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**JACKSONVILLE
WATERWAYS
COMMISSION**

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February 5, 2004

9:00 a.m.

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 5, 2004 in the City Council Chamber, by the Chair, Council Member Lynette Self.

The minutes of the January 8, 2004 meeting of the Commission were approved and the Chair requested that the minutes be posted on the City's website.

Sheriff John Rutherford addressed the Commission to report on the Five-Year Plan and the Marine Patrol Unit. Stressed the significance of our waterways with increasing business and the upcoming Super Bowl that underscored increased homeland security awareness issues. The current JSO marine unit has four officers. The County must continue to enforce the manatee zone on the waterways and must continue to work closely with other units such as the Coast Guard, Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, etc. for the safety of our waterways. JSO cannot address safety issues alone. We need to partner with surrounding counties and with State agencies. JSO priorities include increasing the marine unit from four to six officers; pursuing the funding to construct JSO docking facilities at Metropolitan Park; replacing JSO boats, some of which are 14 years old; and promoting boater safety programs such as the School Board's Boater 101 program.

Parks, Recreation & Entertainment Director Bob Baughman updated the Commission on the priority list that the FIND (Florida Inland Navigation District) Subcommittee for funding priorities (in seeking grants from the State). Resolution 2004-147 listed/prioritized waterways projects for 2004-2005. There are 10 proposed projects for which funding assistance is sought in the grant applications that Resolution 2004-147 seeks. Three projects were removed from the original list: JSO docks; Reddie Point; and Cradle Creek Preserve/Jax Bch. Funding for the Southeast Regional Park

canoe launch has been reduced from \$500,000 to \$350,000. The changes in the priorities are reflected in the December 8, 2003 and January 29, 2004 lists, respectively. The Commission voted 9-0 to recommend approval of Resolution 2004-147, as substituted. The substitute makes the changes in the 12/8/03 list.

Commissioner Edw. Grey reported on the work of the Docking Fee subcommittee that he heads. The subcommittee had had its initial meeting on the previous day. The subcommittee will be reviewing the 1992 docking facilities resolution that subsequently became a part of the Ordinance Code. The subcommittee will be reviewing the section to ascertain the need for changes. Three areas of concern for docking include the Adams Mark Hotel, Metropolitan Park and the Jacksonville Landing.

In his monthly manatee update, Dr. Quinton White noted that January had been a quiet month and that weather and schedule conflicts had curtailed aerial flights. Two manatee deaths had been reported, one from cold stress, the other undetermined, one in the Intracoastal, the other in the St. Johns River.

In response to a request for information from Commissioner Bronson Lamb, Jr., Greg Radlinski, Office of General Counsel, discussed three issues on anchoring in the Ortega River: anchorage; lighting; and the discharge of raw sewage. In his December 12, 2003 memorandum to Commissioners, Attorney Radlinski said that anchorage is not prohibited unless the boats constituted a hazard to navigation or obstruct passage. If vessels are anchored at night, the vessels are required to have lights. Florida law prohibits the discharge of raw sewage into Florida waterways.

Waterways Coordinator/Dockmaster Steve Nichols reported on the River city Brewing Company Boat Ramp Parking Agreement (with the City). In December 2001, the City entered into an agreement with the River City Brewing Company that enables the City to use the parking lot and ramp. That contract is up for renewal. River City Brewing has been providing parking spaces for vehicles and boat trailers, especially on the weekends.

On pending legislation before the Council, the Commission voted to recommend approval of Ordinance 2004-118 (Mayport Boat Ramp); for approval of Resolution 2004-69, as amended (urging Cabinet to make slips available for law enforcement at new marinas); approval of Ordinance 2004-122 (appropriation for design work for JSO MetroPark floating dock; and recommended deferring 2003-1132 (changing manatee protection motorboat speed zones from year round to seasonal).

A new subcommittee to look at the issue of blue belting was announced whose members are Council Member Copeland (Chair), Commissioners Pitman and Lamb.

Commissioner Anderson updated the Commission on Sail Jacksonville. A noteworthy ship from Columbia will be participating.

Jax Waterways Commission liaison members for JSO's Riverwatch Steering Committee are Commissioners Lamb and Pitman and Dr. White.

Sgt Suber (JSO) introduced Officer Keith Nazworth as the new addition to the Sheriff's Office marine unit.

In public comments, Mr. David Scott made a presentation on a homeowner dumping a considerable amount of concrete into the Ortega River resulting in the river's siltation.

The next meeting of the Waterways Commission is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2004.

John J. Jackson
Council Research Division