



Jacksonville Waterways Commission Lynette Self, Chair

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

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

In response to observations and questions raised by Mr. John Nooney during the public comment segment of the previous Commission meeting, Greg Radlinski, Office of General Counsel, addressed the issue of commerce on downtown waterways. Mr. Radlinski advised the Commission that issues concerning commerce on downtown waterways were governed by Chapter 615, *Ordinance Code*, that regulates docking at City facilities on the Northbank, Southbank and Metro Park. Chapter 615 provided that large vessels can moor under circumstances; there are water tax stations; and there is non-commercial vessel loading and off loading at the Jacksonville Landing. Mr. Nooney had questioned whether or not there was room for the recreational mooring downtown was discussed when Mr. Radlinski met with Sgt. Suber and the Assistant Dockmaster, Scott Harrell, to review Chapter 615. Waterways Coordinator Jim Suber said that we did not want commercial/ recreational drop-off zones where we already have recreational zones. Signage was a key option and something that did not require legislation. Sgt. Suber indicated that he will continue to work with Attorney Radlinski, Robert Carle, Chief of Parking Facilities and Enforcement and Commissioner Ed Grey in assessing the issues concerning commerce on downtown waterways.

The monthly manatee update was provided by Dr. Quinton White, Jacksonville University. There were two manatee fatalities reported during February. One was the result of cold stress; the other was of undetermined cause. There were two February aerial assessments. On February 7th, no manatees were observed. On the 21st, one manatee was sighted at Reddi Point.

In the FIND update, Jody McDaniel, Planning/Grants Coordinator, Parks, Recreation, Entertainment & Conservation Department, reported that all 2006 FIND grants were currently being executed. The 2007 FIND grant application deadline is March 16, 2007.

Senator King raised the Beach Marine easement issue. In particular, Senator King wanted to know the nature of Jacksonville Beach officials' and others' opposition to granting the easement. Senator King was assured that the Commissioners would be provided with the Jacksonville Beach official announcement outlining that city's opposition to granting an easement to Beach Marine.

In pending legislation, the Commissioners voted to recommend **approval** of **Ordinance 2007-125**, ORD Amend Sec 387.103 (Manatee Protection Zones), to Conform Language to Fish & Wildlife Conservation Comm Rule. The Commissioners voted to recommend **approval** of **Ordinance 2007-185**, ORD Appropriating \$3,400,800 (\$3,325,800 from U.S. Dept of Homeland Security & \$75,000 from Spec Law Enforcemt Trust Fund) for Constrn of Marine Waterborne Operation Facility. The Commissioners voted to recommend **approval** of **Ordinance 2007-208**, ORD Approp \$223,012 from Environmental Protection Bd Trust Fund for Joint Proj of JU & UNF to Produce Comprehensive Report of State of St. Johns River. Dr. Dan McCarthy of Jacksonville University's Biology and Marine Science Department made a brief presentation on the proposed comprehensive study of the river by JU and UNF. The proposed study is a direct result of the River Accord. The Riverkeeper organization and others asked that the City develop a river report card.

In New Business, Senator King suggested that the Commission apprise the new Governor, President of the Senate and House Speaker on what we have been doing to address the issues focusing on cleaning up the St. Johns River. The Chair, Council Member Self, will send a letter to all the legislators, legislative leadership and the Governor.

Sgt. Leonard Propper, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, reported on JSO's recent acquisition of two new Sea Doos. The Sea Doos will enable JSO's marine unit to deal with reckless sea doo operators on Jacksonville's waterways. 240 tickets have been issued since January 1, 2007.

A draft of the new boater safety brochure was distributed for the

Commissioners' critique and suggestions. Commissioner Busey said that he was troubled by too many shades of blue for various downtown zones. Commissioner Grey thought that the chart lacks clarity on scales. The final draft of the brochure and map should be back before the Commission in a month. When approved, the boater safety brochure will be distributed to all county boaters and at major events such as Sail Jax.

In an update on the Goodby's Lake dredge project, John Pappas of the Public Works Department and Jim Mayer, DEP, reported that the dredge work was supposed to have been completed the previous day. The contractor was ready to leave the site and come back in November to complete the project. John Pappas, Jim Mayer and Jody McDaniel were instrumental in successfully acquiring permit extensions. The dredge project is scheduled to be completed by the end of March.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is April 5, 2007 (subsequently changed to April 12, 2007).

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