

District # 1

Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Christina Parrish

Vice Chair: Gerre Walker

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: Ed Ball Building – Training Room 110 – 214 N. Hogan St.

Date: Monday, May 7, 2012

Attendance:

Members:

Arnold, Ruth – 02nd Mile Ministries
Demopoulos, Dimitri – Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo
Hamilton, Victoria L. – St. John's Lutheran Church
Hamilton, William C. – St. John's Lutheran Church
Hughes, Michelle – FreshMinistries
Lee, Bobby – FreshMinistries
Parrish, Christina, Chair - SAMBA
Tippins, Louvenia – District 8 Representative – Charter Member
Trent, Erica – Pathways Academy Charter School
Vanderlaan, Doug – SPAR Council

Excused:

Bishop, Jonathan - DCPS
DeVall, Gloria – Preservation SOS
Miller, Celia – Good Neighbor M.A.N.I.A.
Radlinski, Greg – Parks at the Cathedral
Searle, Amanda – Sustainable Springfield
Swain, Deloris – Grand Boulevard Crime Watch
Swain, Johnny B. – Grand Boulevard Crime Watch
Walker, Gerre, Vice Chair – 12th Street Loyalty Club

Elected Officials: Rep. and Mayor's Office Mia L. Jones
City Council Executive Assistant, Donna Barrow

Staff:

Mayor's Representative: Carolyn Shehee-Williams
Beard, Nelson – Code Compliance
Fenton-Harmer, Marilyn – Housing & Community Development
Green, James – Florida Department of Transportation
Logsdon, Kenny – Housing & Community Development
Paull, Samantha – Planning & Development
Roman, Pam – Parks & Recreation
Spencer, Elaine – Housing & Community Development

Guests:

Nooney, John
Tappouni, Michelle
Smith, Brandon – Operation New Hope
Tinsley, Debra
Dunbar, Marvin – Project New Ground

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Chair Parrish called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Parrish welcomed alternate member Mr. Lee from FreshMinistries. A quorum was verified by Ms. Fenton-Harmer.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

Chair Parrish noted that the minutes for April 2, 2012 were very lengthy and that future minutes will be briefer. A motion to approve by Member Hamilton and seconded by Member Vanderlaan. The vote: All in favor; none opposed.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – Not present

- **Mayor's Liaison** – Carolyn Schehee-Williams, No report

- **Duval County Public Schools** – Not present

Mr. Bishop sent a memo outlining some of the upcoming events:

- Thursday, June 7, 2012, last day of school.
- Registration for Public Schools summer school programs have started. The programs run from June 18, 2012, through August 4, 2012. Applications for the programs are available at individual schools. More information can be found at www.duvalschools.org.

- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – James Green

Mr. Green stated that there are no new projects. There are a couple of projects beginning this summer:

- Landscaping on I-10/I-95 interchange
- Design / Build for I-95 Overland Bridge: Construction should begin in early 2013. FDOT is purchasing right-of-way and clearing the property for the construction.
- Question: Member Vanderlaan asked if there are any updates for the 2-way of Main between State and Union. Mr. Green advised this will happen when State and Union are resurfaced in 2014. The signal light at intersection of Union / Main will be changed to accommodate northbound traffic.

Chair Parrish thanked Mr. Green and FDOT.

Chair Parrish asked Mr. Green if FDOT has a landscaping budget associated with scheduled reconstruction of the historic bridge at Newnan and Hubbard Street. Mr. Green stated that FDOT probably would not have this in their budget. The legislative bill states that they can spend up to 1.5% of the capacity construction budget on landscaping. Since this replacement isn't a capacity project it may not qualify under the new rules. Mr. Green will check on this.

Question: Chair Parrish said there were surveyors observed on 8th St. near the onramps to I-95; are you aware of any FDOT projects going on at that location? Mr. Green believes there is a resurfacing/repaving project coming up in that area and it is possible that the surveyors could be doing some preliminary work. He will confirm and provide additional information.

- **Neighborhoods** – Marilyn Fenton-Harmer

- Ms. Fenton-Harmer advised that the preliminary budget was presented by Mayor Brown to City Council on May 1, 2012. There is one budget item that would affect the Urban Core CPAC, which is the capital improvement project of \$7 million dollars for phase 1 of the Jacksonville Fair relocation project. The money is allocated to be spent over a 2 fiscal year period; \$2 million dollars fiscal year 2012/2013 and \$5 million dollars fiscal year 2013/2014.

Comment: Member Vanderlaan stated that now is the time to speak up against having the fairgrounds relocated to Cecil Field.

- **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Nelson Beard

Mr. Beard, Zone 1 Supervisor reported the following:

Urban Core issues month-to-date (May 7, 2012): 1883 active cases

○ 29 th & Chase	265
○ Brooklyn	15
○ Downtown	29
○ East Jacksonville	183
○ Fairfield	76
○ Hogan's Creek	44
○ LaVilla	10
○ Longbranch	100
○ Mid-town	5
○ Midwest Side	494
○ Moncrief	230
○ Phoenix	76
○ Springfield	343
○ Tallyrand	8
○ 29 th & Chase systematic	120
○ 13 th & Golfair Moncrief - Special Corridor	134

Mr. Beard wasn't present during the April, 2012, CPAC meeting to provide an update on the 2 locations in question during the March, 2012, meeting.

- 1910 W. 20 St., Code Compliance has a case on this property; but, they are unable to prove that anyone is staying there.
- 1930 Hubbard St., a Code Compliance Officer has knocked on the door and a man was staying there without electricity. The Code Compliance Department was able to serve vacate orders on him and Officers saw enough of the building to condemn it. This building should be boarded up by now.
- Approximately 70% to 80% complaints are officer generated cases in Urban Core. Comment: Mr. Vanderlaan stated that he has been in Springfield for approximately 10 years. The general consensus of Springfield residents is that they once felt the need for Code Enforcement, but now many residents feel that Code Enforcement is causing more harm than good. Mr. Vanderlaan suggested to Mr. Beard that perhaps they should think about a future meeting with Springfield residents to explore issues of discontentment. Comment: Ms. Parrish stated that she thinks it would be a good idea to have a meeting although it may be difficult to structure it. It is Ms. Parrish's opinion that a lot of policies with demolitions and rolling fines could be a part of the problem in Springfield.

- **Planning & Development – Samantha Paull**

Ms. Paull announced that she will be the new representative for Planning & Development. Ms. Paull reported that an exception application in 5-Points for outside sales for services of alcoholic beverages will be heard before the Planning Commission on May 10, 2012.

Question: Ms. Parrish asked if P&D staff is supporting this application.

Ms. Paull stated that there was a previous application for the same space but that the business had changed so it has to be re-evaluated. She believes P&D will support it.

Ms. Parrish stated that a few issues came up during April, 2012, meeting and acknowledged that Ms. Paull might not yet be aware of them:

- Rezoning of a Borrow Pit on Walnut Street - Planning Commission was recommending denial
- Rezoning on Park St. for a parts store near Brooklyn.
- Exception for a crematorium on 3031 Moncrief Rd. The Planning Commission was leaning towards a denial.

Ms. Parrish stated that an update at next month's meeting would be appreciated; Ms. Paull responded that she will provide an update on each of these issues.

- **Parks & Recreation – Pam Roman**

Ms. Roman provided update information on a few projects:

- The construction contract for the Confederate Point Playground in April, 2012, has to go before Professional Services Evaluation Committee (PSEC) public hearing for approval. The award is in the form of a sealed bid process. PSEC will review all bids on Thursday and it is anticipated that a final approval will be awarded and Parks & Recreation will move forward with the contractor.
- Parks & Recreation has prepared plans and is ready to move forward with renovations of the Julius Skynyrd Pool to make it ADA compliant. Waiting for City Council approval.
- Parks & Recreation has been working on a project for the Trout River Fishing Pier; has received final approval of ADA plans will move forward at the end of May with a grant application.

The summer guide that lists activities is ready for citizens to pick up.

The summer camp registration begins on May 15, 2012, and it is available online.

Parks & Recreation is preparing for the 3rd annual Summer Night Lights initiative, an anti-crime and anti-violence program. It begins in late June, 2012, in 5 parks. The program focuses on youth aged 15 to 21 and promotes job opportunities, neighborhood pride and crime reduction. For more information see <http://www.coj.net/departments/recreation-and-community-services/recreation-and-community-programming/jaxsnl/what-is-summer-night-lights.aspx>.

Project New Ground – Marvin Dunbar

- 678 properties were restored this month.
- Contaminated soil replacement is underway at the Forest Street site.
- The 5th and Cleveland project is being rebid; a contract should be awarded soon.
- The OU2 and Forest St. should begin in spring.
- Project New Ground still needs many access agreements.

4. Presentation – Duval County Health Department was scheduled late but was not present.

5. Chair's Report – Chair Parrish

- Chair Parrish reported that the Duval County Health Department was scheduled to speak tonight in regards to the Food Summit meeting held on April 21, 2012. Chair Parrish was able to attend part of the summit and it was a great event. They are working on a lot of good programs within the City of Jacksonville including a program that would improve school lunches.
- Chair Parrish has some news of interest to share:
 - Chair Parrish participated in an **Urban Land Institute Program** held on Sunday, May 6, 2012 as part of a nationwide annual event called Jane's Walk. The Urban Land Institute is a professional organization for architects and urban planners. This group toured downtown Jacksonville, beginning at Hemming Plaza and included some very skilled people, including several from other cities. One of the most interesting things Chair Parrish found was that none of this group thought that anything was wrong with Hemming Plaza. The Urban Planners thought that the park is nicely designed and that it provides just about everything you need in a downtown park. The problem the Urban Planners found is with the "edges" of the park: there is no retail business around Hemming Plaza and there isn't anything attracting people to use the park; there are government buildings around the park, but nothing to entice people to the park after business hours. Two of the potential assets for the park are the Jacksonville Public Library and MOCA. The ULI members discussed ideas for improvements to better utilize the assets (JPL and MOCA), including:
 - Amenities for families, such as playground equipment
 - City incentives for development of retail stores (versus redesigning the park)
 - Use of the stage located near the Skyway station with consistent programming, especially on Friday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to keep and bring people downtown
 - The **Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC)** is starting a project that will affect a lot of the UC/NW area. LISC has not yet provided information on the level of funding or specific plans, but will be interviewing people they see as community leaders regarding the strengths and weaknesses of their neighborhoods. Ms. Parrish has asked District 1 CPAC members to let Ms. Fenton-Harmer know if they have people in their community that LISC personnel should talk to.
 - **City Beautiful Jax** (CBJ) previously spoke to District 1 CPAC members about one of their programs, the "Neighborhood Inventory Visual Pollution" (NIVP). Springfield will participate in this program on June 2, 2012. Sponsors for this event include the Springfield Area Merchants and Business Association (SAMBA), Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council (SPAR) and Wells Fargo. Community volunteers will work in small groups to survey every block in the Springfield historic district and create a list of issues that need to be addressed, such as broken sidewalks, graffiti on mailboxes, and dead or dying trees in city rights of way. Volunteers from other neighborhoods are welcome; this would be a good opportunity to learn more about the program for implementation in other areas.

6. Elected Officials Reports

Chair Parrish recognized Ms. Barrow, appearing on behalf of City Council Member Lumb. Ms. Barrow stated that there is still a stay on the demolition on 1647 Pearl St. and that Council Member Lumb is working with administration to draft appropriate ordinances related to demolitions.

Chair Parrish welcomed Rep. Mia Jones to the meeting. Ms. Jones stated that she wanted to sit in on behalf of Mayor Brown and that she will bring Mayor Brown in the very near future to the CPAC meeting.

Chair Parrish welcomed Elaine Spencer, newly appointed Chief of Housing and Community Development. Ms. Spencer is excited to work with the City of Jacksonville and District 1 CPAC. Chair Parrish asked Ms. Spencer if she could come back and update CPAC members on the changes to Housing and Community Development. Ms. Spencer stated that she would be happy to do so.

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- **LUZ** (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – No report.
- **Beautification/Parks/Environment** – No report.
- **Membership** – No report.
- **Transportation** – No report.
- **Ad-Hoc:**
 - **Urban Agriculture** – Not Present.
 - **Environment** – Member Vanderlaan, No report.
- **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – No report.

8. Unfinished Business

Agricultural Fair: During one of the meetings held last year, CPAC members voted to keep the Fair downtown. Chair Parrish asked for discussion of that matter. Member Hamilton stated that he found it interesting that District 1 wasn't kept informed about plans to move the Fair from downtown. He expressed concern that although the CPAC wrote a letter of recommendation to keep the Fair downtown, they didn't receive a response and if someone didn't review the budget documents, they wouldn't have known of current plans to relocate the Fair to Cecil Field.

Chair Parrish stated she is also concerned about the issue and asked Ms. Fenton-Harmer who they should communicate directly with about the issues of the Fair being relocated. Ms. Fenton-Harmer stated that she would be happy to research this issue. Ms. Fenton-Harmer stated that the CPAC's letter was written during Mayor Peyton's Administration and that he was in favor of relocating the Fair to Cecil Field. Mayor Brown's Administration has not yet taken a position about relocating the Fair.

Ms. Roman advised that relocation of the Fair to Cecil Field has not yet been approved. The money is in the budget but a decision hasn't been made so the money is there as a "safeguard". Ms. Roman will confirm details pertaining to the Fair and provide feedback to the committee at their next meeting.

Chair Parrish asked Ms. Roman if this is something that would be recommended by Parks & Recreation and approved by City Council. Ms. Roman responded that Parks & Recreation is the only City Department working on the possible relocation of the Fair and any CPAC recommendations should be made to the Director of Parks & Recreation. Member Vanderlaan asked if Mayor Brown and/or City Council Member Lumb have a position on moving the Fair. Ms. Barrow stated that City Council Member Lumb hasn't commented on his position regarding the Fair. Member Vanderlaan asked Ms. Jones if Mayor Brown had commented on his position of moving the Fair, and Ms. Jones responded that she hasn't heard of a position from Mayor Brown on moving the Fair.

A member of the audience asked Ms. Roman if there is \$400,000 in the budget for a study related to moving the Fair. Ms. Roman stated that there are funds available to study moving the Fair, but she doesn't know the exact dollar amount.

Member Vanderlaan made a motion that "the Jacksonville Agriculture Fair is very important to the economic vitality of the urban core. Therefore, the District One CPAC opposes its relocation from the Urban Core and suggests that the expenditures for these items be removed from the preliminary budget."

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9. New Business

Chair Parrish asked if there were any new business to be discussed, and Member Vanderlaan stated that he read in the newspaper about the City of Jacksonville Pension Officers being fired or reassigned. Member Vanderlaan would like to know who will be serving the needs of pensioners or employees retiring soon during the absence of these officers. Member Vanderlaan asked who the CPAC should contact with a letter to inquire who is meeting the needs of these folks. Chair Parrish noted that representatives of the Mayor's Office might be able to help answer his questions. Chair Parrish restated Member Vanderlaan concerns following the unclear article in the newspaper as to who will meet the needs of current pensioners and for those who are planning to retire. Rep. Jones stated that Mayor Brown, the Budget Office and the Chief Finance Officer are all working with the Pension Board to ensure that city employee's needs are served. Member Vanderlaan stated that the newspaper article seemed to indicate that the Chairman of the Pension Board didn't know about the firings / reassignments in advance and expressed his concern.

10. Public Comments/Announcements (3-minute time limit)

- Mr. Nooney asked that the UC CPAC make a resolution regarding the former Shipyards / Landmar pier. Mr. Nooney believes that City Council Member Gaffney would like to keep the pier separate from the "New Downtown Independent Authority". Mr. Nooney asked District 1 for a resolution of support that he could take to Dr. Gaffney before the opportunity is lost. Chair Parrish stated that the CPAC needed more specific information about the proposed public pier but that perhaps District 1 could express support of increased public access to waterways. Discussion followed; with Mr. Nooney expressing concern about the proposed Epic Project for downtown and private control of the river, as well as the fact that floating dock at the Riverside Art Market is not regularly available for public use. Chair Parrish again advised Mr. Nooney that if District 1 CPAC members are being

asked to make a resolution they must know the specifics of what is being proposed. If Dr. Gaffney is considering legislation that would create a public pier, then District 1 CPAC members would consider that legislation and vote on whether they support it or not. Chair Parrish stated that she personally doesn't know enough about what is being proposed to craft a motion and she wouldn't feel comfortable voting on it. Member Hamilton stated that he doesn't have enough information on this topic either. Chair Parrish asked Mr. Nooney if the City has made any proposals in regards to the pier. Mr. Nooney stated that the City of Jacksonville hasn't made any proposals. Member Demopoulos asked Mr. Nooney what to identify the "Independent Authority" he is referring to. Mr. Nooney stated he was referring to the Downtown Independent Authority proposed by the Mayor which hasn't been approved by City Council. The authority members will be appointed by the Mayor and the Mayor will appoint an executive director to oversee the new authority. The new authority will have a 2012/2013 budget to primarily focus on downtown development. Chair Parrish stated that it is difficult for the CPAC to respond to Mr. Nooney's request because they don't know what the proposed projects for the Shipyards parcel may be. Chair Parrish personally feels the City of Jacksonville should make better use of the river and that providing public access is one way to do that. Chair Parrish suggested that the CPAC could indicate its support of public access to the river within the Urban Core. Member Demopoulos expressed concern about safeguarding the interest in public access to the pier before the new authority is approved and begins new projects. He also feels that the CPAC needs more information before considering a more focused resolution. Member Vanderlaan expressed his belief that District 1 CPAC has an obligation to connect with the new authority so they can discuss general concerns and specific concerns as projects are developed. Ms. Roman advised that Mayor Brown is committed to public access to the river and is proposing additional sites, including possible locations in the downtown area. Chair Parrish expressed her opinion that Mayor Brown is supportive of having public access to the river and that it might be sensible to make a general resolution that the UC CPAC supports that position. Member Hamilton made a motion for consideration for public access to the river and all decisions made by City Council and organizations that represent the City of Jacksonville. The motion was seconded by Member Demopoulos. Chair Parrish suggested that the motion be amended to directly state the CPAC's support of public access to the river. Member Vanderlaan made an amendment to the motion as follows: UC CPAC supports increased public access to the St. Johns River. Member Demopoulos seconded the motion. Vote: amendment of motion, all in favor. Motion carries.

- Ms. Tappouni spoke of the Springfield Preservation and Revitalization meeting that were held on some safety issues in their neighborhood. She will come back with a full report at a later date. One of the items mentioned pertains to Ordinance 614.138 which defines the UC Enhancement area. The UC Enhancement area doesn't include Springfield and SPAR feels very strongly that they should be included as a part of the Urban Core. Ms. Tappouni requested meetings with City Council Members Lumb and Gaffney; she has met with Council Member Lumb. She presented Ordinance 614.138 and asked if he could look at the boundaries that are part of the UC Enhancement area so that Springfield could be included in it. Chair Parrish asked Ms. Tappouni if the description of the area that is covered by the ordinance in some ways determine the areas that Downtown Vision promotes for events and things of that nature. Ms. Tappouni said that she isn't sure if it provides guidelines for Downtown Vision. She noted that the enhancement area includes the Southbank and goes deeply into San Marco and one-half of Riverside. Chair Parrish stated that it does seem illogical that those areas of San Marco and Riverside would be considered a part of the urban core but that Springfield would not.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Member Vanderlaan made a motion for adjournment and Member Tippins seconded the motion. The Vote: All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 4, 2012 ~ 5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Location: Ed Ball Building – Training Room 110 – 214 N. Hogan St.



Urban Core District 1

Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Christina Parrish, Chair
Gerre Walker, Vice Chair



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Charter Member
Jean Russell, Chairperson

URBAN CORE CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UC CPAC)
City of Jacksonville ~ Neighborhoods Department
214 N. Hogan St., 8th floor ~ Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 434-0959 ~ ceparrish.CPAC@yahoo.com

May 23, 2012

Greater Jacksonville Fair and Expo Center
Martha Leverock, CEO
The Jacksonville Fairgrounds
510 Fairgrounds Place
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Ms. Leverock:

The City of Jacksonville's Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee voted unanimously in support of the following resolution at our meeting earlier this month:

"The Jacksonville Agricultural Fair is very important to the economic vitality of the urban core. Therefore, the District One CPAC opposes its relocation from the Urban Core..."

Discussion surrounding the issue of relocation of the Fair revealed that residents of downtown Jacksonville and its surrounding communities strongly support retaining the Fair and Expo Center in its current location. Numerous small business owners will be irreparably harmed if the Fair is relocated.

Please share this recommendation with your Board at today's meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Christina E. Parrish

Christina E. Parrish, Chair
Urban Core CPAC

E-copy:

Mayor Alvin Brown
Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Hyde
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Karen Bowling
Representative/Board Liaison Mia Jones
City Council Members
City Council Legislative Services:
Director/Council Secretary Cheryl Brown
Chief Dana Farris and Merriane Lahmeur
Neighborhoods:
Director of Neighborhoods Terrance Ashanta-Barker
Chief of Housing and Community Development Elaine Spencer



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May 23, 2012

Ms. Kelley Boree
Director of Parks and Recreation
City of Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Ms. Boree:

The City of Jacksonville's Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee voted unanimously in support of the following resolution at our meeting earlier this month:

"The Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee supports increased public access to the St. Johns River."

This resolution was made following significant discussion at the May and several previous CPAC meetings, which revealed that residents of downtown Jacksonville and its surrounding communities strongly support increased public access to the St. Johns River and its tributaries, especially within the urban core itself. Concern about the safety of kayakers related to lack of public landings has been expressed many times. We have also heard from numerous citizens who believe that better public river access would lead to significant economic opportunities within the urban core, related to both ecotourism and increased recreational opportunities for Jacksonville residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

Christina E. Parrish

Christina E. Parrish, Chair
Urban Core CPAC

E-copy:

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