

District #2 – Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Patricia Schorr

Vice Chair: Michael Anania

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: University Park Branch Library

DATE: Monday, September 10, 2012

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members:

Anania, Michael, Arlington Business Society
Belge, Larry, Riverwoods – St. Johns Landing
Bryant, Jimmy, Queens Harbour POA
Cherry, Albert, Hidden Valley Civic Assoc.
Davis, Michele, Council Appointee – District 1
Dickinson, Gary, Grove Park
Evans, Kacy, Caroline Forest Homeowners Association
Hawkins, Lad, Communities of East Arlington
Hibbard, Sandi, Harbour North Civic Association
Parsons, Eddi, Monument Oaks HOA
Peck, David, Oak Park Neighborhood Association
Petoskey, Jerry, Old Mill Cove Community Org
Roberts, John, The Valley at Hidden Hills
Saadeh, Mary Anne, Oak Haven Preservation Association
Sanders, Patricia, Southern Grove Condo Association
Schorr, Patricia, Covington Creek HOA
Tucker, Ben, Cypress Cove Good neighbor Group
Walker, Kathy, Old Arlington Inc.

Excused:

Holden, Johnny, Emerald Bay HOA
Ludwig, Helen, St. Johns Woods
Lowe, Marcella, Alderman Park Civic Association
Maxted, Ed, Bentwater Place

Elected Officials:

None

Staff:

Davis, Paul; Green, Jim; Lancaster, Elaine; Nader, Lt. Russell, Wesolowski, Rosemary

Guests:

Holton, Walter, Charter Point
Branam, Tamera, Pablo Creek Library
Henry, David

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Chair, Patricia Schorr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

Member Eddi Parsons made a motion to approve the meeting summary; Larry Belge made the second. The members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

3. Staff Reports

- JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – Lt. Russell Nader
Lt. Nader informed the group that overall citywide crime is down 7.52 %YTD and in Zone 2 crime is down 12.46% YTD; available for questions.

Gary Dickinson reminded the group that National Night Out will be held on October 2nd this year.

- Mayor's Liaison – Kelley Boree – stated that the budget went through City Council Finance Committee last week and goes to full council next. On September 20, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. The Mayor is offering Career Training in City Hall on the Mezzanine level. The Florida Gators and the Georgetown Hoyas will be playing basketball on an aircraft carrier near the First Coast on Nov. 9, this is part of the city's week-long military celebration.
- Duval County Public Schools – not present
- FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) – Jim Green – There are 2 significant public meetings: on September 21, 2012, 9:00 a.m. -noon, UNF University Center, 12000 Alumni Drive, the event is free, but registration is required. Check out the latest electric, propane and CNG (compressed natural gas) cars, trucks and buses. Learn about practical solutions using alternative fuels from leaders across the state. On September 25, 2012, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Ramada Conference Center, 3130 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32257, FDOT that will give the public the opportunity to express their views concerning Northeast Florida Express Lanes.
- Neighborhoods
 - Housing and Community Development Division - Rosemary Wesolowski informed the group that the new meeting location will be held at Craig Airport, 855-1 Craig Drive, 32225 on the same night and same time. Also, due to a reduction in the budget and Civil Service rules, September 13, 2012 will be my last day with the City.
 - Municipal Code Compliance Division – Elaine Lancaster requested if you submit e-care issues to submit one concern per address and provide as many details as possible. Elaine also informed the group that she is down to 5 officers in this zone, so the more information you can provide while registering a concern the quicker the officers can investigate.
- Planning & Development – Paul Davis
No report – available for questions.
- Parks Department – Kelley Boree – informed the group that there has been some vandalism at the Reddy Point Park; they are considering changing the gate. The Blue Cypress Pool has extensive damage and needs to be demolished and rebuilt. The Fort Caroline Pool is currently waiting for FEMA money in order to complete the repairs.

4. Presentations:

James Bennett, P.E., FDOT, Urban Transportation Development Manager, presented on Managed Express Lanes. Express lanes are an innovative concept to manage traffic congestion and ultimately provide choices for motorists. These new roadways will provide more capacity in areas where traffic congestion is a major problem. This concept is typically known as an "expressway-within-an-expressway" where the express lanes are separated from the general use lanes.

FDOT is proposing to construct express lanes in each direction on interstates and future projects providing restricted access points. Before entering the express lanes, signs will be posted notifying motorists of the toll pricing at that time. The price of the toll will vary, based on

the level of congestion in the express lanes to ensure the express lanes provide reliable travel times. Therefore, the toll will be higher during peak times when demand is greater.

Before all express lane entrances, there will be electronic message signs showing the current toll price so you can choose to use the express lanes or travel the general use lanes. Tolls will be collected using a fully automated system called SunPass. Traffic will be able to move at full speed through a tolled area and automatically deduct the tolls using a transponder that has been attached to the front windshield of someone's car. Funds must be added to the transponder account using cash, check, money order or credit card. There will be no toll booths. All existing lanes will remain free. Tolls will only be applied to vehicles that use the express lanes.

Here are some benefits of using the express lanes:

Time: Express lanes provide predictable travel times, especially during peak travel periods. Motorists that choose to use the express lanes travel at higher speeds than those in the more congested general use lanes. As more motorists choose to travel the express lanes, there will be less traffic using the general use lanes which would help save time for everyone.

Choices: Express lanes provide motorists with the option of a faster, more dependable trip.

Transit: When transit vehicles choose to take advantage of the express lanes, they will also reap the benefits of faster, more efficient travel resulting in higher ridership and a reduction in the total number of vehicles using general use lanes.

Mobility: All of the benefits mentioned above can be grouped into one overriding theme: increased mobility. Improved operations on the express lanes also have the potential to draw vehicles off parallel routes and improve overall traffic flow in the area.

Environmental Advantages: Reducing stop-and-go traffic lessens pollution and improves air quality.

Revenue Generator: It has been determined that the gas tax is not a sustainable source of revenue for the transportation industry. Express lanes will provide an additional source of revenue to support transportation operation and maintenance for these lanes and potentially other construction projects in the Jacksonville area.

FDOT is advancing their plan to build the first express lanes in Northeast Florida and implement them in 2017. 3 projects are planned for Jacksonville area; the first express lanes project is I-295 from I-95 to the Buckman Bridge: FDOT will receive bids from contractors in 2014; the project length is 5.7 miles.

5. **Chair's Report** – Spoke on Tamaya project and support from the community continues to grow. At the last LUZ Council meeting the Jacksonville Golf and Country Club Community (JGCC) arrived with a bus full of concerned citizens. Many from the JGCC spoke in opposition to the project. The project has again been deferred by city council until October. Also, the Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) were supposed to review the project and they currently do not have this project on their list. DCPS has asked for a deferral too; DCPS also needs to access the crowding they have in the area schools.

6. **Elected Officials Reports –**

None present

7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

- **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs –** Michael Anania

The subcommittee discussed 4 applications and made a motion on 2 of the applications. Those motions are:

Denial of Exception E-12-054 and companion waiver of Liquor Distance WLD-12-014 at 2712 Cesery Boulevard. They stated that requests are not consistent with the surrounding residential neighborhood, not consistent with the expectations for improvements to the community, does not meet minimum distance limitation from a church, property has extensive history of criminal activity and current property owners have been generally poor neighbors.

Approval of Exception E-12-49 of the request to allow construction of a single family residence in the CRO zoning district.

- **Beautification/Parks/Environment –**

Lad Hawkins shared that a Judge has ruled with the city and against the fixed the group operators at Craig Airport. At this time it doesn't appear there will be any major projects at Craig anytime soon.

- **Membership –** Patricia Schorr

Recognized that the subcommittee is in a holding pattern, but did recognize David henry as a future member. No further actions have been taken in regard to the membership recruitment.

- **Transportation –** Ben Tucker

No report – available for questions.

Ad-Hoc:

- **Craig Airport –** No Chair

- **North Florida TPO –** Roger Sharp

Not present

8. **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – not present **Unfinished Business** - None

9. **New Business –** None

10. **Public Comments/Announcements (3-minute time limit) –** Kacy Evans stated that she did receive a card in the mail from Councilman Yarbrough to invite the community to review the budget on September 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the University Branch Library.

Karen Morian introduced herself to the CPAC and informed them that she is running for House District 12.

11. **Motion to Adjourn –** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 8, 2012 ~ 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport
855-1 Craig Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32225