

District # 3

Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Jim Hill

Vice Chair: Danny Becton

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: St. Vincent's Southside
Main Hospital, Auditorium C
4201 Belfort Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Date: Monday, May 20, 2013

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members:

Banks, George – Secret Cove Civic Association
Barry, Nancy – Briarwood Neighborhood Association
Becton, Daniel - Deercreek Homeowners Association
Cardell, Richard – The Lakewood Community
D'Onofrio, Carol – Deercreek Homeowners Association
Hill, James - Greater Hood Road Community Association
Hodges, Ralph – Englewood Full Service School
Rothstein, Marj – Villa San Jose Civic
Stephens, Gloria – Saddlebrook Homeowner Association
Wolfe, Elizabeth – Pickwick Park Civic Association

Excused:

Bollinger, George – City Council Appointment – District 4
Heesch-Gilman, Karen - Briarwood Neighborhood Association
Lyons, Gamal - Tall Cypress Cove Homeowner Association
Peek, Luther – Los Prados Condominium No. 1, Inc.
Perera, Kathleen – Alumni Civic Association

Elected Officials:

McBurney, Charles, Florida House of Representatives, District 16

Staff:

Adams, Allison – Aide to Councilmember Boyer, District 5
Crawford, Robert – Code Compliance, COJ
Green, James - FDOT
Judge, Lt. - JSO
Wesolowski, Rosemary - Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development

Guests:

Clapp, Ann – G.E.N.A.

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

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

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

- Chair Hill inquired if everyone had the opportunity to read the meeting summary and if there were any corrections, deletions or additions; there were none. George Banks made a motion

to approve the meeting summary and Ralph Hodges seconded the motion. The April 2013 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** –

- Lt. Judge informed the group that Zone 3 has 190 officers to cover 155 square miles, 240,000 residents, 168 banks, 247 apartment communities, 5 high schools, 8 hospitals, 1 mall and 1 town center that had 10 million visitors last year. This is the largest zone geographically and by population. Even with all of this activity, overall crime is down; property crime is down 10%, but there was a minor spike in violent crime which reflects in a 7% increase. Lt. Judge also reminded the group that school will be out soon and this typically means there will be a spike in crime citywide until school resumes. Remember if you see kids out after curfew or behaving suspiciously, please call 630-0500.

- **Mayor's Liaison** – not present

The CPAC discussed the 2 year absence of a Mayor's Liaison to attend the SE CPAC meetings. There were several ideas/options discussed in how to address this situation. A motion was made to send a letter to the Mayor's Office to request that a liaison be appointed and attend the meetings or get an explanation as to why the SE CPAC does not have a liaison and other CPAC's do. The group voted unanimously and a letter will be sent from the chair.

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

- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – informed the group about the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization's (North Florida TPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the five-year period from Fiscal Year 2013/2014 through FY 2017/2018. The plan/draft contains a lot of details and Mr. Green will email a copy of the plan/draft report to Rosemary, then it will be distributed in its entirety to the CPAC.

- **Neighborhoods Department:**

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

Ms. Wesolowski reminded the CPAC about the upcoming annual Jazzfest that will be held downtown May 24th – 26th at various venues; please visit www.coj.net for complete details. She also provided information about the Camp Florida Friendly Landscaping classes that will be held on June 19, 21, 26, and 28th at the Duval County Extension Office on McDuff Avenue.

- **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Robert Crawford

Mr. Crawford stated that Senior Officer Wiley retired last Friday; thus leaving him with 3 officers. One member raised a concern about "Going out of Business" /illegal signs on the right of way on Southside Blvd. near the Avenues Mall. Mr. Crawford encouraged everyone to call 630-CITY and provide as many details as they can about the signs: where they are located (in the ground, on poles), type of signs and when (what days & time of days) you are seeing the signs on the road. Code Compliance is starting to work every other Saturday, because they know many violators are trying to work around they system.

- **Planning & Development** – Aaron Glick

Not present

- **Parks & Recreation** – Pam Roman

Not present

4. **Presentations – Mike Johnson, Assistant Chief of Zone 3, JSO**

Assistant Chief Johnson stated that he was appointed to be the Assistant Chief of Zone 3 Patrol Commander in February 2013. Prior to that he served as Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Integrity/Special Investigations Unit Commander for 3+ years and was also Co-Chair for the Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition. He also served as a Police Lieutenant and SWAT Team Leader. He stated that he has held various positions on the JSO Swat Team. Promoted to Sergeant in 2002 and assumed a Team Leader position. Also was assigned as the JSO Canine /Mounted Unit Commander after being promoted to Lieutenant. Assistant Chief Johnson has been employed with JSO since January 1989.

Assistant Chief Johnson shared with the group that citywide there has been a rash of trailer thefts. Since January there have been 92 trailers stolen; 19 were taken in Zone 3. A number of them have been listed for sale on Craig List, but many have just disappeared. To help JSO identify your trailer, it is recommended that you:

Register your trailer to have a valid license plate and VIN number.

Visibility ~ store trailer in a well-lit area in full view.

Markings ~ mark your trailer with identifiers, custom paint job, decals or lettering in several places; take pictures if possible.

Secure the trailer with a lock and pole mechanism.

Additional tips are available on the Safeguarding Your Trailer handout.

Lastly, Assistant Chief Johnson informed the group about iWATCH. This is a community program to help your neighborhood stay safe from terrorist activities. JSO has entered into this program in partnership with Homeland Security and Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The program encourages individuals to report suspicious behaviors such as: people drawing or measuring important buildings, strangers asking questions about security or building security, a backpack, suitcase, briefcase or package left behind, cars or trucks left in No Parking zones in front of important buildings, intruders in secure areas, chemicals smells or fumes, questions about blue prints, security plans and VIP travel plans, and purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons. To make a report on any of these concerns, call 1-888-908-5368.

Charles McBurney, Representative, Florida House of Representative, District 16

Representative McBurney provided an update from the late legislative session in Tallahassee. At the last legislative session, the state marked many milestones: the 500th anniversary of Florida, the last 6 years have been the biggest recession since the Great Depression, unemployment rates reaching 12%, multi-billion dollars deficits and increase in cost of living. Last year was the first year since Representative McBurney took office in 2007 that there has been a little room to increase the budget a small amount. There were funds to pay for maintenance and repairs that have been deferred for a number of years. The House of Representatives also met their constitutional requirement and balanced the budget.

This year Representative McBurney was very involved in the budget as he served at the Chair of the Justice Appropriation Committee. The Justice Appropriation Committee is responsible for Public Safety; this concerns the budget with all justice matters (corrections, courts, public defenders, state attorneys, etc.). Representative McBurney also serves as one of six state representatives that serve on the Legislative Budget Commission; this is a constitutional entity that looks at the long range planning of the budget. The budget this year for the state of Florida is \$74.5 billion: \$26.8 billion in general revenue, \$21.2 billion in trust funds (mostly to cover fees) and \$26.4 billion in federal government (mostly to cover Medicaid). Medicaid is the biggest cost to the budget; Medicaid costs are about 30% of the budget and this year \$21.4 billion is budgeted just for Medicaid.

Key items that did occur in the budget, there was a \$6.34 billion overall increase in education, thus giving \$404 increase per student in the state of Florida. Due to improvements over the last 6 years, Florida school rankings went from 34th to 6th according to Education Week. According to the Orlando Business Journal, teacher quality has been rated #1. Because of these solid achievements, teachers will receive a pay increase of \$2,500 to \$3,500 for highly effective and effective teachers. State workers will also see a pay increase for the first time in 7 years.

In the Justice Appropriation area, they were able to reduce the deficit in the Department of Corrections, upgrade Law Enforcement capabilities (DNA testing, Pill Mills, Data Mining, Medicaid fraud, improve training for State Attorneys and Public Defenders, met all priorities of Judicial Branch (e-filing, technological maintenance and support) and the biggest financial impact was to remove the clerks from the budget (this reduced the budget by \$162 million). As a legislature, they were able to put aside \$2.8 billion in reserves to help the state keep its AAA Bond rating.

Jobs/employment remains an issue with unemployment still around 7%; we need to bring jobs to Florida. On the last day of session Representative McBurney introduced a bill that was passed that updated and modernized business law for Limited Liability Companies (LLC). There are over 600,000 LLC in Florida, more than any other type of business entity. These laws have not been updated for over 20 years. A state's business laws are often a factor when businesses determine if they should relocate or stay put. With this update it will help attract foreign businesses, allow a freer flow of commerce and update appraisal rights.

The House of Representatives also approved to extend the Sales Tax Free Holiday from 1 day to 3 days for this year. There will be no sales tax placed on manufacturing equipment that is purchased for the next 3 years. There was legislation on Homestead Exemption to allow the owner(s) to rent their property up to 30 days without losing their homestead exemptions.

In Ethics, they addressed Ethics and Elections; this was the first comprehensive look at areas ethic and elections since President Carter was in office. The changes are: Prohibits conflict of interest where voting may result in private gain or employment (private or public) for reason to gain influence. Prohibits the legislator from lobbying the Executive Branch for 2 years after they leave office. Prohibits gifts from political parties. In regard to elections: they eliminated Committees of Continual Existence (CCE); Worked to reduce the influence by 3rd party groups by placing greater emphasis contributions directly to candidates; creates frequency of reporting to provide greater transparency.

In Safety, they expanded the interval periods of parole hearing from 2 to 7 years for kidnapping and certain sex crimes related to intrusion into a structure or a vehicle where a victim is present. Legislation was also passed that prohibits texting while driving; this is now a secondary offence.

Education was also addressed. There was significant increase in support for our Colleges and Universities. In K-12, there were provisions made to allow students to take different pathways to have opportunities to seek a vocational education.

In the area of healthcare, the House did reject federal funds requested for Medicaid, but did fully fund the increase in medical caseloads in Kid Care enrollment.

For a summary of the bills email the request to: Charles.mcburney@myfloridahouse.gov.

Chairs report - Chair Hill informed the group that the Greater Arlington Beaches CPAC recently held a bus tour and inquired if the members of the Southeast CPAC would be interested in

taking a bus tour of the SE district? What would we like to see? What would you be willing to pay? An email will be sent to inquire about your interest; please respond to Rosemary and she will compile the responses and I will share them at the next meeting.

Elected Officials Reports –

None present, Allison Adams was introduced as aide to Councilmember Boyer.

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports -

LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs- Jim Hill, Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Hill stated the LUZ subcommittee discussed one application; no motions or actions were taken.

Beautification/Parks/Environment – Dick Cardell, Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Cardell stated that JEA was in his neighborhood a week ago trimming trees as a preventative measure for the upcoming hurricane season. Unfortunately, the JEA trimming notification cards arrived in the mail a week after they completed their trimming. Mr. Cardell did confirm that making sure all of your trees are trimmed at this time of year is a good practice. Mr. Cardell also encouraged everyone to have an arborist examine your trees periodically. A tree may appear healthy, but an expert may see health problems that we may overlook.

Economic Development – Gloria Stephens, Subcommittee Chair

The St. Johns Town Center is exploding with new growth; Microsoft has filed an application to open a new store. Also, Nordstrom's, Nordstrom's Rack, Am Shack, Cosmo Nail Bar, Pandora's, Lush Cosmetics and Barry Topsiders are opening locations at the Town Center too. Housing starts are up and houses are starting to sell. Fortune Magazine named Florida among the top 4 states that are poised to dominate in the drone industry. Shands Jacksonville has just announced that they rename the facilities to University of Florida Health Jacksonville. Forbes magazine ranks Jacksonville #3 best city to find employment. The ranking takes into consideration the diversity of industries, cost of living, range and size of companies offering employment and the high level of education in the community. Lastly, Daniel Davis was just elected as the CEO of Jax Chamber and he will start on July 1st.

Education – George Banks

Mr. Banks announced that School Board Member, Ashley Smith Juarez would be the guest speaker in the month of July. Also, John Waddell is home from the hospital/rehab center and is improving and sends his hello.

Membership – Kathleen Perera, Subcommittee Chair

Not present, but a Membership Subcommittee Meeting will be held in June 1st at Kathleen's house. Time will be provided soon.

Transportation – Growth Management -Danny Becton, Subcommittee Chair

No report; but there was a question about what type of trolley cars/systems would they be using in the additional trolley transportation lines they discussed in the newspaper? Will they go back to the old fashion street cars with tracks and electrical wiring? It was decided that the trolley type that would be used is the bus that is converted to look like a street car / trolley that operates without tracks and overhead electrical lines.

Safety – Betty Wolfe and Roger Inman, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

No report

Ad-Hoc:

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Danny Becton

Mr. Becton stated that the Performance Subcommittee has been looking at the pension issues for the last 15 months and the subcommittee was ready to write a report to summarize their findings. The Mayor has presented a new pension plan and they are looking forward to reviewing it. As far as their report they were writing, it appears they will finish and submit the report as to their initial findings. The City has posted the 6 month audit (ending March 31, 2013) and the commission is looking forward to reviewing it.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comments/Announcements (3-minute time limit)

George Banks made a motion to adjourn and Gloria Stephens seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 24, 2013 ~ 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Vincent's Southside
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