

Vice Chair, Eddi Parsons called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary**

Vice Chair Parsons verified that there was a quorum. Then Vice Chair Parsons made a motion to approve the July meeting summary; the members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

3. **Staff Reports**

- JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – Chief Lamb stated that JSO has been busy in the Monument Oaks area due to the recent tornado that touch down. He stated that he was proud that JSO and JFRD were able to respond and assist the tornado victims so quickly. There was some significant damage, but we were lucky that it was a small tornado. Lamb also announced that in Zone 2, YTD overall crime is down 13%. He continued to state that we are still experiencing some auto burglaries in the East Arlington area. There have also been a high number of auto burglary arrests. There was an inquiry about jet skis theft. The Marine Patrol Unit is down to one officer, but JSO is working with Nassau and St. John's. In Zone 2 there have been 2 jet skis stolen. Make sure you lock your jet skis properly. Trailer thefts are trending down and Zone has not had any trailer theft in the last 14 days. There was a question about what JSO is doing about pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities? It was stated has been discussed at the BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee) to bring education and awareness to all 6 zones. There are efforts to enforce the 3 foot rule and yielding to pedestrian. There will be education for both those driving cars and the bicycles.
 - Mayor's Liaison – Dave Roman, was introduced by Kelley Boree as the new Mayor's Liaison.
 - Duval County Public Schools – not present
 - FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) – Jim Green – reported that there are no new projects starting at this time. Mr. Green was available for questions.
 - Neighborhoods Department:
 - Housing and Community Development Division - Rosemary Wesolowski informed the group that HOA & Condo Association Training has been rescheduled for September 17th, Condo Training will be held in the daytime (1:00 – 4:30 pm) and HOA/Townhome will be held at 5:30 – 9:00 pm). Flyers are available on the back table.
 - Municipal Code Compliance Division – Dennis Steele was in attendance for Elaine Lancaster. Mr. Steele did not have a report, but was available for questions.
 - Planning & Development Department – Paul Davis – no report, but available for questions.
4. Parks Department – Kelley Boree – Flyers are in the back for the JaxParks Online Video Contest and for the public meeting on the First Coast Pool Feasibility Study. The Parks Department will go before the Finance Committee on Thursday for budget hearing. The 14% cuts are in the budget that they will present. These cuts will impact services; community centers, reduce hours of pool operation and minor maintenance. The Fort Caroline pool; they have submitted for the permits and the poll project will be ready to go out to bid. The community centers without gymnasiums will be closed. The dog park is moving forward. Ms. Boree was informed that the Tree Hill sign has been destroyed by a vehicle.

5. **Presentations:**

Vice Chair Parsons informed the group that due to the amount of presenters that we have tonight, each presenter will get 5 minutes. Tonight we will have a time keeper; Kacy Evans will serve as the time keeper.

Councilman Richard Clark, stated that he started the process to file bill 2013-493. He stated that at one time the city had almost 1500 signs throughout the city and today we have approximately 470. He acknowledged that the work that we did in the past worked very well

and we are now coming up on the end of a very litigious time in the city; those agreements we had are going in. He stated that rumors of lawsuits from both sides of the billboard argument have started to fly and Clark stated as a proactive measure to avoid having the city caught in the middle and be stuck bearing the expense of removing the signs this is why he introduced the bill. Hopefully another round of lawsuits can be avoided if we address this issue now. Clark stated that there is a fear that the billboard companies will put up signs all over town, which is not true. If an electronic sign is put up, the billboard companies have to take 2 signs down. Clark hopes that we can move forward without a lot of rhetoric; signs will not go up all around the city. Signs will still have to come down if new modernized signs go up, the same laws will still be in place and the signs will still have to go into commercial zoned property. Clark hopes that we take the emotion out of this issue and we move forward with discussion in an adult manner.

Tracy Arpen, Scenic Advocates of Jacksonville, Mr. Arpen expressed his concern that his view point on this topic have fair amount of time to speak on this topic as the opposing view. It was clarified that there is not anyone else to speak in support of this topic. Mr. Arpen then shared his employment history/involvement in working on the billboard charter in the Office of General Council with the City of Jacksonville. In 1987, the voters overwhelmingly voted to support a billboard referendum that was placed on the ballot that stated 2 things: no new billboards and billboards that were not along the interstate or federal primary highways had to be removed in 5 years. When that 5 year time was up, the billboard companies sued and then Mr. Arpen was hired and he defend the billboard charter amendment on behalf of the city before the State of Florida Supreme Court and worked to negotiate the settlement agreements. Because of his familiarity with the settlement agreements Arpen clarified stated that the settlement agreements stay in place, what will expire is the right for Clear Channel to stop accruing the right earn billboard rebuilding credits. The billboard companies also agreed not to challenge the charter or ordinance code as long as the charter was not changed. This new bill changes this charter and then will allow the billboard companies can then sue. What will change, is the new bill will allow billboards to go on roads where there currently aren't any billboards (Butler Blvd., 295, etc). Areas that currently have trees would lose those trees due to the need to have 1000 feet of viewing zones for the billboards. This bill will also allow a 672 foot TV screen to be within 200 feet of a private residence and directly across from a home. This bill will also allow the billboards to go into the least intense commercial locations, such as: CN, CRO and CO. There is no need for this bill because the law is clear. Law suits have been filed against Clear Channel and they had to bring the City of Jacksonville as a party because they were part of the agreement and are necessary part of the lawsuit. Scenic Jacksonville is trying to recover fines for the City of Jacksonville that accruing at a rate \$5.5 million per year. This bill cuts off the fines and you can no longer have a \$500 a day fine for illegal billboards. The bill also repeals provision that citizens can have a right to sue in court on behalf of the Charter Amendment; the city would be the only ones able to sue.

Councilman Don Redman, spoke on Ordinance 2013-0415 and stated it will up for discussion tomorrow night at city council. He stated that there is a lot of misinformation about chickens. Councilman Redman stated that he grew up on a farm and he is very familiar with hens. Currently, he is having problems with cats in his neighborhood and if you had chickens in your neighborhood you would never know they were there. If you have a chicken coop in your backyard, he doubts that anyone would know you had chickens back there. There are many people that already have chickens and this will only make it legal. Also, a large part of Jacksonville is already zoned for chickens. Code enforcement had some concerns about chickens running loose, but this should not be a bigger problem than dogs or cats. Having chicken can be educational for children, they produce quality eggs and they make great

pets.

Lauren Trad, Hens in Jax, spoke in support of 2013-0415, stating that she has worked for 2.5 years to legalize small flocks of chickens in single family homes. When she got her chickens she wasn't aware that chickens were illegal to keep in the City of Jacksonville. She found chickens to be an excellent educational tool for her children to learn the responsibility of taking care of another living creature. Ms. Trad stated that the benefits of having chickens are not only educational, but they supply eggs and fertilizer for the garden. Ms. Trad stated that yard waste and food waste can be consumed by the chickens, thus reducing raccoons and possums invading trash cans. Ms. Trad provided a handout that dispelled Common Misconceptions about Backyard Hens.

Barbara Lies, Concerned Citizens Against 2013-0415, stated that she is an Arlington home owner that is against changing the current zoning to allow chickens. Some of the reasons to oppose this ordinance is because:
Land-area; one-third (more than 32%) of the land area in Duval County is already zoned to allow hen-keeping by right. Expanding the hen-keeping rights to residentially zoned areas would add an additional 14% of the land area. (i.e., total of 46% of the land area of the county devoted to hen-keeping or almost half of county). Offensive Odors, hen excrement and broken, rotten eggs (inevitable, as hens often break their own eggs) create an overwhelming, strong and pungent stench which travels for hundreds of feet in the air to surrounding residential properties. Noise/ Nuisances, hens naturally make noise and are often disturbed or frightened, resulting in loud, unwanted squawking. Hens naturally coo, cackle and cluck throughout the day and night. Abandoned Hens, raising hens is extremely demanding daily work and the food is expensive. Likewise, Jacksonville residents are very transient as can be seen by the large numbers of abandoned cats, dogs in the city which are left behind, after the moves. (Moving a chicken coop is not likely a high priority for moving residents.) Many cities which formerly approved residential hen-keeping are now suffering a severe backlash and revising/ prior approvals because their Animal Control shelters are overrun with abandoned hens (as many as 250 per year...and with no one willing to adopt the "pets"). Hens can live for ten years, approximately. But they only lay eggs for two years, leaving eight years of required upkeep, maintenance, food expense with no eggs. (Consumption of the hens is supposedly forbidden.) Owners abandon the hens. Jacksonville Animal Control will Not Accept Abandoned Hens. It also states it will not expend manpower to monitor the health of the hens, chase down chickens running-at-large, or build new facilities to house them. Ord-2013-415 is impossible To Enforce Compliance by Code Enforcement or JSO. Present laws forbid Code Enforcement from trespassing onto private property for inspection of issues/ concerns not seen from public land or the street. Code Enforcers may only enter private land by walking directly to the front door. Permission of the property owner or a court ordered warrant must be obtained to search or inspect the property. There is no reasonable, inexpensive way to know if a hen-owner has 4 hens, 10 hens, or 3 roosters. ..or if the shelter setback is 5 ft, 10 ft, or 20 ft from a property line...of if there are roosters. There is no method to enforce setbacks. Increased Costs to Tax-Payers by needing additional manpower, expense will be needed for CARE, CityLink calls, JSO calls and responses, Code Enforcement issues and responses, Animal Control calls and responses - -related to chickens in residential districts. There will be calls for excessive noise, odor, hens running the streets and at-large, disease, and improper setbacks. All of these departments are already short-staffed and overloaded with present city issues/ concerns.

Dave Browning, WastePro, informed the group that his company will be converting to the automated trash collection system in the GAB district. He informed everyone that they will be

delivered a 96 gallon toter (trashcan) and a 96 gallon recycle bin. They will provide a magnet to place on your fridge to remind you of your trash collection days and recycle days. Your trash will be collected once a week, recycling collected once every 2 weeks and your yard waste collection will remain the same. If you have need for a smaller can, call 630-CITY.

6. **Chair's Report** – Vice Chair Parsons did not have a report, but she informed the CPAC that Chair Schorr was out of town.

7. **Elected Officials Reports** –

Councilman Bill Bishop stated that it is a very busy time of year for City Council. Bishop stated that he has been busy debating the location of the new Supervisors of Elections Office. Bishop also recognized Lad Hawkins and John Roberts for their hard work and dedication to the dog park. Due to their efforts their things at the dog park are really moving forward. The contract for the new University Blvd. Bridge was been awarded, things should get moving soon. Lastly, Bishop stated that he felt the billboard bill has not a good idea and it does have a long way to go before it goes to vote.

8. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

- **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs** – Michael Anania
The Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee met at 5:00 p.m. The subcommittee reviewed 7 applications and made 6 motions:

Approval of Exception E-13-028 this is an exception to sell beer and wine at 1240-103 Atlantic Blvd. Unanimously approved.

Support for Administrative Deviation AD-13-50 the CPAC feel this is a welcomed commercial activity in the Arlington area. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Exception E-13-034 this is a recommendation for (in part) for outside sale of food, but not beer, wine and liquor. Unanimously approved.

Opposition to Ordinance 2013-493 this is the bill in regard to the billboards; the CPAC unanimously voted to oppose this ordinance.

Support letter for Golden Glades Subdivision that Public works and St. Johns River Water Management District remedy the storm water runoff and drainage issues along Brougham Ave. and Gerona Drive West. There was some discussion in regard to the scope of service that should be recommended in the letter and it was limited to the drainage issue and tied to the stormwater fees as the funding mechanism. Unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Parsons temporarily handed over the gavel to LUZ Chair Mike Anania so she could make a motion in opposition to Ordinance 2013-0415 (hens). Ms. Parsons read her prepared letter as a motion, which was seconded. After some lengthy discussion the group voted 12 to 1 to send the letter for **Denial of Ordinance 2013-415** ~ the CPAC opposes this ordinance and does not want hens in residential areas.

Anania then handed the gavel back to Parsons to resume the meeting.

- **Beautification/Parks/Environment** – Larry Belge – not present
- **Membership** – Patricia Schorr – not present
- **Transportation** – Ben Tucker – no report

Ad-Hoc:

- **Craig Airport** – David Henry – no report
- **North Florida TPO** – Roger Sharp – not present

- **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Marcella Lowe stated that she has been very busy they review and City Council audit on Purchasing Cards or often called P-cards; which are actually credit cards. These are given to limited city employees to make quick purchases so the purchased can be made without going through the long process of making a check request. This is important in several areas, such as, fleet maintenance may need to go by a water pump for a vehicle to get it out on the road running today and not wait for a check request to be made and processed. The investigation by T.R.U.E. found that the cards had a \$25,000 card limit, but the expenditure did not exceed \$2,500. The bank that needs a \$2 million reserve to issue the cards. They made a recommendation to City Council to reduce the card limits so this will reduce the amount that is spent on card reserves. This will allow a lot of money to be freed up to be used in other capacities. 2 months ago, Councilmember Boyer came to the commission seeking help with capital improvement project because there isn't any money. She asked the commission to look at the closed accounts to make sure there weren't any funds that were over looked. For 2 months they did a review and they reported back that the accounts were being handled properly. Ms. Lowe also stated that she has attended every budget hearing over the last 11 years, but this year she is watching it on TV. She encouraged everyone to attend or listen and watch on you TV or computer.

9. Unfinished Business - none

- 10. New Business** – Member Gary Dickinson announced that National Night Out will be held on October 1, 2013. This is the first Tuesday in October. This is also the 30th Anniversary of National Night Out. Don't forget to register you neighborhood online for the event. Also, Zone 3 will host their ShAdCo Safety Fair on Saturday, August 18th at the Avenues mall.

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

Bill Gossett expressed his appreciation to the CPAC for their support on the sign ordinance. He also shared his history and involvement with this issue since 1987. Mr. Gossett also shared his concern about hedge funds and their need the Jacksonville type market to make their money.

Tiffany Gillem, stated that the James Craig Memorial Observation area is open. The opening ceremony on July 19th was well attended.

Genora Crane-Orth spoke on her support on hens in the community and let everyone know that they should do their own research and not fall for any misconceptions.

Kay Robins, also spoke on her support for hens

Pete Miller reminded everyone that school starts on Monday, be careful and watch out for the kids.

- 12. Motion to Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 9, 2013 ~ 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport
855-1 Craig Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32225