

## **Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee January 17, 2024, Meeting Summary**

Hybrid Meeting: Jacksonville Main Public Library, 303 North Laura Street, Conference Room Level, Multipurpose Room and on ZOOM.

### **Meeting Attendance**

**CPAC Members:** Bryant Shumaker, CPAC Chair, SPAR Council; Juanita Senior, CPAC Vice Chair, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association; Beca Dingler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Mike Haskins, SPAR Council; Cory Haynes, JASMYN.

**Excused:** Keith Davis, All Things Common Ministries; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association.

**ZOOM:** Tiffany Morales, Military Affairs and Veterans Department; Cathy Reed, Parks at the Cathedral; Bill Hoff, SAMBA.

**Elected Officials and Staff:** Warren Jones, Duval County School Board; Ernest Murphy, Municipal Code Compliance; Derek Dixon, FDOT; Caroline Fulton, Planning and Development Department; Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Office; Dana Kriznar, Superintendent Duval County Public Schools; Keli Likins, Jacksonville Public Library; James Groff, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; Chiquita Moore, Operations Director, Neighborhoods Department.

**Guests:** Ernest Smith, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project; Marilyn McGee; Kelly Frazier, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville.

### **Meeting Summary**

**1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Edwina Henry verified a quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** CPAC Members approved the November 6, 2023, Meeting Summary with one correction: Change South Carolina to North Carolina.

**3. Presenter:** None.

**4. Elected Officials Reports:** Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent Duval County Public Schools, noted that school board member Warren Jones was en route and should arrive momentarily.

- Dr. Kriznar provided an update on the sale of the school board building and stated that the board is in the process of reviewing the final two recommendations. The highest bid was \$15 million, which is far below the \$69 million it will cost to lease a building, so the numbers are very far apart and the school board is considering different alternatives.
- January 16, 2024, was Duval Day in Tallahassee during the legislative session, and a number of organizations, including the Duval County School Board and district staff, were in full support, talking to all of our legislators about the great things that are happening in Jacksonville. She stated it was a very fun and productive day.
- In her update on the Facilities Master Plan, Dr. Kriznar indicated that the school district is looking at ways to stretch budgeted dollars and are considering additional consolidations of schools which may be underutilized.

Dr. Dana Kriznar – (904) 390-2000 – [kriznard@duvalschools.org](mailto:kriznard@duvalschools.org)

**5. Chair's Report:** Chair Shumaker began his report by thanking UC CPAC members for re-electing him for 2024. He also stated that one of the goals for 2024 is increasing the effectiveness of the CPAC. He asked all members to think about items to bring to the table to ask of the representatives from the city and of the elected officials; perhaps take notes of any items that they come up with during the month, and to be able to share those items prior to the meeting.

Additionally, the Chair stated that he would like the CPAC to try to do a better job of broadcasting what they are learning here out to the community and neighborhood organizations as much as possible. He wants to increase the efficiency of the CPAC meetings by keeping them to a reasonable amount of time and documenting potential action items, as well as using the time in between meetings to make progress in various areas.

Another goal for 2024 is to increase participation in the CPAC. One of the efforts the Chair made between November 2023 and this meeting was to reach out to a number of the neighborhood organizations that are in our district but not necessarily active participants in CPAC in an effort to increase membership. The Chair then asked if there were any of those organizations present; two hands raised: Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project and Marilyn McGee, First United Methodist Church. Chair Shumaker thanked them both and invited them to speak during the public comments portion of the agenda. Lastly, if there are other organizations interested in joining the UC CPAC, they are invited to contact Edwina Henry, who will provide the necessary information on attendance and how to apply.

On a lighter note, the chair indicated that there's a friendly rivalry between the CPACs, where the Northwest proclaims itself to be the best and the others say they are the best. Chair Shumaker would like for the Urban Core to think of itself as the "Heart of Jacksonville," because we are situated right in the middle of it. Chair Shumaker thinks there will be some healthy competition coming with all of the CPACs as we begin working on neighborhood clean-ups, etc., so if any UC CPAC member encounters another CPAC, the chair would like them to respond with the "Urban Core is the Heart of Jacksonville."

## **6. Staff Reports:**

**Jacksonville Public Library** – Keli Likins stated that she had two quick announcements:

- AARP will be offering free tax help at many of the public library branch locations and recommended that those interested should call their local branches to see if they offer the tax preparation assistance.
- February's History Chat will feature Mr. Jerry Urso, who will focus on the life of Captain James W. Floyd, who was a celebrated hero of the Spanish American War, a business owner and a civil rights activist from Jacksonville. She will email the flier with more information.

**Keli Likins** – (904) 255-6090 or [klikins@coj.net](mailto:klikins@coj.net)

**FDOT** – Derek Dixon, Transportation Manager, responded to questions that were previously submitted:

- The Main Street Project consists of resurfacing improvements, curb, ramp and gutter work. FDOT will also be doing some traffic and signal updates, lighting upgrades and landscaping work, and some bike path improvements. The expected completion date is Spring 2024.
- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and I95 signals will be added. The expected project completion date is late 2026.

- To check on any current or future project, go to [www.nflroads.com](http://www.nflroads.com), then click on Duval County.
- The Matthews Bridge Project is a steel repair project and is expected to be completed in Spring 2024.
- The Arlington Expressway from the Matthews Bridge to Southside Boulevard is resurfaced and is expected to be completed in 2024.

**Derek Dixon** – (904) 360-5457 or [Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us)

**Neighborhoods Department** – Chiquita Moore, Operations Director, after thanking everyone for accommodating the schedule change from January 9 to January 17, due to inclement weather, gave the following report:

- As a reminder, Ms. Moore stated that MyJax at 630-CITY is the number to call to report any issues. MyJax provides real time updates, estimated completion times and we want to encourage others to use 630-CITY as well.
- The annual river cleanup is scheduled for March 16, 2024. Ms. Moore will forward additional information to Edwina Henry who will in turn share with the CPAC. She also stated that if anyone had suggestions about adding additional sites to the clean-up of if they wished to be a site captain, to please feel free to contact Dan Durbec. His information will be on the flier, or just call 630-CITY and they will forward the information.
- As a recap of calendar year 2023, the Urban Core was very active with service requests through 630-CITY, and the city has done a phenomenal job through all our departments, including Neighborhoods, which includes Municipal Code Compliance. MyJax closed 37,000 service requests in the Urban Core alone last year.

**Jacksonville Sheriff's Office** – Not present.

**Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department** – Captain James Groff, stated that as a last minute substitute for Captain Charles Johnson, who got called away, he really did not have any formal updates.

- Space heaters are a general life safety issue with the colder, inclement weather. Space heaters should be at least three feet away from any type of combustibles, and not in common walkway areas. There is generally quite an uptick in house fires due to colder weather.

**Captain James Groff** – (904) 255-8320 or [JGroff@coj.net](mailto:JGroff@coj.net)

**Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD)** - Ernest Murphy, Code Enforcement Administrator, announced that Code Compliance Officers will be emailing the monthly updates for inspections, and asked that any special requests be emailed as well, to be more efficient.

- MCCD will be providing more information on education as well as on the ordinances that are being cited, any issues associated with complaints and will try to get those addressed as soon as possible. Sometimes more information is needed and if that is provided upfront, it makes addressing the issues easier and more efficient.
- An adjustment MCCD made regarding servicing neighborhoods was to utilize the existing CPAC boundaries. So, for the UC CPAC there are several blocks on the Southbank that had been attending the Southeast CPAC meetings to have their issues addressed. They will now be attending the UC CPAC meetings. This adjustment was made so that everyone can go to their correct CPAC to get their issues resolved.

- Several commonly cited ordinances are: 656 which is the zoning ordinance; 518 which is the property safety ordinance; 741 which is the snipe sign ordinance; and 745 which is the addressing ordinance. Mr. Murphy noted that it is a code violation to not have a readable address on houses, as it is a safety issue that involves JFRD and JSO – every house has to have a readable address on their property.

**Ernest Murphy** – (904) 255-7096 or [EMurphy@coj.net](mailto:EMurphy@coj.net)

**Neighborhood Services Office** – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, reminded the CPAC to notify her if they are not receiving emails from her on a regular basis and to carefully read through their meeting agenda packets for important information that could benefit the larger community.

**Edwina Henry** – (904) 255-8260 of [EHenry@coj.net](mailto:EHenry@coj.net)

**7. Old Business:** None.

**8. New Business:** Chair Shumaker addressed the UC CPAC Subcommittees, an upcoming meeting with JTA regarding community transit needs and the City of Jacksonville's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

- After discussion, the following Chair appointments were made for the subcommittees:  
Blight Subcommittee – Ms. Juanita Senior  
Homelessness Subcommittee – Tabled  
Governmental Affairs/LUZ Subcommittee – Dimitri Demopoulos  
T.R.U.E. Commission – Kim Pryor
- CPAC Chairs were invited to meet with the CEO of JTA, Nathaniel Ford, Sr., to discuss community transit needs. Chair Shumaker asked the CPAC to reach out to their neighbors and ask for feedback. The meeting is January 30, 2024, so please forward any information prior to that date.
- Each of the six CPACs have been requested to submit one priority capital improvement project request for each neighborhood within our boundaries. Our submission is due no later than February 23, 2024. To assist us in the process this year, we have invited the CIP Administrator, Kathleen Collins, to be our speaker at the February 5, 2024, CPAC Meeting. Therefore, everyone who would like to submit a project from their neighborhood organization should certainly bring those to the table so they may be included in our submission. UC CPAC Members should have already received a copy of last year's submission, which was sent via email by Ms. Henry.
- Lastly, the CPAC Chairs Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2024, please forward any outstanding items that have been reported through 630-CITY that have not yet been resolved. Chair Shumaker will have the opportunity to raise issues or concerns directly with the Mayor's Office, so be sure to forward those to him as soon as possible.

**9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:**

- **Governmental Affairs/LUZ** - Dimitri Demopoulos: The subcommittee reviewed several waivers and exceptions and variances, and no action was taken.
- **Blight and Code Enforcement** – Juanita Senior: The subcommittee met on January 4, 2024, and the purpose was to work with Municipal Code Compliance Division to make sure that residents that were being cited understood the citations and understood how to maintain and keep their property. Chris Billings, MCCD Supervisor, provided a spreadsheet and made sure the subcommittee members understood the process. The subcommittee also wanted to make sure that residents were aware of the JAR – Jacksonville Assistance

and Relief Program, which is additional funding that can be given to property owners to alleviate some of the fines that are attached to cited properties found to be in violation of municipal codes. The subcommittee also wanted to have information about the JAR Program included in the code violation notice/letter received by the homeowners.

- **Homelessness** – No report.

**10. Public Comments and Announcements:**

- **Marlo Karka, Blue Zones Project** – The Blue Zones Project has applied for CPAC Membership. Ms. Karka first addressed the CPAC a year ago and she is happy to state that they will be opening their headquarters on 228 East Eighth Street later in January and they look forward to working together. The Blue Zones Project is a community health, well-being initiative that was invited by the City of Jacksonville and a number of other healthcare systems and sponsors to commit to the well-being of residents of Jacksonville for the next five years to drive down healthcare costs and improve employee productivity.
- **Tiffany Morales, Military Affairs and Veterans Department** – The annual Veterans Stand Down is scheduled for January 26 and 27 and will be held at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. Friday, January 26 from 10 am to 2 pm with a focus on employment, medical and other resources. Saturday, January 27 will be a resource day with insurance companies, the VA, etc. Participation is free for service agencies and please help spread the word to veterans.

**11. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm