

Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

April 11, 2024

Hybrid Meeting: Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Drive, 32208 and via ZOOM.

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Rhonda Boyd, Vice Chair, Timber Oaks HOA; Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition; Vanessa Cullins-Hopkins, Pebo Corp.; Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Jaqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Camika Jerido, USA Unlimited, Inc.; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA; Bettye Scott, Ribault Manor; Shirley Thomas, North Riverside CDC; Leroy Kelly, Carver International; Henry Scott, North Riverside CDC; and, Gwen Nmezi, Royal Terrace.

Excused: Victor Coleman, CPAC Chair, Central Fairfax Community Association (at CommUniverCity); Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Murphy Nmezi, Royal Terrace; Roxie Powell, Woodstock Neighborhood Association.

Staff and Elected Officials: The Honorable Tyrona Clark-Murray, Jacksonville City Council, District 9; The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County Public School Board member; Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent Duval County Public Schools; Paula Renfro, Duval County Public Schools; Derek Dixon, FDOT; Yuri Blackburn, Jacksonville Public Library; and Ernest Murphy, Municipal Code Compliance Division.

Guests: Wiley Page, North Florida TPO; Yvonne Ward, North Florida TPO; Shalene Estes, Forestar; Darlene Neal; Antonia Bryant; LeVasiya Harlem, Pritchard Point; CT Hodges, JFRD; Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Gregory Bostic; DCPS; Keba Roberson, NJTRA; LaVerne Marshall; Raschelle Tokerall, Pritchard Point; Nebo Ali, Magnolia North; Michael Cobb, Magnolia North; Henry Scott, North Riverside CDC; Latinna Dowdell; Carrie Griggs; Dr. Brenda Boston-Hudson.

ZOOM: Elaine Billups, Better Living Community Association, Inc.; Lana Suggs-Champion, Carver International; Chip Harper, Military Affairs and Veterans Department; Ernest Goran; Anthony Porter, USA Unlimited, Inc.; Rhonda Hart-Sparks; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association; Cindy.

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Vice Chair Rhonda Boyd called the April 2024 Meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary: The Northwest CPAC March 2024 Meeting Summary was approved.

3. Presenter: Mr. Wiley Page, Consultant, North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO), gave a brief overview of the NF TPO:

- NFTPO is an independent regional transportation planning agency, covering Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. John's Counties in northeast Florida.

- NFTPO leads the region's efforts in planning, funding, and mobilizing transportation resources that help maintain and hopefully expand the transportation system.
- The organization is made up of three boards, two advisory boards and one elected body. They also have a technical advisory committee comprised of planners and engineers from all the municipalities. There is also a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) that advises on various issues coming before the TPO. They are also looking for new members for the Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Page encouraged anyone who is interested in being part of the TPO Citizens Advisory Committee to contact Marci Larson, Public Affairs Manager at (904) 306-7513 or mlarson@northfloridatpo.com
- The main focus of the TPO is to adopt and maintain a long-range transportation plan. It is updated every five years to account for changes.
- NF TPO projects are multimodal: roadway projects, transit projects, railroad crossing safety projects, walking, and bicycling programs and projects.
- For more information visit the website at www.NorthFloridaTPO.com. The website also has a series of studies covering a variety of transportation issues, listed geographically, and based on available funding. There are currently 200 regional projects.
- The State and Federal Gasoline Taxes are the funding sources for the TPO projects. NFTPO will need to match those funds to develop a feasible plan to fund the projects.
- Because community input on projects is extremely important, CPACs are being asked to participate in a survey to indicate how they would like transportation dollars spent. North Florida TPO would like to know preferences for more bicycle, pedestrian facilities, more roadways, to have more roads widened, to see more technology, see more transit (transit meaning more than just buses), etc.
- Each person was asked to participate in the survey, and to encourage others to participate, as well. The survey will be open through the end of April. The website is www.2050PathForward.com – click on updated survey.

For more information – info@northfloridatpo.com or (904) 306-7500

4. Elected Officials Report: The Honorable Tyrona Clark-Murray, Jacksonville City Council, District 9, greeted those assembled and stated how pleased she was to see neighborhoods advocating for themselves. Council member Clark-Murray gave the following report:

- Special recognition for NW CPAC Member, Ms. Shirley Thomas, who received an award for her work with her neighborhood association at the LISC 20th Anniversary Celebration.
- Jacksonville City Council passed additional funding for roof repair, \$400,000, which has qualifications attached to eligibility. Council Member Clark-Murray gave kudos to Mayor Deegan for following through on her promise to help neglected communities.
- Crime continues to be a major focus in the Eureka Gardens area. JSO has instituted Public Nuisance Abatement Board: PNAB. At least three police officers must be on the Eureka Gardens Campus, daily, and one supervisor, so they can respond to the criminal element in addition to looking at some code enforcement issues. This represents another avenue to help stop and prevent crime.
- City Council District 9 is looking to institute PNAB in the Huron Sophia Apartments.
- For more information on PNAB, visit www.Jacksonville.gov and type in "Public Nuisance and Abatement."

Honorable Tyrona Clark-Murray, TClarkMurray@coj.net or (904) 255-5209

The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County Public School Board Member, shared the following information:

- The application submission for the Duval County Public School (DCPS) Superintendent ends April 15, 2024, then the school board will start narrowing the list of applicants and start interviews. School board member Jones stated that it is extremely important that a quality candidate be selected and urged everyone to take advantage of opportunities to be involved in the process.
- The Duval County Public School Board chose not to relocate the DCPS headquarters from the river at this time. Two offers were under consideration, but in the end, neither offer was financially feasible. The board will, however, leave all options and conversations open.
- The Master Facilities Plan, which was the consolidation of a number of smaller schools, was developed in 2017-2018. Since that time the estimates to replace and modernize schools have escalated to more than double the original estimate. So, there is a \$1.4 billion shortfall in the Master Facilities Plan. There will be an opportunity for the community to weigh in on how the school board should proceed.
- There may be more school closures than anticipated, due to a loss of 30,000 students over the past five years to charter schools and private schools. School board member Jones asked that the public be patient and work with the Duval County Public School District as they go through the process of identifying additional consolidations. He stated that it is important to make sure the students receive the services they need.

Honorable Warren Jones - Jonesw2@duvalschools.org or (904) 390-2000

5. Chair's Report: Vice Chair Boyd gave the following report:

- Introduction of new Northwest CPAC Members:
 - Cynthia Brown, Robinson's Addition (Excused – participating in CommUniverCity)
 - Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Project-Jacksonville (UC CPAC Member)
- Now that the Northwest CPAC is meeting at the Legends Center, there is a new room set-up. Members should now sit at the Open Square Conference-Style table. So, please sign in, pick up your name tent and take a seat at the table.
- Neighborhood Awards Program – Neighborhoods are doing great things, but they are not always publicized, and they should be. Vice Chair Boyd urged CPAC Members to apply.
- Fliers in the agenda packet – please be sure to read and take the fliers home with you. They contain important and useful information, like the City of Jacksonville Career Fair on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. Please be sure to share with others.
- Reminder: To be eligible for CPAC Membership (either as a primary or alternate member), and represent your neighborhoods, you must attend three consecutive meetings, and your community registered in the City of Jacksonville's Neighborhood Organization Directory. Vice Chair Boyd stated that it is her goal to increase membership in the Northwest CPAC, as well as encourage more young people to get involved. She stated that it is important for young people to come and see what happens in CPAC, so that they will know that they are important, and they can learn how to represent their neighborhoods.

6. Staff Reports:

FDOT – Derek Dixon, Transportation Manager, responded to previously submitted questions by CPAC Members:

- CSX is regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration. FDOT does not regulate CSX. Mr. Dixon indicated that he has spoken with his CSX counterpart regarding the issues that were relayed to him from the NW CPAC. CSX will have a track supervisor check into the conditions that were described. For future CSX concerns, please contact the Public Safety Coordination Center at 1-800-232-0144 or the Regional Manager for Community Affairs Office, Ms. Peggy Smith at (904) 366-3844 or Peggy_Smith@CSX.com .
- Regarding FDOT Bridges: FDOT provides inspection services for off-system bridges. Not state bridges. FDOT may inspect them every two years, but maintenance is done by the owner of the bridge. He also noted that there are state grants to assist localities with bridge maintenance.
- The response time to clear a road after an accident/crash is 90 minutes and is completed by the rapid incident scene clearance (they are contractors, on-call 24 hours). However, if law enforcement is involved it may take longer to do the investigations that must take place.
- For an overview of FDOT Roads and projects, please visit www.NFLroads.com . If you don't find what you are looking for, feel free to email: Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us and he will try to find the information.

Derek Dixon – (904) 360-5457 or Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us

Duval County Public Schools – Paula Renfro, Chief Academic Officer, Duval County Public Schools, introduced Dr. Gregory D. Bostic, Principal of Jean Ribault High School, who made the following announcements:

- The new Ribault High School will be located at 3701 Winton Drive, 32208, after the building is completed. For now, the High School has space in the Jean Ribault Middle School. Construction is on track and the building is scheduled to open in 2025-26.
- Jean Ribault high school will be adding some additional, specialized programs for students. These programs include health occupations, where students can earn a nursing certificate; culinary arts program with a certification; agricultural biotech, where the urban garden will be on the roof top of the school; music production, where students will learn how to make their own music.
- VyStar Credit Union is partnering with Jean Ribault High School and will have a bank on campus. Students and community members can open an account and purchase a Jean Ribault debit card. A portion of each card purchased goes to the school.
- Jean Ribault High School Legacy Walk Brick Project – for information go to the website: www.brickrus.com/donorsite/baultbricks

Dr. Gregory D. Bostic – (904) 924-3092 or bosticg@duvalschools.org

JPL – Yuri Blackburn, Manager, Highlands Regional Library, provided these updates:

- Mayor Deegan's River City Reading Challenge – 691 readers have logged in their minutes.
- In March, 371,000 minutes were spent reading, April has more than 587,000 minutes.
- The Bradham and Brooks Branch Library offers drop-in technology help (i.e., smartphones, tablets, etc.) on Saturdays between 11 am and 12 pm and on Tuesdays between 5 and 6 pm

- At the Brentwood Branch, Mr. T's Reading Challenge Awards Celebration is Saturday, April 13, 2024, celebrating students from kindergarten to second grade, who participated throughout the month of March. This program was made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Brentwood Library.
- The Brown Eastside Branch will have their first annual Chalk Fest on Saturday, April 20, 2024, between 3 and 4 pm. It is open to all ages.
- The Highlands Regional Branch has a new Leaf Book Club, which meets on the fourth Saturday of each month, between 12:30 and 1:30 pm. The next meeting is April 27, 2024. The current book title is "Go As A River" by Shelley Read.
- The Main Library will hold a Writer's Lab for marketing yourself as an author on Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 10:10 to 11:15 am. To register call (904) 255-2665 or visit the website.
- For aspiring writers, there is the indie Author Project Annual Contest. The Grand Prize is \$2,500 – work must be submitted before May 31, 2024. Check out the Library's Blog Articles for more information. Go to the website and scroll to the bottom of the page for Blogs.
- For more information on what the various branches are offering, please visit: www.jaxpubliclibrary.org and click on the events link at the top of the page.

Yuri Blackburn – (904) 255-6407 or YJewitt@coj.net

JSO – Assistant Chief Harry Massey stated that crime statistics are available on the JSO website at www.JaxSheriff.org. Information is listed by subsector and includes the types of crimes being committed in the area and the amount of overall crime. The Assistant Chief provided the following information:

- Within the last 30 days, there were 9,866 total calls for service for District 5, which is down a little under 4%, which he stated was good and that JSO is proud of that.
- However, there were 14 robberies in the last 30 days, compared to 9 robberies for the previous 30-day period, which represents a 10% increase in robberies.
- There were 83 aggravated assaults over the past 30 days, but 35 arrests were made, which represents a good clearance rate.
- Crimes against property are down by 16% over the last 30 days. The majority of the burglaries are attributed to new construction being targets for theft of items like household appliances. Assistant Chief Massey asked that everyone keep an eye open for U-Haul and other box-type trucks in the area late at night, and to call it in to JSO.
- There are two Sheriff Watch Meetings for District 5, falling on the second Monday and Tuesday of the month – there's a separate, small meeting for Baldwin – Please contact the District 5 Substation at (904) 470-8900 for more information.
- Unofficially, the Sheriff is working on holding a summer town Hall Meeting – so please watch for details.

Assistant Chief Harry Massey - (904) 470-8900 or JSODistrict5@jaxsheriff.org

JFRD – Lieutenant Clarence Hodge began his update with a discussion about Seniors:

- Falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injury among seniors (he defined as aged 65 and older). He stated that 1 in 4 Americans suffers from falls each year. Lieutenant Hodges offered tips on proactive measures to take in order to prevent falls in the home, and especially in the bathroom. He also stated that calling 911 after a fall is the best course of action. Lastly Lieutenant Hodge suggested making sure the outside area around the home

is free of hazards, such as debris and loose stones, and that there is proper lighting inside and outside the home.

- Lieutenant Hodge asked about fire extinguishers in the home and stated that it is important to have them checked regularly. He also noted that fire extinguishers in apartment complexes and multi-family units are checked annually by JFRD, in addition to commercial businesses. JFRD will do a "complimentary" fire safety inspection for homes, if requested.
- Smoke detectors can be requested by calling (904) 630-CITY. JFRD will also test old smoke detectors and will provide fire safety tips for your home, but the request must come from the homeowner.

Lieutenant Clarence Hodges – (904) 255-3284 or Hodge@coj.net

MCCD – Ernest Murphy, Code Enforcement Administrator, reported the following:

- MCCD does not have a Supervisor for this area, so for now, Mr. Murphy will be the contact person for the Northwest District 5.
- Mr. Murphy indicated that his department will begin emailing inspection information to the CPACs.
- Commercial vehicles are cited if they are in the right-of-way, as well as on the property. Commercial vehicles are not allowed to be in the right-of-way, unless they are making deliveries. So when making a complaint, please provide information as to when they are present – trucks cannot be parked overnight.

Ernest Murphy – (904) 255-7096 or Emurphy@coj.net

Neighborhood Services Office – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator urged everyone to read through their agenda packets carefully for important information, and highlighted two events:

- The 2024 Neighborhood Awards Program is open and submissions will be accepted through May 23, 2024. Each community was invited to apply to lift up the wonderful work being done in the neighborhoods.
- The JaxReady Fest will be held May 10 and 11, 2024. The festival is designed to inform the community about emergency preparedness.
- Event fliers for both the Neighborhood Awards Program and JaxReady Fest are contained in the agenda packet.

Edwina Henry – (904) 255-8260 or EHenry@coj.net

7. Old Business – None.

8. New Business – None.

9. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:

- **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning):** Leroy Kelly, Subcommittee Chair reported that the subcommittee reviewed nine (9) applications and two applications were tabled for additional information; one recommendation for the developer to meet with the community and all other applications were approved. LUZ Subcommittee Report accepted.
- **T.R.U.E. (Taxation, Revenue, Utilization and Expenditure) Commission:** Velma Rounsville, Subcommittee Chair gave the following report: The T.R.U.E. Commission met on

April 24, 2024. The March Meeting reviewed the quarterly summary for the past three months:

- 12/31/2023 – discussed balanced budgets for various departments: JEA had a balanced budget, JTA had no budget stresses, but they needed an amendment because they went over budget; the Kid Connection Transport System and the city's general fund projected a \$25.4 million revenue variance due to higher property taxes, which was due to increased property taxes, which was the result of increased property values. There was also concern over the ASM Global Contract Committee contracts (they manage the sports entertainment and convention venues).
- April 2024, the Chief of Procurement, Dustin Freeman, discussed the revisions being made to the operational manual. However, the T.R.U.E. Commission made the point that the task of the commission is policy making and not going through the details of the procedures manual. Mr. Freeman will be invited back to answer questions. Grace and Truth CDC received five donated properties in 2019 from the City of Jacksonville. They had a two-year re-development timeline for affordable housing; however, they sold the property for \$300,000 – so the commission is checking into the circumstances as to how this was allowed to happen.

The report was accepted.

10. Public Comments and Announcements:

- Ms. Shalene Estes, with Forestar is one of the applicants the LUZ Subcommittee recommended meeting with the community to discuss the project. Ms. Estes stated that she did not know that she could have presented more information to the subcommittee when they were meeting. She will contact Mr. Kelly to see what additional information he feels the subcommittee needs.
- CPAC Vice Chair Boyd thanked everyone on ZOOM for their participation, as well as thanked everyone else for their time in coming out to the NW CPAC Meeting. She encouraged them to attend the May 9, 2024, meeting at 6 pm.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 pm.

The next Northwest CPAC Meeting is Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6 pm at the Legends Center, 5031 Soutel Drive, Jacksonville 32208 and on ZOOM.