



Jacksonville Waterways Commission

Jim Love, Chair

FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT (FIND) SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, January 7, 2013
City Council Conference Room A
10:00 a.m.

In Attendance: Commissioners Gary L. Anderson (Chair), Ralph Hodges, Lane T. Burnett, Scott Shine; Council Members Jim Love, Lori Boyer; Waterways Coordinator Captain Jim Suber; Assistant General Counsel Paige Johnston; Aaron Bowman, Commissioner, Florida Inland Navigation District; Gary Kresel, Jody McDaniel, Planning Department; Tera Meeks, Chief, Waterfront Management Programming; James Richardson, Environmental Protection Board; Dave Roman, Mayor's Office; Attorney Tom Ingram; Steven C. Davis, Jacksonville University; Captain Vic Tison, Captain Roger Bump, John Nooney, Recreational Fishing Alliance; Joe Wilhelm, *Financial News & Daily Record*; David Bauerlien, *Florida Times-Union*; Kevin Kuzel, Executive Council Assistant (Love); Marilyn Allen, Legislative Assistant; John J. Jackson, Council Research Division.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and announced that the purpose of the meeting was to review the FIND Prioritized Projects List and to arrive at recommendations on priority projects that the full Waterways Commission can vet at the Wednesday, January 9th meeting. The Commission will subsequently make recommendations to the City Council on priorities for FIND grant applications for the coming year. The proposed projects would be considered in the Council Committee process.

Jody McDaniel, Planning & Development, explained how the FIND application process works. Projects that are recommended by the public are categorized and given a score. The City has developed a matrix for proposed projects that has been in place for several years. In explaining the timeline in the process, Ms. McDaniel indicated that after the Commission has reached an accord on a priorities list, on January 22nd, legislation (a resolution) will be filed that makes recommendations to the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) on the City's priority projects and indicating that the City is committed to funding its share of the projects' costs. By March 1st, Duval County's FIND Commissioner has to sign onto the priority list of projects. Applications for the FIND grants are due on April 1st.

Ms. McDaniel noted that the project cost figures on the spread sheets that had been distributed were projected estimates and subject to change. Engineers in the Public Works Department will provide more accurate figures. She further explained the two-pronged

phase of the funding end of the program. Phase I was the design and permitting component; Phase II was the construction component. Once we have a design, we are pretty much guaranteed to get the funds for construction.

Commissioner Scott Shine raised concerns about the amount of money that the City is proposing to spend on the design phase. Speaking as a businessman and citizen, Commissioner Shine thought that the design costs were high. He questioned the expenditure (\$100,000) on a design for a boat ramp at the County Dock when there is already a boat ramp at the site.

Parks & Recreation Department Director Kelly Boree indicated that her department, Planning & Development and the Mayor's Office are working with the budget office officials on funding for the FIND projects.

Commissioner Shine suggested that engineers from the Public Works Department attend Waterways Commission meetings to field questions and explain the estimates for costs that they arrive at. Jody McDaniel indicated that the engineers could attend but suggested that we wait until after final estimates for projects are made.

Commissioner Lane Burnett wanted to know who actually makes the decisions on the Prioritized List. Kelly Boree indicated that she works with Jody McDaniel and Planning & Development on the City's priority list, making it clear that this is the Mayor's priority list. She allowed how the Waterways Commissions priorities on the list may differ.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know why the Charles Reese boat ramp was "below the line". Kelly Boree indicated that there is significant vandalism at the site and that the Administration felt that a boat ramp project could be revisited at a later time.

John Nooney commented that when projects are characterized as proposals from the public, the precise individuals or organizations making the proposal ought to be identified. Tera Meeks suggested that it was no feasible to do so.

In vetting the proposed priority list for 2013, Tom Ingram suggested that we needed more access to Exchange Island, that a camping site, boat ramp and rain shelter are all needed. Mr. Ingram further suggested three (3) sites that ought to be added to the priority list: Half Moon Island since the City already owns the property and it is a site popular with kayakers; Riverside Arts Market and Stockton Park.

Commissioner Shine questioned the high costs for the Exchange Island project. Kelley Boree indicated that the City is working with the National Park Service to make Exchange Island a part of the Blue Way Trail network.

Gary Kresel reiterated the suggestion previously made that people from the Engineering Division of Public Works be invited to the Wednesday (January 9) meeting of the Waterways Commissioner. Mr. Kresel suggested that Council Member Love, as Chair of the Commission, invite these officials.

Captain Jim Suber appraised the Subcommittee on conditions at Sister's Creek, particularly Jim King Park.

Commissioner Hodges questioned whether the dredging proposed for Harborview was a worthwhile undertaking. Kelley Boree explained that the public has complained that they are unable to launch boats at the site to get into the Ribault River channel.

Commissioner Shine suggested that Geffen Riverwalk was a dangerous, risky site for a kayak launch.

John Nooney described the intent of an e-mail he had sent to Commissioner Gary Anderson that suggested that a public pier (floating dock) at the former Shipyards be added to the priority list. Kevin Kuzel, Executive Council Assistant to Council Member Jim Love, indicated that he had visited and inspected the site with Mr. Nooney and that Council Member Love (having left the meeting) favored consideration of the proposal.

Captain Roger Bump question how the City goes about contracting for the design work for the proposed projects.

After Jody Powell reiterated the need to arrive at a decision on the priorities, the Subcommittee members proceeded to vote on each proposed project, adding two: Revising the City's master plan for boat ramps; and a floating dock next to the Shipyards pier.

The vote on the FIND Prioritized Project List for 2013 was as follows:

Exchange Island	4-0 approve
Sisters ICW Dock Redesign	4-0 approve
Ortega Channel Markings	4-0 approve
County Boat Ramp	3-1 approve
Northbank Riverwalk Bridge	0-4 disapprove
Geffen Kayak Launch	2-2
Northshore Kayak Launch	3-1 approve
Lighting at 4 Boat Ramps	4-0 approve
Reed Island	0-4 disapprove
Harborview Dredging	2-2
Continuation of Blue Cypress	

Boardwalk	4-0 approval
San Marco Lake	0-4
Charles Reed BR dock	2-2
Half Moon Island	2-2
Master Plan	4-0 approval
Floating Dock (Shipyards)	4-0 not to add to list

There being no further business, the Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

John J. Jackson, Council Research Division (904) 630-1729

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Posted: 12:00 p.m.