



Jacksonville Waterways Commission Lynette Self, Chair

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 12, 2007, 9:00 a.m., in the City Council Chamber, by the Chair, Council Member Lynette Self.

The minutes for the March 1, 2007 meeting of the Commission were approved.

Greg Radlinski, Office of General Counsel, apprised the Commission on the request that Palatka sent asking for a letter of support in that City's quest for a water taxi service. Palatka is seeking letters of support from Jacksonville, Green Cove Springs and Orange Park in Palatka's efforts to secure funding that would make the water taxi service operational. A component of that water taxi service is the purchase of a hovercraft. The taxi service would entail connecting Palatka and Jacksonville by water taxi on the St. Johns River with intermediate stops at Green Cove Springs and Orange Park. Commissioner Grandin indicated that there were numerous questions that needed to be raised and aired before Jacksonville acted on Palatka's request. The Chair wondered whether the source for the funding that Palatka was seeking for its proposed water taxi service would be the same funding source that Jacksonville might be looking at for some of our proposed projects.

Kelley Boree, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation, Entertainment & Conservation Department addressed the Metropolitan Park Trust Fund item on the agenda. The intent of Ordinance 2005-807-E (docking fees collected at Metropolitan Park) was discussed. The intent of the ordinance was to allocate the docking fees collected for the sole purpose of improvements of the docking facility. Currently, docking fees collected are going into the General Fund. The dockage fees collected were supposed to be deposited into the Metro Park Trust Fund that Ordinance 2005-807-E created. Last year, the dockage fees generated at Metropolitan Park generated \$58,700. This year, \$19,000 has been collected.

JSO's Rob Winslow filled in for Sgt. Leonard Propper in discussing the final rendition of JSO's Marine Safety Brochure. The pamphlet had been approved by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. The pamphlet is to be mailed to all registered boaters in the Duval County. There are 32,000 registered boaters in the County. The Chair wanted to make sure that we printed enough of the brochure for distribution. Commissioner Grandin felt that sharper graphics were needed for hash markers.

Sgt. Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator, reported on the issue of Commerce on the Waterways. A special subcommittee headed by Commissioner Grey, with Sgt. Suber, and the Assistant Dockmaster was held. It was decided that an ordinance change was needed and that Greg Radlinski, Office of General Counsel, would draft the change. The draft would eliminate the words "non commercial only."

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The Commission Chair, Council Member Self, reported on the recent meeting with the Lieutenant Governor in Tallahassee. Our manatee plan was discussed. Other issues of concern were raised, particularly building marinas in the downtown area. It was felt that since the Lieutenant Governor was from South Florida, he understood many of the issues raised at the meeting.

Joey Duncan, Director, Public Works, provided the Commission with an update on the Northbank Riverwalk repairs. We are currently out to bid for the concrete planters for permanent repairs on the Northbank in front of the Courthouse and the Hyatt. Public Works expects that to bid on April 25th. We are also out to bid on the permanent repairs to the damaged piles in front of the Hyatt. Work is expected to start in July and is expected to be completed by the fall, in time for the Florida-Georgia football game. Commissioner Busey inquired about the status of the study that Mr. Duncan had previously mentioned. That report is due on April 15th, a report determining whether the work/repairs are short or long term in nature. Commissioner Busey has been designated to participate in the meetings where the report is evaluated and to report back to the Commission.

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University, provided the Commission with

the monthly Manatee Update. There were no manatee deaths reported in March. No manatee deaths were reported as of April 6th. There have been four manatee fatalities so far this year. Three of those deaths were caused by cold stress, the other was undetermined. On the last aerial, 17 manatees were sighted, mostly in the Intracoastal near the J. Turner Butler Bridge. The correspondence between Dr. White, Council Member Self, and Kip Frohlich, respectively, was discussed. There were a number of issues raised. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission viewed Tallyrand as part of Jacksonville's downtown; we do not. Jacksonville did not have a manatee protection plan back in 1974. Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Lieutenant John Conboy updated the Commission on manatee signage and on the task force that is tracking marine issues (that had been side-tracked by homeland security issues). Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Lieutenant Jamie Bevan updated the Commission on damaged buoys and signs.

On the FIND Update, Jody McDaniel, Planning/Grants Coordinator, Parks, Recreation, Entertainment & Conservation Department, brought the Commission up to date on current projects. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve resolutions to support the City's application for 2 Florida Boater Improvement Program grants, one for a boater survey grant, another for a derelict vessel removal grant.

On pending legislation, the Commission voted 11-0 to recommend **approval** for **Ordinance 2007-294** concerning the dredging of MorevenLake and special assessment of the property owners that abut the lake. The Commission voted 11-0 to recommend **approval** of **Ordinance 2007-296** that appropriates \$25,000 to fund a "Boater Traffic Study." The Commission voted 11-0 to recommend **approval** of **Ordinance 2007-317** for a grant to fund the Ribault River Urban Waterfront Park Project.

In Old Business, John Pappas, Chief, Engineering Division, Public Works, reported on the Goodby's Creek Dredging Project. The dredging project had been completed. There were complaints, however, from residents whose homes and docks are on the canal that the dredge silted their docks. It was agreed that a meeting would be held bringing together the residents and dredge contractor. Jim Bailey was to coordinate efforts to bring the various parties together and report back to the Commission

In Old Business, Commissioner Steve Nichols appraised the Commission on the planning for SAIL JACKSONVILLE , mentioning some of the schooners that are expected to participate.

In New Business, a subcommittee was appointed to work with the South Shore Group Partners. Commissioner Bailey was to chair the subcommittee and Commissioners Bryan and Nichols were to be members.

The Riverkeeper Neil Armingeon offered observations to the Commission. He, too, cited complaints of residents on the Goodby Creek dredging project. He gave the Commission an update on the Wonderwood Project, specifically on the work on sediment control and fences. Citizens are helping to monitor the projects and sediment fences.

The next scheduled meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2007.

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