



## **Jacksonville Waterways Commission Lynette Self, Chair**

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission was called to order on Thursday, May 3, 2007, 9:00 a.m., in the City Council Chamber, by the Vice-Chair, Council Member Sharon Copeland.

The minutes for the April 12, 2007 Commission meeting were approved.

The Commission discussed canal dredging on Riveredge Drive (Gilmore Heights/Arlington). Mr. Roger Bean, a resident in the area, had requested to make a presentation. David Hahn, an engineer with the Public Works Department, was asked to be present to provide the City's point of view. Mr. Bean explained that there was a canal that ran behind the neighbors' property, a canal that was constructed by the builder in the area in 1962. The first home in the area was built in 1963. There are seven (7) homes that abut the canal; the other homes are on the opposite side. The canal has been dormant owing to overgrowth, siltation and trash brought by the tide from Mill Cove. Dredging is badly needed. Mr. Bean indicated that he was familiar with the procedures and that the residents had initiated a petition about a year and a half ago for dredging. He further indicated that there was 100% support for the petition for the proposed dredging from the [people living there. Mr. Bean said that he had worked closely with David Hahn on this matter.

Dylan Reingold, Office of General Counsel, said that he thinks that he met with the residents once concerning their objective of having the canal dredged and that it was his understanding that the canal was private and that the residents had committed to bearing 100% of the dredging costs. Mr. Reingold indicated that a petition from the neighbors had not come across his desk and that typically, a petition is filed with the Chief of Legislative Services and the petition is then forwarded to him to review for sufficiency. It was Mr. Reingold's understanding that the petitioners were currently working with the Public Works Department on surveys cost

estimates. Mr. Bean indicated that he was awaiting a cost estimate before asking the neighbors to sign a new petition.

Commissioner Jim Bailey provided the Commission with an update on the South Shore Development project. As head of the sub-committee (with Commissioners Carter Bryan and Steve Nichols) that met with South Shore Development, Commissioner Bailey reported on a meeting that he and his sub-committee had with Mr. Dowd, a South Shore principal and their counsel, Attorney Marcia Tjoflat, to review the development project and to consider suggestions of the Commissioners on what the developers could do to improve their facility. Mr. Dowd indicated that he would take some of the suggestions and ideas discussed at the meeting back to his partners and would try and incorporate some of those suggestions into the presentation that he would next make to the City.

Commissioner Jim Bailey updated the Commission on the Goodby's Creek Dredging Project. The project is complete, but at the last Commission meeting, it became apparent that there had been some issues with property owners along the canal who allege that the dredging resulted in their encountering problems getting their boats out because of the build-up from the silt. A meeting was called with the property owners, the contractor and the City. The Public Works Department did new surveys. The results of the new surveys are complete and the parties are waiting to hear from the contractor. Commissioner Bailey expects that there will be a meeting with all of the interested parties within the next two weeks to discuss what needs to be done to resolve the issue with the property owners. Goodby's Lake is being monitored and Dr. White said that it appears that there is considerable compliance with the manatee speed zone regulations.

Dr. Quinton White provided the Commission with the monthly Manatee Update.

Dr. White reported that manatees are doing well in Duval County. In the last aerial survey on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 74 manatees were sighted in the St. Johns River areas and tributaries, and another 24 in the Intracoastal, for a total of 95 manatees being sighted. Dr. Gerard Pinto reported that 171 manatees were sighted on April 23<sup>rd</sup> which is a new record (170 had previously been seen this early in the season). These numbers are usually more prevalent in late June. JU's manatee sightings and information are regularly mentioned by Tim Deegan and First Coast News to let boaters know where manatees are. There were no manatee deaths reported during the month of April. To

date, in 2007, we have had three (3) cold-stress deaths and one (1) death whose cause is undetermined.

Dr. White raised the concern that the ongoing drought conditions in the area will result in a significant amount of carbon rich aggravated products being thrust into the river and its tributaries. This affects all aquatic life and not just the manatees. In a similar situation this past winter, a vast amount of nutrients from septic tanks was washed into the river after a heavy rainfall followed a period of virtually no rain.

Jody McDaniel, Planning/Grants Coordinator, Parks, Recreation, Entertainment & Conservation Department, provided the Commission with a FIND update. All of Jacksonville's applications for 2008 FIND grants have been submitted. The Commissioners had been provided with a monthly report for May. Highlights include: the bids for the Palmetto Leaves Regional Park canoe launch are opening May 16<sup>th</sup>; the acquisition of the property for Palm's Fish Camp has been completed; work on the St. Johns Marina Dock is proceeding

On Pending Legislation, the Commission voted 10-0 to recommend **approval** of **ORD 2007-451**, an Ord Amend to Auth Universal 10 Min Passenger Unloading & Rafting of Vessels, as amended. (The amendment would delete "non commercial" in lines 7 & 9). The Commission voted 10-0 to recommend **approval** of Ord 2007-451. The Commission voted 10-1 to recommend withdrawal of **RESOs 2007-452 & 2007-455**, supporting applications to Fla Fish & Wildlife Conservation Comm for grants to remove derelict vessels and to study boating patterns. The Commission deferred action on **ORD 2007-458**, creating new Ord Code chapter for Tax Deferral Program for Recreational & Commercial Working Waterfront Properties. A special Committee was appointed to meet with Tax Collector Hogan, Property Appraiser Overton, Council Member Self and the Mayor's Office to discuss this legislation further and a special Commission meeting will be held to address the issue. Commissioners Grandin, Busey and Bryan were appointed. **Ord. 2007-432**. Adopt Small-Scale Amend to FLUM Series-Appl#2007C-008-2040 Riverview St. (2.7 Acres) – LDR to RPI – H & G Enterprises, LLC. Charles Mann spoke on behalf of the landowner. The site is the old Ribault Lion's Club that has been derelict for some time. It fronts on a navigable body of water. His client purchased the property and proposes to refurbish the building to its former use as a community recreational and meeting facility. His client expects to add a second building that will be used as a medical clinic and doctors' offices for the

community. Committee voted 9-0 to recommend **approval**.

In Public Comments, Mr. Andrew Jason of Arlington addressed the Commission at the suggestion of Commissioner John Lowe. Mr. Jason is a former professional diver and an avid boater and is now in the real estate business. He is very concerned with what he sees as the demise of the boating industry and marinas as a result of rising waterfront condominium and commercial developments.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2007.

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