funding allotted to the FDOT for sidewalks and intersections.

Calvin Burney pointed out that Duval Road has recently been improved under the interchange. Theoretically, the sidewalks should have been part of the improvement that was placed out there. When Duval Road was improved and the mall was realigned, all of the pieces should have been connected together. We would be coming in after the fact to try to clean up something that fell through the cracks that should have been built when the road construction was built.

Member Calvin Burney stated that he would like to see this project go through the approval process. Richard Berry responded that we currently have to get it off the shelf. Calvin Burney addressed his concerns that it seems like the City has departed from the process that has been used in the past to get projects onto the MPO list. He was unsure if it was a policy departure or because there was no one there to do them as they used to be done.

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Richard Berry informed Melody Bishop that the TPO would be coming up with a list of projects to go on their five year plan in the next 90 to 120 days. The mayor will be going through his capital expenditure budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

Chip Seymour informed the members that the TPO has already put their first list together and the board has not yet voted on it but will in June. If you want to get project consideration, we are going to have to move quickly.

Melody Bishop mentioned a series of engineering projects during the November 2009 meeting. She asked Joe Whitaker if there is a way to piggy back on an existing project. Mr. Whitaker responded yes, if the opportunity presents itself and noted that we did not currently have any existing projects within this area. Richard Berry responded to Melody Bishop that she was referring to the minutes from the JIA CRA Transportation Workshop that was held on October 16, 2009. That meeting was regarding the adoption of the transportation study as a part of our long range plan. Chip Seymour noted that the meeting was in discussion of the north access road and River City Market Place and these projects are not at the stage where you can ask someone to add or do extra designs.

Calvin Burney addressed his concerns to Richard Berry that we are not provided guidance or direction to get this project into the City's CIP Plan or the City Sidewalk Program and/or the FDOT Safety Program. He pointed out that this project was split and part of it is the City's responsibility and part is the DOT's responsibility. Calvin Burney would like to see the project get into either the capital improvement program or the City Sidewalk program, where they are adding projects every year. DOT has safety funding for sidewalks and would like it to be specified in the recommendation.

Chairman Stephen Berry suggested the following recommendation while we have a quorum.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD BERRY AND SECONDED BY CALVIN BURNLEY TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SIDEWALK PROJECT ALONG AIRPORT ROAD TO AIRPORT CENTER DRIVE AS A PRIORITY ONE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS; AND, FURTHER THE ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT OF THE JIA/CRA AREA AT A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF \$450,000; AND FURTHER RECOMMEND THE COST OF THE SIDEWALK COULD BE FUNDED BY SEVERAL SOURCES INCLUDING**

- **JEDC THROUGH JIA –CRA TAX INCREMENT TRUST FUND; AND/OR**
- **CITY OF JACKSONVILLE'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM;  
AND/OR**

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- **NORTH FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AS A PRIORITY; AND/OR**
- **FDOT SAFETY FUND; AND/OR**
- **OR ANY OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCE**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

**TO INSURE THAT FUTURE PROJECTS DEVELOPED WITHIN THE JIA/CRA  
REDEVELOPMENT AREA INCORPORATE THE INCLUSION OF PEDESTRIAN  
SIDEWALKS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS WITHIN  
THE AREA**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDY SIKES AND SECONDED BY CALVIN BURNEY  
TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE PLANNING  
& DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO  
PROHIBIT THE ELIMINATION OF SIDEWALKS AND NO LONGER  
UNILATERALLY APPROVE SIDEWALK VARIANCES, EXCEPTIONS, OR  
WAIVERS WITHIN THE JIA-CRA REDEVELOPMENT AREA AND REQUEST THE  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO ADVISE JIA-CRA CHAIRMAN IN WRITING  
THROUGH THE JEDC OF ANY SUCH VARIANCES, EXCEPTIONS, OR WAIVERS  
REQUESTED AND TO DETERMINE ACTION, IF ANY.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**  
**None**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**  
**None**

**VI. BOARD LIASION UPDATES**

Eden Group (R. Berry): Distributed newsletter to board members.

First Coast TPO Citizens Advisory Committee (C. Burney): No Report

Jacksonville Airport Authority: No Report

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Police Fire Pension Building, One West Adams Street, Suite 200 in the Small Conference Room.

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Mr. Stephen Berry, Chairman