

District #2 - Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Patricia Schorr

Vice Chair: Michael Anania

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: Regency Branch Library

DATE: Monday, April 9, 2012

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members:

Anania, Michael, Vice Chair

Belge, Larry, St. Johns Landing HOA

Blache, James, The Woods Comm. Assoc.

Bryant, Jim, Queens Harbour HOA

Cherry, Albert, Hidden Valley Civic Assoc.

Davis, Michelle, Council Appointee – District 1

Evans, Kacy, Caroline Forest HOA

Hawkins, Lad, Communities of East Arlington

Hibbard, Sandi, Harbour North Civic Assoc.

Holden, Johnny, Emerald Bay HOA

Huffines, Carroll, Mayport Village Civic Assoc.

Jarnutowski, Sherrie, Walkers Glen HOA

Lowe, Marcella, Alderman Park Civic Assoc.

Ludwig, Helen, St. Johns Woods

Maxted, Edward, Bentwater Place

Parsons, Eddi, Monument Oaks HOA

Peck, David, OakPark Neighborhood Assoc.

Petoskey, Gerald, Old Mill Comm. Org.

Sanders, Patricia, Southern Grove Assoc.

Schorr, Patricia, Chair

Swanner, Lamar, Covington Creek HOA

Tucker, Benjamin, Cypress Cove Good Neighbor Group

Walker, Kathy, Old Arlington Inc.

Excused: No member was excused

Elected Officials: No elected officials present

Staff: Amy, Robert; Davis, Paul; Green, Jim; Lancaster, Elaine; Steele, Dennis and Wesolowski, Rosemary

Guests:

Jennifer Watson

Clara Figueroa

Elaine Brown

Jim Catlett, Waverly Place

Tamara Branum, Pablo Creek Library

John Roberts, Hidden Valley HOA

Barbara Roberts, Countryside HOA

Jean Schuer, UNF

Denise Lewis

Pete Miller, ShAdCo

Sandra Sills, Cobblestone

Anthony Williams

Sally Donerly, Regency Library

Rhonda Peoples-Waters, Duval Co. Judge Candidate

Todd Yorker

Barbara Cherry, Hidden Valley Civic Assoc.

Mikki Baldwin, Mayport Village Civic Assoc.

Bobby Cherry, Hidden Valley Civic Assoc.

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

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

The meeting began with all present to stand up and pledge allegiance to the flag; afterwards all stood for a moment of silence. Quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

Chair Schorr asked for a motion to approve the minutes that were e-mailed to all members for the March meeting. Member Ludwig motioned to approve minutes as distributed with a 2nd to the motion by Member Cherry. The minutes were approved by all members being in favor of March minutes.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** - Lt. Robert Amy

Lt. Amy of JSO Zone 2 reported a letter was received by the Sheriff's Office in mid-March by the NORC "National Opinion Research Center" which has partnered with the University of Chicago. This organization arrived in town in March and will be here through September. They are not soliciting and are going door to door to different households/neighborhoods to get your opinion. Please know that two types of identification must be presented. One indicate will NORC and the other will be the University of Chicago. They should not knock on your door if you have a solicitation sign on your door. Having a "no solicitation" sign posted at the front of neighborhoods is not enough, must have a no solicitation sign or placard at your door. This research is not considered a form of solicitation. Religious groups are not soliciting or fall under solicitation rules because they are not selling anything or insist you buy anything. The city is looking at statutes of first amendment rights to see if they are in violation; so far it has been found they are not. JSO has not experienced any problems with this group but Lt. Amy wanted to get the word out to the neighborhoods. He recommends citizens to go to the NORC website to find out more information about the organization.

Member Lowe asked Lt. Amy if it is illegal to drive down a turn lane. He advised yes, the lane is intended for turning only. Member Holden asked Lt. Amy if it is considered a violation of solicitation to put a flyer on your door, but not knocking on the door. He responded it was not a violation. Door hangers have come out for the new trash cans recently and if they do not knock on your door, then they are not in violation.

- **Mayor's Liaison** – Not present

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

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

Mr. Green advised projects are continuing on schedule with no new projects.

Member Hawkins asked about the Mayport Ferry.

Mr. Green advised FDOT is involved with one of the committees and surveying the ferry riders; who is riding and where they live, etc.

Member Hawkins asked if FDOT feels it is okay to have a road end or eliminate the road.

Mr. Green stated FDOT has not taken a position on the situation.

Member Hawkins asked if we can go to TPO and ask for more funds. Could they not look into this and make it a priority?

- **Neighborhoods** –

- **Housing and Community Development Division** – Rosemary Wesolowski

Ms. Wesolowski advised it was Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Week and shared some of the upcoming programs and events funded by the city. The events will be going on all this week, today they started in Durkeville then on to an Easter Egg Hunt in Brentwood this afternoon. Rosemary Wesolowski mentioned several other events that will continue throughout the week. She asked you contact her if you would like more information. Member Parsons asked about the upcoming training class the Neighborhoods Department will host on how to use City Government and how to conduct City Council Meetings. Ms. Wesolowski advised the training class has not been approved; however they are looking at rescheduling the class from April 24th to May. Member Peck asked about the Animal Care & Control Division and Rosemary Wesolowski advised the division will fall under the Neighborhoods Department. They are not required to attend the CPAC meetings. Mr. Peck asked the name of the person who will head the Neighborhood's Department and if he resided in Duval County. Ms. Wesolowski advised she did not have information at this time and did confirm that anyone being employed with the COJ must reside in Duval County.

- **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Elaine Lancaster

Ms. Lancaster did not have anything new to report. Advised the division is carrying backlog with inspections as grass and plants are growing. They are scheduled to get two new officers soon and until then have been working some Saturdays to handle the workload.

- **Planning & Development** – Paul Davis
Issues to be discussed during LUZ subcommittee report
- **Recreation & Parks** – Not present

4. **Presentations** – Elaine Brown & Pete Miller

Presentation #1 - Elaine Brown met with Councilman Bill Gulliford on January 19, 2012 to discuss the Mayport Ferry. A task force was formed and a large turn-out met at the Presbyterian Church. Most people want to keep the ferry. The task force has focused at A1A which ends at the north side of the ferry (Greenway Trail would be from Maine to Key West).

Ms. Brown thanked the FDOT for stepping up to conduct a ridership survey. Findings include 1. A1A, 2. Gateway for both sides of the river, 3. The Navy will have a buildup of 2000 personnel. The BAE does a lot of business with the Navy. At least 28 people will lose their jobs if they close the ferry and this affects all the economic development from Nassau County to St. Johns County. A 1993 Burton Report, which was a feasibility study, revealed 230,000 cars use the ferry at this time. 450,000 cars used the ferry in 2008. This drop was due primarily to the economy and due to a lack of marketing. Many do not know about the ferry, schedule, etc. Conducting a new survey will find that more Navy and ship repairs will be required. This will mean more ridership on the ferry due to the business related commutes, increase in recreation and tourism. They met a wide variety - \$2 billion of tourism and funds will impact the 3 counties. It is A1A - economic development – recreation. This will be more jobs for this area and help boost the economy. Councilman Gulliford has 7 members on this committee and is identifying who will be asked from council to step up to the plate, JPA, JTA, TOP, TDC & FDOT. Mikki Baldwin is working to find grant funding, most are partnership grants with other municipalities. There have been thousands of petitions so far and this is only from the time period of January 19th to present. Ms. Brown would like to thank all members for their support for this important cause.

On April 21, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. we are asking all bicyclists to show up at the ferry (similar to a flash mob) to have the largest group of bike riders ride the ferry all at once. For the bike ride, the cost is \$20 to register which includes (certificate from the US Book of World Records, t-shirt, and two tokens to ride the ferry). Ms. Brown encouraged all to go the website www.Keeptheferry.org – to sign the petition.

Mayport Anniversary – 450th Anniversary of the Mayport Landing on April 28, 2012. They will have booths, tours and events occurring to bring attention to the cause. At the opening of the beaches parade and the Mayport Anniversary on April 28, 2012 hoping to cause awareness and gain support.

Member Belge stated there were \$4 million in capital needs versus the needed repairs. They would possibly break even. 230,000 cars a year reflects ridership is down from 400,000 from 2008. We are hoping grant funds will assist with this effort.

Member Hawkins stated that the Greenway Trail runs from (Maine to Key West) and if FDOT did improvements on the north side of the ferry with adding bike lanes and roadway improvements. This would be the best way to offer a link for ecotourism to get to the Timucuan Preserve.

Member Lowe mentioned the \$0.5 cent gas tax will go away in about a year and added she has never seen a tax go away. Her question was, do you think we could utilize this funding before it goes completely away? The gas tax will go up in 2014 and with it goes a lot of roadway projects. We would love for this to be considered.

Member Huffines recognized there is a decrease in ridership due to the economy. Again, Ms. Brown encouraged all to go to the website to sign showing support – she thanked all for their continued support.

Presentation #2 - Pete Miller, Chair of ShAdCo (Sheriff's Advisory Council) – Zone 2, Sector F. Mr. Miller advised next month the 3 sectors of Zone 2 of ShAdCo will be conducting their annual safety fair at the Regency Square Mall, South entrance. Inside there will be over 70 vendors to provide community safety services including recreational safety, pool safety, vehicle safety, blood pressure checks, digital child ID

kits, Seniors vs. Crime awareness, security alarm companies and Home Depot, etc. The event will be free with multiple activities for the kids such as mascots like McGriff the Crime Dog, Sparky the Fire Dog, Big Bird and Southpaw. Outside, there will be a fire safety house, JFRD will have ladder trucks on display and JSO with canines and the horses from the mounted units. The event will be Saturday, May 5, 2012. There will be a bicycle safety rodeo with lessons on why to follow the rules of the road. After ShAdCo completes the training, all of the children will get to keep the helmets this year. There will be 5 new bikes raffled off. Each child must get fitted for a helmet, attend the training and then they can place their name in the drawing for the raffle for one of the bikes. 60 ShAdCo volunteers, recruiting booths, neighborhood awareness, etc. A great event for kids and adults alike.

5. Chair's Report – Patricia Schorr

Chair Schorr reported she met with the other CPAC chairs; they are trying to schedule a meeting with Mayor Brown.

6. Elected Officials Reports – None present

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports – Mike Anania-LUZ Subcommittee Chair

• **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs**

- LUZ AD-12-11: applicant would like to reduce their side yard setback for a proposed sun room. Recommending a denial. Motion made by Vice Chair Anania, with a second by Member Cherry. Board unanimously approved.
- WLD-12-03: applicant requested an appeal. Appeal process will go through Council sometime in May. Citizen representatives for the neighborhood were not in favor of a liquor store. We recommend they attend the LUZ meeting to present their case to the subcommittee. As the Planning Commission results were not concise, there was discussion going either way. They should show up to express their opinion. Therefore, LUZ has not changed our position on the denial of the liquor license.

• **Beautification/Parks/Environment – Lad Hawkins-Environment Subcommittee Chair**

Member Hawkins reported on the issue of the Dog Park. Council voted and it was tied 9/9. Councilman Bishop and CPAC member, John Roberts are going to sign a Friends of the Parks Agreement and are working to obtain additional signatures for the Agreement.

Comments have been made about the bright blue color of the new trash cans and about them being rather large. The large size may cause a storage problem. Some people think the color makes the cans a visual nuisance. Changing the color and size by offering a 50 gallon for those that do not want the 95 gallon can was suggested.

• **Membership – Patricia Schorr-Membership Subcommittee Chair**

Member Sanders represents Southern Grove Condo Association. Members welcomed Ms. Sanders to the board. Chair Schorr reported for the past month, 3 members and staff (Kacy Evans, Eddi Parsons, Michelle Davis, Rosemary Wesolowski and Mike Anania) have worked on the current listing of members dividing the district into 4 areas. She advised they are going to contact members that haven't attended meetings in a while and see about their interest in serving before we consider new associations/members.

• **Transportation – Ben Tucker-Transportation Subcommittee Chair**

Member Tucker advised that the City Council would like to set up a Ferry Commission. Chair Schorr asked if that was what the petition was for and Member Tucker stated, no that just states that you support the ferry.

• **Ad-Hoc – No report**

• **TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Marcella Lowe**

Member Lowe advised the TRUE Commission was asked to assist the city with recommendations health insurance. The current Administration would like for them to look into self-insured insurance and provide this information. The City of Jacksonville has an unwritten policy that if you're employed by the city, your primary insurance must be with the City of Jacksonville. Several people

work for the city, but don't need it or they have a supplement in place. One exception the City does recognize is Tri-Care and you can waive the City insurance. This way people can opt out of insurance. For example, the School Board says they will be the primary insurance for husband and wife (with one working for the city) both would have to buy insurance. She advised they are still working on the Children's Commission – 90% of funding is grant funding. The Commission makes sure the families get food even in neighborhoods which do not have food stores nearby. They do a good job and are tied in with the Jacksonville Journey. Member Lowe stated Mayor Brown introduced himself to her at the grocery store last week and he confirmed he does support the CPAC.

8. **Unfinished Business** - None

9. **New Business** – None

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

- o Member Huffines reminded the group about Mayport Village having their 450th Anniversary and Celebration. He introduced Ms. Mikki Baldwin, President of the Mayport Village Civic Association and is heading up the celebration. Ms. Baldwin announced they are having their Annual Heritage Festival on April 28, 2012 from 9 a.m. -5 p.m. There will be live historical and cultural events at the festival which will be a week-long event. You can go to the COJ website for further information.
- o Rhonda Peoples-Waters mentioned she is running for Duval County Court Judge and introduced herself to the group. She remained after the meeting to answer questions.
- o Member Petoskey thanked Vice-Chair Anania for attending his neighborhood HOA meeting.

11. **Motion to Adjourn** – meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 14, 2012 ~ 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Regency Branch Library