

First Coast Tiger Bay Tracks



January 2020 The First Coast Tiger Bay Club, Inc. P.O. Box 2608, Jacksonville, FL 32203

Chris Hand and the Charter Review Commission January 17, 2020

The **First Coast Tiger Bay Club** 2020 inaugural program features Jacksonville's once a decade experiment in democracy: **Charter Review Commission**. Every 10 years the mayor appoints a Commission to "make recommendations to the Council and the members of the Legislature representing Duval County concerning those provisions in the Charter and other special acts of the Legislature affecting the Consolidated City of Jacksonville." Last year 15 Commission members were named and will continue to meet regularly until making their report in March of 2020. These meetings give citizen access to how we govern ourselves.



To help us understand the background and intricacies of this once a decade opportunity to fix government, we turn to **Chris Hand**, former City of Jacksonville Chief of Staff. He is uniquely qualified to be our guide as he recently authored the very popular 50th Anniversary update to the chronicle of Jacksonville's historic city-county government consolidation: *A Quiet Revolution – the Consolidation of Jacksonville-Duval County and the Dynamics of Urban Political Reform*.

The Charter Review Commission was an outgrowth of the Jacksonville Consolidation experiment a half-century ago and reflected the expectation we would periodically re-evaluate our governing structure.

Chris will briefly summarize the crisis in Jacksonville that led to consolidation 50 years ago and then show how we have since addressed—and sometimes failed to address—those issues consolidation was supposed to fix. From that historical perspective we will better understand today's continuing challenges on which the Commission will focus and how we as citizens can get involved.

For more background on the Charter Review Commission see <https://www.coj.net/city-council/standing-committees/charter-revision-commission> and for a list of the Commission subcommittees and their members see <https://www.coj.net/city-council/headlines/charter-revision-commission-subcommittees-announce>

Chris Hand is a Jacksonville native with a long record of public, civic, and legal service in Florida. From 2011 to 2015, Hand was Mayor Alvin Brown's Chief of Staff for the City of Jacksonville, Florida, the 12th largest city in the nation. As Chief of Staff, he led the advancement of strategic initiatives, coordinated the Mayor's Cabinet of direct reports, and managed the office team, with oversight for policy, advocacy, communications, outreach and scheduling. In 2018 Hand returned to City Hall with the Task Force on Civil Rights History. This service occurred a decade after he served on the Jacksonville Journey anti-crime initiative in 2008.

Hand has also been engaged with federal and state government. From 1996 to 2000, he served as speechwriter, campaign press secretary, and Senate press secretary for then-U.S. Senator and former Governor Bob Graham. With Senator Graham, Hand is co-author of *America, the Owner's Manual: You Can Fight City Hall – and Win*, a guide to helping Americans flex their citizenship muscles to make government respond. He gave a 2017 TEDx Jacksonville talk on the same subject (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9IUkpxylrs>).

In 2008, Hand served as one of 27 Florida electors in the United States Electoral College. From 2017-2018 he was a lead policy advisor to Florida gubernatorial candidate Gwen Graham. He also was a member of the 2018-2019 transition team for Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Nikki Fried.

Hand graduated with honors from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He was honored with the *Daily Princetonian* Award for his successful efforts to reform the university's then century old Honor Code. Hand later graduated with honors from the University of Florida's Levin College of Law where he was president of the student bar association. Chris also served as a research assistant to former Florida Gov. and U.S. Rep. Buddy MacKay. Hand is a member of the Jacksonville Bar Association, Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2014 and Leadership Florida Cornerstone Class XXXVI (36). An enthusiastic hiker who loves the Florida outdoors, a dedicated fan of the Jacksonville Jaguars and Florida Gators, Hand lives in Jacksonville with his wife and two children. For recent news articles featuring him see: <https://www.jacksonville.com/news/20191025/nate-monroe-gut-check-jacksonvilles-consolidated-government-needs> and <https://www.jacksonville.com/news/20191029/mark-woods-chris-hand-went-from-city-hall-to-citys-quos-trails>

We invite you to join Chris Hand as our expert guide to how citizens can involve themselves in our government. What role will the Charter Review Commission play in decisions about the JEA, the school board and the Office of General Counsel? What other local issues still must be resolved? Perhaps most important of all, what is the future of democracy and citizen participation in how we govern? Some folks have suggested the Charter Review Commission should be abolished just as others suggested eliminating the once every 20 years Florida Constitution Revision Commission. Does this mean we are giving up on democracy? We hope you join our dialogue on democracy with Chris Hand on **January 17, 2020**.

2020 Tiger Bay Officers

Sam Hall, President
Dr. Stephen Baker, Vice President
Henry Cordes, Secretary
Marcia Turner, Treasurer

FIRST COAST TIGER BAY CLUB meets for lunch every month, except June, July and December, on the 3rd Friday at 11:30 at The River Club, 1 Independent Drive, 35th Floor. Cost for the event, which includes the wonderful buffet and parking, is \$28.

Reservations are required: Call (904) 404-5471 or E-Mail: fctigerbay@gmail.com

2020 Meeting Notice

Due scheduling conflict at the River Club in **February** and **April**, the Tiger Bay meetings will be held at the **Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club**
1830 Epping Forest Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32217

Time to Renew Your Tiger Bay Dues for 2020

The dues for 2020 will remain the same as last year. (**Application attached as a separate document**)

\$250 for full year (Must be paid by the end of January).

\$75 for dues and **\$28** for each meeting attended

Student: **\$20** dues and **\$20** for each meeting attended



George Mackoul **LTG F. L. Hagenbeck, US Army (Ret.)**
2019 Pres., First Coast Tiger Bay November 2019 Speaker



Marcie Turner **George Mackoul** **Hazel Gillis**
Treasurer, First Coast Tiger Bay 2019 Pres., First Coast Tiger Bay Board Member, First Coast Tiger Bay
2019 Certificate of Appreciation Awards

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political forum that promotes free and open debate but does not support any candidates or issues.

Dr. Stephen Baker, Newsletter Editor
Henry Cordes, Publisher

Reservations are REQUIRED. Please RSVP by
Tuesday January 14, 2020
E-mail: fctigerbay@gmail.com or 904-404-5471

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political and civic forum designed to explore crucial issues of the day by interacting with outstanding speakers in an open format. The club is non-partisan, never supports particular candidates, nor take sides on issues.