



Jacksonville Waterways Commission

Don Redman, Chair

FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT (FIND) SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011
City Council Conference Room A
10:00 a.m.

In Attendance: Commissioners Gary L. Anderson (Chair), Lane T. Burnett, Scott Shine, Stephen C. Swann, Waterways Coordinator Captain Jim Suber; Jody McDaniel, Planning Department; Tera Meeks, Chief, Waterfront Management; Drew Dixon, Florida Times-Union; John Nooney; Roger Bump; Attorney Tom Ingram; Jessica Stephens, Legislative Services; John J. Jackson, Council Research Division.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Chair stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the applications for next year's grants that the City had submitted to FIND.

Jody McDaniel explained the time-line for the grant application process:

January	application cycle opens
March/April	deadline for submitting all applications for grants
June	grants go before FIND decision-making body
July	decisions reached on grant applications
October	grant awards announced

Ms. McDaniel cited the projects that the City had submitted applications for funding, including Jax Zoo dock extension, Trout River Bridge, Mayport boat ramp docks, Ortega mooring field. The Arlington River Dredge project application had to be withdrawn because of the lack of matching funds for a project whose cost was out of reach.

Ms. McDaniel noted that FIND placed a priority on motorized boat ramp projects.

Counties contributed a portion of their respective ad valorem taxes to FIND. FIND, in turn, returned funds in the form of grants for waterways projects assistance. Based on its formula, FIND returns 80% of a county's ad valorem tax contribution. This year, there is \$1.2 million available for Duval County grants. City is submitting grants for the entire \$1.2 million. Last year, there were a number of counties that did not apply for FIND grants; because of budget constraints as a result of the economy, these counties did not have sufficient funds to meet matching grant requirements. Last year, Duval County left \$600,000 on the table that was reverted to FIND's coffers. Funds that revert to FIND can be allocated to other Counties throughout the State.

Prospective projects for FIND grants are regularly submitted by the Administration, by citizens

groups and by Council Members.

Once grant applications are submitted, they are scored based on criteria that include such variables as how the project benefits public navigation on waterways, regional benefits, specific need in the community, reasonable and effective timeline for completion, permits applied for, permits obtained, and numerous other factors and considerations.

Mr. Roger Bump, a charter fisherman, commented on the lack of sufficient public access for fishing. He cited examples, particularly areas abutting Mayport Naval Air Station, that have recently been cordoned off and designated a security zone. Commissioner Scott Shine, currently in touch with Naval officials about this recent development, explained the situation.

Attorney Tom Ingram elaborated on a memorandum that he had previously sent to Commissioners addressing access to the river issues with suggestions for potential launch sites for kayak and other smaller craft at existing City-owned properties. Mr. Ingram is expected to make a formal presentation at the November 9th meeting of the full Waterways Commission.

The Chair noted that the suggested sites on Mr. Ingram's list could be possible targets for grant applications.

Mr. John Nooney cited suggestions for potential small craft launches, including the former Shipyards property.

The Chair brought the meeting to a close indicating that the meeting was the beginning of the process of coming up with a priority list for projects. He underscored that we were applying for *our money*; that the FIND grants were essentially our money.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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

11.07.11

Posted: 11:30 a.m.