

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

9:30 AM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall (Streaming Viewing Options Only)

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Al Ferraro, Chair

CM Randy White, Vice Chair - Excused Absence

CM Aaron Bowman

CM Terrance Freeman, Alternate

Jon Michael Barker

Robert Birtalan

Lindsey Brock - Excused Early Departure

Lane Burnett - Excused Absence

Senator Audrey Gibson - Excused Early Departure

Mark Devereaux

Andrew Fraden

Marc Hardesty

Jill D. Haskell

Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.

Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio - Excused Early Departure

Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

Jessica Smith, Legislative Assistant

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.

STREAMING VIEWING OPTIONS ONLY)

Meeting ID: 959 5585 7955

Meeting Password: 572946

Beginning May 11, City Council will return to in-person meetings for all Council Members and the public. The meetings will be broadcast (FOR VIEWING ONLY) on Comcast Channel 99, AT&T Uverse Channel 99, Streaming via <https://www.coj.net/city-council/city-council-meetings-online>, or Zoom Application (VIEWING ONLY).

Members of the Jacksonville City Council, and other elected or appointed members of Boards and Commissions, and other interested parties are invited to attend. In-person attendance by members of the public is necessary to participate in public comment or public hearings.

Council Members and Commission Members, if you are unable to attend in person, please send your excusals in order to ascertain quorum for the meetings. No virtual attendance will be permitted for Council Members or participants.

Meeting Convened: 9:30 AM**Meeting Adjourned: 12:37 PM****Attendance:**

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call
3. ADA Waterways Status Report - Kara Tucker

Kara Tucker, Chief of Disabled Services, said she would be available for any questions from the Commission regarding ADA compliance at sites which will be discussed during the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Meeting on April 14, 2021

Hand Vote:

11-0

The minutes were approved 11 - 0.

Senator Gibson, Commissioner Birtalan, Commissioner Haskell, Commissioner Barker, Chair Ferraro, CM Bowman, Commissioner Brock, Commissioner Pringle, Commissioner Devereaux, Commissioner Hardesty, Commissioner Fraden voted yes.

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

Dr. White said that the waters are warming and the tides are tracking to be at normal levels. Dr. White said the salinity levels are lower than normal. Dr. White said they are monitoring the coal ash situation with the barge that has been stranded offshore.

Dr. Pinto said that there have been 3 manatee deaths since the last meeting and 14 total for the year in Jacksonville. Dr. Pinto said none of the deaths have been from watercrafts. Dr. Pinto said there have been 712 manatee deaths in Florida. Senator Gibson asked about the locations of the manatee deaths. Dr. Pinto went over the locations in Jacksonville where the manatees were found.

New Business:

6. 2021-238 ORD Apv, & Auth the Mayor & His Corp Secretary to Execute & Deliver, For & On Behalf of the City, That Certain Sovereignty Submerged Lands Fee Waived Lease (BOT# 160356582) btwn the City of Jax & the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvemnt Trust Fund of the State of FL (The "Lease") for the Purpose of Securing Submerged Land for Construction & Operation of a 4-Slip Public Docking Facility Adjacent to Post St. for Mooring of Recreational Vehicles & Water Taxis, for a 5 Yr Initial Term Commencing 2/13/20; Providing for Oversight of Acquisition, Execution & Recording of the Lease by the Real Estate Div, Public Works Dept, & Oversight of the Lease & Docking Facility by the Parks, Recreation & Community Svcs Dept. (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
4/27/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, TEU, F, JWC
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 – 5/11/21

Contact:
Renee Hunter
Brian Burket

Hand Vote:
11-0

Renee Hunter, Chief Real Estate Public Works, detailed that this legislation is for a direct submerged land lease of the property. CM Bowman asked about the lease length which is for 5 years and commenced February 13th 2020. Brian Burket, Parks Department, clarified that they must move forward on the lease in order to have the dock. Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, said that the typical lease length is 5 years and there should be no issues in renewing the lease.

The bill passed 11 to 0.

Senator Gibson, Commissioner Birtalan, Commissioner Haskell, Commissioner Barker, Chair Ferraro, CM Bowman, Commissioner Brock, Commissioner Pringle, Commissioner Devereaux, Commissioner Hardesty, Commissioner Fraden voted yes.

7. 2021-242 ORD Approp \$100,000.00 in Fund Balance from the Environmental Protection Fund to Assist in the Ecological Restoration of Hogans Crk by Providing Funding to Groundwork Jax, Inc. for Preliminary Design & Feasibility Assessmnt of the Ecological Restoration of Hogans Crk. Providing a Carryover of Funds Through 9/30/23; Invoking the Exception of Sec 126.107(G) (Exemptions), Chap 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code, to Direct Contract w/ Groundwork Jax, Inc.; Apv & Auth the Mayor, or His Designee, & Corp Secretary to Execute & Deliver That Certain Funding Agreemnt btwn the City of Jax & Groundwork Jax, Inc.; Waiving Sec 110.112 (Advance of City Funds; Prohibition Against), Pt 1 (The City Treasury), Chap 110 (City Treasury), Ord Code, to Allow for a Partial Advance Paymnt by the City; Providing for City Oversight by the Neighborhoods Dept, Environmental Quality Div; Requiring Annual Reports & a Final Report to Jax Environmental Protection Board. (B.T. 21-067) (West) (Req of Mayor)
4/27/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, R, JWC
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 – 5/11/21

Contact:
James Richardson

Hand Vote:
11-0

James Richardson, Environmental Protection Board, explained the bill which focuses on the ecological restoration of Hogan's Creek. Dr. White talked about the historical impacts that have caused damage to the waterways which goes back 200 years. Mr. Devereaux talked about the need for more education around the environmental impact in the waterways. Senator Gibson said it is important to look for possible grant opportunities coming out of State funding initiatives.

The bill passed 11 to 0.

Senator Gibson, Commissioner Birtalan, Commissioner Haskell, Commissioner Barker, Chair Ferraro, CM Bowman, Commissioner Brock, Commissioner Pringle, Commissioner Devereaux, Commissioner Hardesty, Commissioner Fraden voted yes.

8. 2021-253 ORD Making Certain Finding & Auth the Mayor, or His Designee, to Execute: (1) a Redevelopment Agreement (“Redevelopment Agreement”) Among the City of Jax (“City”), Downtown Investment Authority (“DIA”), & RD River City Brewery, LLC (“Developer”), Which Redevelopment Agreement Provides for the Design & Construction of 325 Multi-Family Residential Units, a 500 Space Structured Parking Facility, a Restaurant & Bar Venue, A Ship’s Store, Marina Improvements & Riverwalk Improvements by the Developer, All on the Southbank of the St. Johns River Within the Southbank Downtown Community Redevelopment Area (“Project”); (2) a Quitclaim Deed Conveying (3.43±Acres) of City-Owned Land to the Developer at No Cost; (3) a Marina Improvements Costs Disbursement Agreement by Which the Developer Shall Repair & Construct on Behalf of the City Certain Marina Improvements to be Funded by the City in the Max Amount of \$1,143,807, w/ Cost Overruns the Responsibility of the Developer, to be Owned by the City; (4) a Marina Operating & Maint Agreement btwn the Developer, or Its Designee, & the City for the Operation & Maint of the Marina; & (5) Easements & Related Docs as Described in the Redevelopment Agreement; Authorizing a 75%, 20 Yr, Multi-Family Market-Rate Recapture Enhanced Value (REV) Grant in the Max Amount Not to Exceed \$12,996,885 in Connection w/ the Proj; Authorizing an Infrastructure Grant In the Amount of \$500,000; Authorizing a Restaurant Completion Grant in the Amount of \$500,000; Providing for Annual \$50,000 Approp for Programming of St. Johns River Park & Friendship Fountain for Term of REV Grant; Waiving Provisions of Chapt 122, (Public Propty), Pt 4 (Real Propty), Subpart C (Community Redevelopment Real Propty Dispositions), Ord Code, to Auth Sale of City-Owned Real Propty Without an Appraisal to Developer at Less Than Fair Market Value; Designating the DIA as Contract Monitor for the Redevelopment Agreement; Providing for City Oversight of the Proj by the Dept of Public Works; Auth the Execution of All Docs Relating to the Above Agreements & Transactions, & Authorizing Technical Changes to the Docs. (Sawyer) (Req of DIA)
4/27/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, R, JWC
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 – 5/11/21

Contact:

Steven Kelly

Hand Vote:

10-1 (Gibson)

Steven Kelly, DIA, talked about this redevelopment agreement which will help to build a connection to the waterways in downtown Jacksonville. Mr. Kelly went over the Powerpoint which showed the marina upgrades, the relocation of a fuel tank, boat ramp access, Acosta bridge parking and Riverwalk enhancements. Chair Ferraro emphasized the disappoint that there are not any restaurants on the waterfront in this project since citizens have expressed a big interest in there being more waterfront restaurants. Senator Gibson asked about public access. Mr. Kelly said they have worked to keep the same public access. Mr. Pringle expressed the importance of having adequate handicap parking in the area. Cyndy Trimmer said there are 30 spaces which will include at least 2 spaces which are ADA on each floor.

The bill passed 10 to 1.

Commissioner Birtalan, Commissioner Haskell, Commissioner Barker, Chair Ferraro, CM Bowman, Commissioner Brock, Commissioner Pringle, Commissioner Devereaux, Commissioner Hardesty, Commissioner Fraden voted yes.

Senator Gibson voted no.

9. Cameras on Boat Docks Presentation

(DEFER NEXT CYCLE 6/9/21)

Contact:
Dean M. Shott

10. Waterways Rating System

Contact:
Adam Hoyles

Adam Hoyles talked about a waterways rating system which could be used to rate legislation that comes through the Commission through a checklist. This would aim to create guidelines on what would make legislation waterways friendly. Mr. Hoyles will work with Susan Grandin on creating a checklist.

11. Proposed State Legislation on Anchoring Limitations (House Bill 1515 & Senate Bill 1946)

(DEFER NEXT CYCLE 6/9/21)

Contact:
Susan Grandin
Wyman Duggan

12. No Wake Signs in the St. Johns River

Contact:
Jim Suber

Captain Suber said there is a sign on the east side of Little Marsh Island. There is not a budget to add signage from FWC, but the city could look to add a wake zone sign as long as the city paid for and maintained the sign.

Old Business:

13. Clapboard Creek "Sandbar"

Contact:
Mark Devereaux

Mr. Devereaux gave a historical background of the Clapboard Creek area. Mr. Devereaux said he will do research in the area to better understand the environmental impact and changes. Residents of the Clapboard Creek area spoke to the changes they have seen in the area and the sandbar that has developed rapidly. Ms. Haskell asked why is it important to find out who has caused this sandbar. Mr. Devereaux said it is important because the contract is written to hold whoever caused the sandbar responsible. Mr. Hardesty talked about the pipes that are in the creek and the safety concerns. Chair Ferraro suggested working with OGC to see what can be done through possible legislation.

14. Parks Department Update

Contact:
Brian Burket

Brian Burket, Parks Department, gave an overview of projects that have been completed and projects that are coming this summer. The Powerpoint detailed the ramp at Beach Boulevard being reopened, the Northbank Riverwalk which is under construction for hurricane damaged docks, and other projects. Mr. Pringle asked for an update on the Gullah-Geechee Organization's rowing program. Mr. Burket said they did evaluations of sites and have identified Riverview park as a possible space to add a rowing dock.

15. Update from Wake Zone Committee on April 7, 2021

Contact:
Jill Haskell

Jill Haskell talked about the last committee meeting on Wake Zones where the community opposed signs for Ortega River. There will be a 2 year wait period for that area in terms of enforcement. Jill Haskell asked for the support of the Commission in drafting a resolution asking for safety zones in Clapboard Creek and Ft. George Inlet.

The commission voted on this motion to support the drafting of a resolution 9 to 0.

Mr. Birtalan, Ms. Hakell, Mr. Barker, Chair Ferraro, CM Bowman, Mr. Hardesty, Mr. Pringle, Mr. Devereaux, and Mr. Fraden voted yes.

16. Update of Artificial Reefs of Northeast Florida on April 7, 2021

Contact:
Lindsey Brock

17. Public Comment

Chair Ferraro said that he would like to look into barges that are cutting loose in to the St. Johns River for the next meeting.

Scott and LeAnna Schwarzrock talked about the need for a kayak launch to be built at Thomas Creek. Mr. Pringle said this would be a great place for a kayak launch.

John Nooney talked about the gas tax legislation and the need for a kayak launch at Hogan's Creek.

18. Adjournment

Note: Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 9, 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.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research
RDistel@coj.net 904.255.5140
Posted 5.25.2021 5:00 pm