



Jacksonville Waterways Commission Lynette Self, Chair

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission was called to order on Thursday, February 1, 2007, 9:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers by the Chair, Council Member Lynette Self.

The minutes for the January 4, 2007 meeting were approved.

Joey Duncan, Director, Public Works Department, updated the Commission on repairs underway on the Northbank Riverwalk. Mr. Duncan reviewed the history of the situation dating from when Parks & Recreation first reported the damaged Riverwalk sections on December 24, 2006. By December 27th, the area had dropped eight inches. Mr. Duncan apprised the Commission on the work that is underway to remedy the problem. Though pilings are being rehabilitated, no major reconstruction was anticipated.

Lynn Westbrook, Public Works Department, provided the Commission with an update on the Morven Lake Dredging Project. Dylan Reingold, Office of General Counsel, made a presentation on the dredging project's background and the amended petitions for the project. If the petitioners want the City to contribute more than 12% of the funds needed to defray the dredging project's costs, the petitioners are required to make that request by formally notifying the Chair of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission. By statute, the Chair subsequently schedules a public hearing. The petitioners then explain to the Commission why they feel that the City should contribute more than 12% of the project's costs.

Ms. Deborah Walters spoke on behalf of the Morven Lake neighbors who were petitioning the City. She explained how excessive siltation was the cause of the lake's condition. Sediment from roadway work was dumped into the lake. In addition, school construction work resulted in 10 years of siltation that turned a thriving ecosystem into a mud flat, ridding the lake of manatees and the vegetation that attracted and fed the manatees. The entire dredging project is currently estimated to cost \$313,000. An

agreement has been reached for the \$236,375 special assessment. The petitioners would pay 2/3rds and the City 1/3rd. Acknowledging its responsibility for the lake's condition, the School Board would also contribute.

The Commission voted to approve and submit to the City Council a letter recommending that the City contribute more than 12% of the project cost. The letter is to be a part of the documents attached to Ordinance 2007-111(determining sufficient assent of propty owners and expressing intent to use Uniform Method for Levy & Collection of Non-Valorem Spec Assessmts to Defray Proj Costs).

Brad Russell, JEA, Cheryl Wapnick, PBSJ and Vince Siebold, DEP, made a presentation on Tributary Assessment Team Project Summary. The project was completed in summer 2006. The project surveyed the river's 51 tributaries and assessed the health threat and economic impact of fecal bacteria in the tributaries.

John Pappas, Chief, Public Works, Engineering Division and Steve Long, Engineering Division, provided the Commission with an update on Goodby's Creek dredging. The project bid has been awarded. Work was to begin on February 3, 2007. Procurement, Parks & Recreation and Public Works all worked together to get the project moving.

FIND Subcommittee Recommendations were discussed and explained by Commissioner Ed Grey, Chair, FIND Subcommittee and Jody McDaniel, Planning & Grants Coordinator, Parks, Recreation, Entertainment and Conservation Department. Commissioner Grey reported on the deliberations of the subcommittee's January meeting. Ms. McDaniel used a PowerPoint presentation to review each recommended project.

In the monthly FIND Update, Jody McDaniel referred the Commissioners to the printed report that had been distributed that discussed the status of recommended FIND projects.

Greg Radlinski, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, discussed the draft ordinance amending Section 387.103, *Ordinance Code* (Manatee Protection Zones). The Commission voted to recommend that Mr. Radlinski proceed with his draft on the ordinance amendment.

In the monthly manatee update, Dr. Quinton White, Jacksonville University, announced that with the help of Jacksonville Zoo, an additional manatee was rescued at Goodby's Lake on January 14, 2007. The manatee subsequently died at Sea World where it had been moved for treatment and care. Comments were made on the recent meeting with DEP, Florida Fish & Wildlife, City officials and others that addressed the issue of manatee fatalities. The suggestion was made that the cap for county-wide manatee fatalities be eliminated and that manatee fatalities be assessed according to zones.

On pending legislation, at the suggestion of the Chair, the Commission voted 6-1 (Lowe) to recommend the **withdrawal of Ordinance 2006-949**, Amending Ord Code to Change Manatee Protection Motorboat Speed Zones from Yr-Round to Seasonal. The Chair cited the recently held meeting where the State suggested that Duval County review its entire Manatee Protection Plan. The Commission voted 7-0 to recommend **approval of Ordinance 2007-111**, Expressing intent to use Uniform Method for Levy & Collection of Non-Ad valorem Spec Assessments to Defray (Morven Lake) Proj Costs. The Commission voted 7-0 to recommend **approval of Ordinance 2007-120**, Intent to Use Uniform Method for Collecting Non-Ad Valorem Spec Assessments to Defray Hogpen Creek Dredge Proj Costs. The Commission voted to recommend **approval of Ordinance 2007-121**, Intent to use Uniform Method for Collecting Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessmts to Defray Isle of Palms Costs.

In Old Business, Commissioner Bailey reported on the January 24, 2007 meeting of the Waterways Commission's Quasi-Regulatory Agency Subcommittee.

Waterways Coordinator Jim Suber apprised the Commission on work and repairs underway at five boat ramps including the River City Boat Ramp and the IntraCoastal Boat Ramp (dock repairs). Pot holes at the ramps were created by boats coming out of the water and draining; the asphalt is subsequently eroded.

Commissioner Lowe inquired as to whether or not copies of reports on how Florida Boater Improvement Fund monies are spent were available. State Law now requires that counties and cities that receive allocations from the fund report on how the counties and cities spend those dollars.

The report was due in Tallahassee by January. Jody McDaniel advised the Commission that the report had been compiled and forwarded to Tallahassee. Copies will be obtained for the Commissioners.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is Thursday, March 1, 2007.

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