

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

June 5, 2023 Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting:

Main Library 303 North Main Street, Conference Level, Multipurpose Room and on ZOOM

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Bryant Shumaker, Chair, SPAR Council; Juanita Senor, Vice-Chair, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association; Keith Davis, All Things Common Ministries, Inc.; Becca Dinger, 2nd Mile Ministries; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Ernest Smith, Plaza Condominium Association; Cindy Watson, JASMYN; Johnny Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch, Cathy Reed, Parks at the Cathedral

Excused:

Visitors: Phyllis Mattox, Community Connect; Marjorie Wilson; Linda Harris; Mike Haskins

Staff and Elected Officials: Warren Jones, Duval County School Board; Chris Billings, Code Compliance; Dana Kriznar, Duval County Public Schools; Daniel Piastuck, Park, Recreation and Community Services; Caroline Fulton, Planning and Development; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Keli Likins, JPL; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office; Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Office

Meeting Summary

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm Rosemary Wesolowski confirmed a quorum was present.

Approval of Previous Meeting's Summary: The April 2023 Meeting Summary was approved by the CPAC Members with the following change: add Terry Canty's name to the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee

Presentation: Dawn Gilman, CEO, Changing Homelessness, provided a brief overview of their mission and mainly responded to questions previously submitted by the Urban Core CPAC Homelessness Subcommittee.

Changing Homelessness applies for large, complex grants and administers grants and works collaboratively on plans to end homelessness. In 2024, the organization will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its founding.

Ms. Gilman stated homelessness numbers did not go up from 2020 to 2023, but people appear to be shifting around to different locations. Most shelters are at or near capacity everyday and have very restrictive entry requirements and limited lodging arrangements and as a result families and couples will often choose to "stay on the street" in order to "stay together."

To learn more about Changing Homelessness and to see the most current data on Homelessness in downtown Jacksonville visit: www.changinghomelessness.com

Elected Officials' Report:

The honorable Warren Jones, Duval County Public School Boardmember for District 5 informed the CPAC that former Superintendent, Dr. Diana Green's retirement is effective June 2, 2023.

Current Deputy Superintendent, Dana Kriznar, will serve as the new superintendent until a permanent superintendent is selected. State law requires a Superintendent and not an interim because the Superintendent runs the day-to-day

operations. The School Board will hold a workshop on June 14, 2023, at 12:30 pm in Room 613 of the School Administration Building, 1701 Prudential Drive, in Jacksonville, to discuss the search for a new School Superintendent. The public will be allowed to offer input.

DCPS Summer School starts June 12 and kindergarten enrollment is on-going. The last commencement of the year was held June 5, 2023.

Chair's Report: none

Staff Reports:

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) – Assistant Chief Jimmy Ricks reported that City Council is reviewing homelessness ordinances. The Camping Ordinance: if individuals refuse services they could face jail.

With respect to the Co-Responder Program, the goal is to expand the number of responders. Two responders per zone is the goal; however, more funding is needed.

Assistant Chief Ricks will be meeting with Lori Boyer next week to discuss some ideas. He will also be meeting with some local business owners to discuss how to resolve issues such as what is happening in Riverside.

In responding to concerns about 44th and Pearl streets, Assistant Chief Ricks noted that that particular property is a residence and not a shelter, therefore the activities/interactions will be different.

Zone 1 Substation – 904-630-8144 or JSOZone1@jaxsheriff.org

Jacksonville Fire and Rescue (JFRD) – Captain Charles Johnson announced that Hurricane Season has begun and reminded everyone that the JAXReady App provides information and other resources. The website www.JAXReady.com contains GIS services, information on evacuation zones and routes, various checklists, etc.

Captain Johnson can be reached at 904-255-8560 or johnsonc@coj.net

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) – Keli Likins shared that the Summer Reading Program has begun; kids can earn free books through participating.

The Duval Comics & Zines Festival is this Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 1 pm to 5 pm at the Jacksonville Public Main Library. There will be various activities, vendors, etc.

The Jacksonville Public Library Free Summer Lunch Program, for ages 18 and under, will run from June 6 through August 5, 2023 at several locations. For more information, visit: www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/blog/free-summer-lunch-library

Jacksonville Public Library, Main Branch Phone: 904-255-2665

Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) – Cheryl Riddick stated that Duval County public school students must turn in their school IDs at the end of the school year and new IDs will be issued at the beginning of the new school year. This change is slightly problematic because School ID is required for youth to ride the bus for free. JTA is working on finding a solution and will share the information through the DCPS Communication/Information System, select social media – but not the general media. Details are forthcoming.

Contact Information: www.jtafl.com Phone: 904-630-3100

Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) – No Report

Municipal Code Compliance (MCCD) – Chris Billings, Code Compliance Supervisor, reported that since the last CPAC Meeting:

MCCD completed 1539 Inspections in the Urban Core District and identified 185 unsafe structures.

There were 741 Litter Signs (also known as snipe signs which are attached to trees, utility poles, public property or public utility) cited since the last meeting. Sign Volunteers are needed. Please contact the office if you would like to help educate others about litter signs. You can also contact the City Call Center at 630-CITY to report violations.

Chris Billings can be reached at (904) 630-CITY or CBillings@coj.net

Parks, Recreation and Community Service (Parks) – Daniel Piastuck, Parks District Manager, had fliers on the following:

- Movie Night @ Stockton Park – June 9, 2023
- Rec ‘N Roll @ JAX Parks – No Registration Required – Activities for Ages 6-17 – June 12-August 4, 2023
- Free Teen Nights at select locations with various activities including movies – June 16, 2023
- JaxParks 2023 Pool Locations open daily June 3– August 6 and weekend hours only August 12 – September 4

Mr. Piastuck offered updates on the following projects:

1. The Recreation Department is still looking for life guards to fill open positions, however, there is an adequate number of life guards on rotation to ensure that the open pools have a lifeguard on duty.
2. J.S. Johnson Park: This project is in the final stages of the design/planning phase. Construction will be completed in phases. ETA on start date is not available at this time
3. Grunthal Park: Basketball court addition/improvement work currently underway
4. Lonnie Miller Splash Pad: was recently inspected by the State and additional modifications were requested. That work is underway now. Once completed a new inspection will be scheduled. Parks is working for this to be completed as soon as possible.

Daniel Piastuck’s contact information is 904-255-7918 or DPIastuck@coj.net

Planning and Development Department (P&DD) – no report

Neighborhood Services Office (NSO) – Rosemary Wesolowski announced that the Neighborhoods Department has extended the application deadline for the 2023 Neighborhood Awards Competition to Thursday, July 6, 2023. All nominations must be received by 6 pm on that date.

Additionally, Edwina Henry was introduced as the new Neighborhood Services Coordinator for CPAC Districts 1 and 5. Today, 6/5/23, is her first day on the job and Ms. Wesolowski will be assisting in helping her get acclimated into her new role. The CPAC expressed appreciation and many thanks to Ms. Wesolowski for stepping in and assuming leadership over the past several months in the absence of a coordinator for Districts 1 & 5.

Old Business – none

New Business – none

Subcommittees:

Nomination Subcommittee – no report

Blight and Code Enforcement Subcommittee – stated that due to timing, it is not feasible to have a June 2023 clean-up. And as there is no meeting in July 2023, the subcommittee will have plans in place by the August meeting, sign-up sheets will be circulated. Proposed 2024 dates for clean-up: January 27, April 27 and September 27

Homelessness Subcommittee – no report. Meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2023 in the Ed Ball Building, 5th Floor Conference Room 5016. It was also stated that they were very happy with Ms. Gilman’s presentation on homelessness.

Governmental Affairs Subcommittee – Meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm. A quorum was verified. The following applications were reviewed and discussed:

- **AD-2335 Administrative Deviation** – Increase fence height from 4 feet to 6 feet – no action taken
- **E-23-42 Zoning Exception** – New Single-Family Dwellings - no action taken
- **2023-0294 and 2023-093** – 200 residential units (allow up to 220 units): 45,000 square feet commercial and allow for a site specific Text Amendment to increase density of units - two members of the subcommittee had to recuse themselves, which prevented any action from being taken. Issue will go before the full UC CPAC. (The appropriate Conflict of Interest Declarations were completed and filed with staff)

Discussion – Deferral of Ordinance 2023-0294 and Land use Amendment 2023-093

Action - The Urban Core CPAC strongly requests that the Planning Commission defer consideration of Ordinance 2023-093 (Application Tracking Number L-5811-23C) and Ordinance 2023-0294 for at least 30 days to give the Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR) and the Springfield neighborhood adequate time to educate themselves and their residents regarding the proposed development and evaluate whether the development, as currently presented, is a benefit to the community.

Vote – The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments – Linda Harris inquired about the Myrtle Avenue neighborhood mural on First and Main Streets, entitled “Springfield is Awesome,” as she would like to have one in her neighborhood. Chair Shumaker indicated that he will assist with making contact with the SPAR Council and they can share the information with her.

Adjournment: There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

NOTE: UC CPAC does not meet in July. The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is Monday, August 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the Jacksonville Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, 32202 in the Multipurpose Room.

Summary prepared by Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, 255-8260 or EHenry@coj.net. A copy of the audio recording of this Urban Core CPAC Meeting is available through a Public Information Request by calling 630-CITY. Details about Public Records can be found on the City’s Website: Public Records.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at V 904-255-5466. TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to ADAAccommodationsRequest@coj.net