

Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 9, 2023, Meeting Summary

Lincoln Villa Senior Center, 7866 New Kings Rd., 6 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 3543 1494 Passcode: 630145

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members – Rhonda Boyd, Chair, Timber Oaks Homeowners Association; Victor Coleman, Vice-Chair, Central Fairfax Community Association; Elaine Billups, Better Living Community Association; Leroy Kelly, Carver International; Kim Stephens-Perry, NJTRMNA; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Jaqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Henry Scott, North Riverside CDC; Waynetta McGraw, Jacksonville Ranch Club II; Doretha Thompkins, Riverview; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA

Visitors – Jacquelyn Harris, Duval Legacy Leaders; Joshua Roth; Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition; Sheliah Brown; Antonia Bryant; Catherine Blandford, Keep Jacksonville Beautiful; Jeanette Mitchell, Central Fairfax Association

Elected Official and City Staff – Paula Renfro, Chief Academic Officer, Duval County Public Schools; Chris Ledew, Chief of Traffic Engineering, Public Works; Dana Hawes, Public Works; Scott Adams, Jacksonville Public Library; Assistant Chief J. Barrier, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office; Officer Jacob Cahill Jacksonville Sheriff's Office; Officer Jake Howard, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office; Lieutenant Jarmar Smith, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; Brian Naples, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Kaysie Cox, Planning and Development Department; Craig Black, Neighborhood Services Office

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Vice-Chair, Victor Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Craig Black confirmed a quorum was present.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary: The January 2023 NW CPAC meeting summary was approved by the CPAC members.

Presentation: Laura Edgecome, Director of Development, Build Up Downtown provided an overview of their mission; preservation, smart development and great public spaces.

Build Up Downtown (BUD) believes Downtown Jacksonville is the heartbeat of the city, and as a sister neighborhood, the Northwest CPAC stands to gain a lot from its development. For over a decade, stakeholders, have created a momentum that will revitalize Downtown Jacksonville and ensure sustainability moving forward.

Ms. Edgecome stated:

- Downtown Jacksonville residency has doubled in the last five years and is set to do so again.
- The current occupancy rate of downtown Jacksonville living is 98% of the 10,000 resident goal.
- Over 100 acres of riverfront property is in transformation to add living spaces, retail options and to create unique public spaces.
- There is currently \$1.35 billion worth of construction happening in Downtown Jacksonville.
- There are 4,833 residential units currently under construction.
- The Emerald Trail is set to be complete in 2029 and will encompass 30 miles of trails, greenways and parks that link 14 neighborhoods to Downtown Jacksonville.

As a neighboring community, BUD is asking the Northwest CPAC to help them communicate and inform others of BUD's mission.

BUD facilitates and advocates for preservation, smart development and great public spaces in Downtown Jacksonville through communicating, connecting and informing current and future businesses and stakeholders. You can visit buildupdowntown.org for specific project updates.

Elected Officials: Paula Renfro shared that applications for the School Choice Program are due by February 28, 2023.

Duval County Public Schools is taking steps to ensure compliance with FL Statute 847.012 regarding books and materials available to children. So far there are 20 books that have not been approved after review.

Chairs Report: Chair Boyd informed the CPAC that the Quarterly Chairs meeting with the Mayor's Staff is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2023. If members have a specific concern that they would like brought up at the meeting to let her know after tonight's CPAC meeting.

Staff Reports

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO): Assistant Chief J. Barrier reported that Zone 5 had the following numbers for 2022:

- o Property and violent crimes were down for the year.
- o There were 120,228 or 330 calls a day that officers responded to.
- o Business robberies were down 45%.
- o Automobile burglaries were down 16%.

Assistant Chief Barrier informed the CPAC that the Professional Oversight Unit (POU) is responsible for overseeing administrative cases related to resident reported incidents with police contact. With the additional layer of review, JSO can ensure officers comply with training and policy.

Jacksonville Fire and Rescue (JFRD): Lieutenant Jamar Smith shared the following information:

- o Having an emergency exit plan for your home is important.
- o Take the time to discuss and practice your emergency exit plan with your family at least twice a year.
- o Use the back of your hand when checking to see if a surface is hot.
- o Call 911 in the event of an emergency.

Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD): Brian Naples reported:

- o MCCD conducted 1,742 inspections in Zone 5 in the last 30 days.
- o There will be a systematic inspection in the New Town Neighborhood starting February 13.
- o The Jacksonville Assistance and Relief (JAR) Program is still available. To qualify for the JAR Program, you must own and reside in the home, meet financial requirements, and have not used the JAR Program in a year. For more details about the JAR Program, please visit [COJ Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program](#).

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL): Scott Adams announced the following:

- o JPL has teamed up with AARP to offer free tax preparation services. More information can be found online at [jaxpubliclibrary.org](#)
- o Career Source is at Charles Webb Wesconnett Public Library every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. assisting with workforce preparedness.
- o Starting March 6th, early voting will be available at the Highlands Regional Library and Bradham and Brooks Branch Library.

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA): Jenell Milton provided the following updates:

- o The JEA Neighborhood Efficiency Program assists customers in making energy and water efficiency upgrades in their home.
- o JEA sends the Neighborhood Energy Efficiency (NEE) crew to install energy-saving products to help lower utility bills.
- o The NEE gives Jacksonville residents tips on how to manage electric and water usage.
- o Your irrigation system should be checked regularly for leaks, including the water meter.
- o Call JEA at 904-665-6000 to schedule a free irrigation assessment.
- o JEA offers rebates on home upgrades that help save residents money, such as attic insulation and installing Energy Star certified appliances.
- o There are more tips to save on your water and electric bill on JEAs website at [jea.com/ways2save](#).

There was a question from the floor on the recent increase in fuel charges on JEA bills. She confirmed that JEA noticed they were under charging residents and have made adjustments, as the reason for the increase.

Public Works (PW): Chris Ledew gave the following updates:

- The traffic project between Sibald Road and Lem Turner was inspected for lighting. It was found the lighting was sufficient.
- The request to pick up trash at the site between Moncrief Road and the Edgewood Cemetery has been forwarded to the Solid Waste Division.
- A four-way stop has been installed at the intersection of 13th Street and Grand Park as a result of a traffic study.
- At Lenox Avenue and Ramona Street, a crash problem has been identified and PW is looking at fixes to mitigate the issue.
- At the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Superior Street there has been an increase in automobile accidents, a fix for the issue is under investigation.
- At the intersection of Garden Street and Imeson Street there is a turn lane going to be installed as part of community development.

Unfinished Business: Chair Boyd addressed an ongoing MCCD issue located at Pearce and 3rd Street and Chair Boyd congratulated the CPAC on being effective, in resolving the issue.

New Business: none to report

Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:

Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee: CPAC LUZ Subcommittee-Vice-Chair Roxsan Currier reported that the subcommittee recommended a denial for WLD-23-04 at 954 Edgewood Avenue South, 32205. There was a motion from the floor to deny and the motion was carried.

TRUE Commission: Nothing to report.

Neighborhood Coordinator: nothing to report.

Chair and Vice Nominating Subcommittee: nothing to report.

Public Comments: Mr. Kristopher Smith of Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), Housing and Community Development announced:

- A free service to help residents save their properties that are in considered to be heirs properties. The program helps the resident get a clear title and claim homestead exemption.
- LISC helps with estate planning and medical directives.

Mr. Smith can be reached at 904-351-0008

Catherine Blandford, Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission Chair announced the upcoming, St. Johns River Celebration on March 18th and invited the Northwest CPAC. There were multiple park locations identified.

There was an anonymous public comment made announcing:

- Duval County has the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).
- There is an urban garden on Commonwealth Avenue and Superior Street.
- There is a canning center at the IFAS office located at 2525 McDuff Avenue.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next CPAC Meeting: Thursday, **March 9, 2023**, at 6 p.m. Lincoln Villa Senior Center, 7866 New Kings Rd.

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The next Land Use and Zoning Meeting: Thursday, **March 9, 2023**, at 5 p.m. Lincoln Villa Senior Center, 7866 New Kings Rd. **Zoom:** Meeting ID: 864 3543 1494 Passcode: 630145

Summary prepared by Craig Black, Neighborhood Coordinator, 255-8260 or blackc@coj.net. A copy of the audio recording of this Northwest 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 for 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 ADAAccommodationRequest@coj.net.