

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach District was held at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida, on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Matt Brown called the meeting to order at 3:00, p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

3. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, and Commissioners Sandy Flowers, and Jane West were present. Commissioner Tom Rivers arrived following approval of the agenda and at the start of the first opportunity for public comment. The meeting was also attended by Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and Clay Meek, General Counsel for the District.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Jeffs spoke regarding issues with what he termed a pattern of neglect at Doug Crane, including problems with 'live-aboards'. It was explained that the Port District was sympathetic to the concerns, but had little control or power over Doug Crane and Mr. Jeffs was encouraged to speak with the Governmental Representatives present from other governmental entities, including Sydney Lindblad, Natural Resources Manager of St. Johns County.

Will Niemann, David Hernandez, Justin Williams, Bill Huffmann, Kathy Potado, John Nooney, and Bart Swab all spoke in favor of kayaking in general, greater kayak access, and, in favor of a kayak ramp at May Street, in particular.

Dylan Jackson spoke on behalf of Beaches Go Green and described how the grant request to be considered as a part of new business would be allocated and used.

6. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Corey Sakryd, Grants Administrator for the City of St. Augustine, announced that the Harbor Master for the City Marina, Sam Adukiewicz, was retiring and the new Harbor Master would be Eric Mauldin, who had been with the City Marina for 10 years. Mr. Adukiewicz was acknowledged for his service and accomplishments and Mr. Mauldin was presented and indicated he looked forward to working with the Port District going forward as Harbor Master.

Mr. Sakryd also presented a type of derelict vessel issue in that a part of a floating dock was in the waterway and in need of removal. The estimated cost for the removal was \$2,000.00. **A Motion to approve the funding request out of the derelict fund was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner West, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

Nathan Otter of St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department, then provided updates on various matters. Mr. Otter provided an update on Butler Park East, which continued to progress. The Vilano Beach renourishment project was continuing in the last stage of completion. Also, Mr. Otter advised that Spyglass Park was closed for a walkover replacement.

Sergeant Josh Underwood of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Marine Unit addressed some of the issues raised by Mr. Jeffs. Sergeant Underwood indicated that the issue of mailboxes for boaters at Doug Crane was being addressed and that a composting device was a compliant Marine Sanitation Device for the boats at issue. Sergeant Underwood indicated that there were currently two boats that were derelict, with one being handled by his agency and one being handled by FWC.

Bill Miller and Steve Zukowski of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") spoke. A recent seafood detail operation that resulted in three charges was discussed, along with a boating while intoxicated incident at the Bridge of Lions. Current work on area derelict boats was reviewed and it was noted that this was bird nesting season. Pertinent to the public comments, it was also mentioned as a reminder to all present that all state parks have kayak launches.

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of February 28, 2021, the District spent: \$150 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine and \$5,610 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,150. The Operating Account had \$281,585 as of February 28, 2021. The money market account had \$2,485,095. Taxes received as of February 28, 2021, were \$535,554, with an additional expected tax income of \$47,846 for tax year 2020-2021.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way and passed by a 5-0 vote.

9. ENGINEERING REPORT

No representative from Taylor Engineering was present, so there was no engineering report.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Salt Run Piling - Service Contract Criteria

Timing of provision of services and having a local vendor were discussed as an important criteria. A discussion was also held regarding how much or little to partner with the City of St. Augustine to address the Salt Run markers. Concern over the length of a partnership with the City was voiced and the potential of a sunset provision in a contract was mentioned. Ultimately, it was agreed that the City would be requested to try to prepare a draft interlocal agreement, from which to start discussions over whether to partner with the City and all Commissioners agreed to prepare a list of the criteria they considered important for the next meeting.

B. Kayak Launch Vote

A discussion was held on the merit of a kayak launch and interest in moving forward on what would be needed and a design. The willingness and interest of moving forward among Commissioners was explored. Ultimately **Commissioner Flowers made a Motion for the**

Port District to move forward conceptually with exploring the potential for establishing a kayak launch at May Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner West and passed by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Rivers voting no. It was also agreed among Commissioners that all would come back with a list of concerns to discuss regarding moving forward unilaterally and/or in partnership with another governmental entity as to a kayak launch at May Street.

C. Digitizing Records Proposal

A discussion was held on what would potentially be included in the digitization and records available on the website. Generally, it was agreed that the digitization was start with the start of the current fiscal year and would include the annual audit, grants, interlocal agreements, contracts, the monthly treasurer's reports, and all meeting handouts. To do this, a scanner would be needed, which was estimated to cost \$650.00 to \$800.00 and a 2 terabyte hard drive, estimated to cost \$140.00. The estimate for the monthly charges to do the scanning, backing up the records, and storing the records was \$2,100.00.

The cost was higher than anticipated by some Commissioners and it was agreed that other options would be explored before the next meeting, including outsourcing, to see if a better option was available.

11. New Business

A. Designation for Liaison to GTMNERR

A Motion to designate Chairman Brown as the liaison to GTMNERR was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

B. Beaches Go Green grant

A brief discussion was had on the allocation of the grant funds and the ability of the Port District to expend funds on such a request. **A Motion to approve the \$5,000.00 grant request was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

C. Grant application for funding of new boat ramp

Commissioner West presented information on grant availability with FWC for projects. The deadline for submission was the first week of April, 2021, and Commissioner West volunteered to prepare it. In discussion, it was determined that FWC would not respond to the grant proposal until following the next Port District Commission meeting. Thus, the Motion considered was to authorize Commissioner West to initiate the grant application process, subject to review of the grant in its final form and a vote on whether or not to withdraw the grant application at the next Port District Commission meeting. Such **Motion was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

D. Discussion regarding no wake zone at Hospital Creek and the Bayfront

Commissioner Flowers described problems with wakes along Hospital Creek. Steve Zukowski confirmed that FWC was the governmental entity with the authority to declare and post no wake zones. Some of the criteria typically looked at by FWC were reviewed as being whether it was an area where fuel was dispensed, the number of boating accidents and incidents in the area, and the number of citations issued for things such as careless boating. Josh Underwood also spoke of recent efforts to expand the wake zone at Matanzas, which had not progressed because a boating traffic study had been requested by FWC, which was estimated to cost \$500,000.00. Ultimately, application could be made to FWC, but appeared to be very unlikely to be successful unless and until there was a greater record of citations being issued.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Flowers described marine sanitation device rules in Annapolis and questioned considering doing the same within the Port District. It was discussed that state law would preempt local law on the issue, but that legislation was pending in Tallahassee that might touch on the matter.

14. NEXT MEETING

April 20, 2021, was announced as the next meeting date. As such, the **next meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on April 20, 2021**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

15. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:16, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown