

SOUTHEAST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

February 27, 2011

6:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Hospital, 4201 Belfort Rd., Main Hospital, Auditorium C, Jacksonville, FL.
32216

Call to Order

Pat Corrado, SE CPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Speaker

Joe Whitaker, JEDC, informed the group that the City of Jacksonville is the best location for businesses of all sizes seeking extraordinary infrastructure, available sites and a qualified workforce. The mission of the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission (JEDC) is to develop and execute policies that result in sustainable job growth, rising personal incomes and a broader tax base throughout Northeast Florida. The JEDC achieves its mission through five main objectives:

1. Recruit and expand higher wage job opportunities
2. Promote and encourage private capital investment
3. Increase the growth and expansion of small business
4. Promote and leverage investment in economically distressed areas
5. Promote a healthy and vibrant downtown

Jacksonville is one of the easiest and least expensive places to conduct business. The City of Jacksonville has the 3rd lowest tax burden of any major city in the nation. All types of businesses can find success in Jacksonville, but the following five sectors are considered to be major targeted industries: Aviation and Aerospace, Supply Chain Logistics, Finance and Insurance, Information Technology and Manufacturing.

The JEDC, serving in its role as the county's Economic Development Authority, Community Redevelopment Agency and Downtown Development Authority, strives to revitalize and strengthen the urban core by creating opportunities for growth and economic expansion. Mayor Brown has ideas to reorganize the JEDC and have the Downtown section to form a special organization (with their own board) to expand the Laura Street improvements and to grow the Downtown residential and commercial opportunities. So for this year JEDC is off to a good start, Everbank has agreed to bring 1300 jobs downtown.

It is imperative for JEDC to approach economic development in a consistent, judicious and accountable manner on which companies and organizations can rely. JEDC has many developed programs to meet the needs of all types of businesses. Some of the programs that JEDC provides are:

Business Resources, Business Assistance Programs, Business Financing Programs, Enterprise and Empowerment Zones, JEDC Public Investment Policy, JIA CRA, Purchasing Opportunities, Site Development, Permitting and Utilities, State and Federal Incentives, Workforce Training Programs, Cecil Commerce Center®, History, Incentives, Intermodal Infrastructure, Media Library, Site Development Information, Contact Business Development Team, International, Jacksonville Business Overview, Intermodal Infrastructure, Major Employers, Targeted Industries, Tax Structure, Jacksonville's Military Presence, JEDC Public Investment Policy and Small Business, Small Business Assistance Programs, Starting a New Business, Downtown Development, Surface Parking Regulations, Transportation & Parking, Zoning Code, Enterprise and Empowerment Zones / Incentives, Film and Television, Brownfields Program, JIA Community Redevelopment Area, King/Soutel Crossing Community Redevelopment Area, New Market Tax Credits and Sports and Entertainment.

The latest details about the business climate in Jacksonville can be found in their Business Development Report or by contacting the Business Development team so they can assist you with any questions and provide further information.

Staff Reports

- **Mayor Liaison:** TBA
- **Duval County Public Schools:** Chris Force, Director of Career and Technical Education, shared that the traditional vocational school has been transformed into career academies. Many of the high schools have the smaller learning academies at the schools; thus making them a school within the school. At this time there are 36 different academies available and DCPS is the first in the state of Florida to offer a Scientific Visualization Academy. The areas of study at each of the academies vary from high school to high school and the subjects vary from logistics, bio-medicine to welding and machining. At Wolfson High School, they offer an Academy of Finance; at this academy there is a VyStar Branch located in Wolfson High School and the branch is operated by the students. If anyone has a question or would like additional information please contact Ms. Force at ForceC@duvalschools.org or call 635-1466.
- **Jim Green, FDOT:** no report, all projects are underway; 9B is on schedule, the 295/9a signage changes are nearly complete.
- **Aaron Glick, Planning & Development Department:** Councilman Redman will be hosting a community meeting to discuss application 2012-61 (Belfort Rd & Gate Pkwy), contact Scott Wilson for details. Available for questions.

- **Rosemary Wesolowski, Housing & Neighborhoods Department:** informed the group about that Mayor Brown plans to streamline processes and some changes have been made in regard to the CPAC's. Effective in March, a ScribePen will be provided for each CPAC coordinator. During the meeting it is requested that each person speaking identify themselves prior to their comment so they can be correctly identified in the meeting summary. The Scribe Pen will then be shared with a clerical support specialist in the Intra Governmental Services Department to transcribe the meeting. The transcription of the meeting will be verbatim, not a summary. There is also some discussion about phone calls to the CPAC coordinators. At this time management is looking into having the calls that would be handled by the CPAC Coordinators to be handled by the 630-CITY operators.
- **JSO, Zone 3:** Lt. Judge informed the group that approximately 235,000 individuals reside in the Southeast District and this is a big and busy district. At this time overall crime is down, but JSO has noticed trends or clusters of residential burglaries. These clusters of crime may be due to youths out and about. If you notice kids that are out in the neighborhoods while they should be at school, please call JSO. Many of the property crimes are being committed by bored kids. In the San Marco/Lakewood/Colonial Manor area a number of auto burglaries were committed by a group of 4 kids that were out car hopping (walking down the street checking for unlocked cars). The group was caught and JSO learned that the kids that committed these crimes ages ranged from 13 to 16 years old. In Deercreek there were 9 auto burglaries report and JSO arrested a 27 year old that lived in Deercreek for committing the crimes. If you see anything suspicious any time of the day or night, please call JSO. Citywide we are having problems with kids violating curfew. If you see kids out and about after 11:00 p.m. Sun – Thurs. and/or out after midnight on Friday and Saturday, please call JSO. Zone 3 continues to lead the City in traffic fatalities. Currently, there are 8 officers and their sergeants focusing on traffic fatalities. They are stopping cars that are in violation (usually speeding) to educate them on the dangers of speeding. If you see anything that is suspicious, please call JSO.
- **Bob Crawford, Code Compliance:** informed the group that they completed 1211 inspections and completed phase 1 of their corridor inspection. Along the San Jose Business corridor there were 96 violations, the south side of Beach Blvd (University Blvd. to San Pablo Blvd.) there were 71 violations and University Blvd (Beach Blvd to San Jose Blvd) there were 95 violations.
- **Quinn Bledsoe, Recreation & Community Services Department:** informed the group that the 9A/Baymeadows Park is not large enough. Currently the City of Jacksonville and Duval County Public School are working to complete a joint venture to put in basketball courts and ball fields by existing schools in the area.
- **Lori Boyer, City Councilmember, District 5:** informed the group that her aide Debbie Delgado is now employed in the Mayor's Office in Public Information and her new aide is James Nealis.

- **WC Gentry, Duval Public Schools, Board Member:** updated the group on the new FCAT testing changes; all students (English as a second language students, special needs students, learning challenged students) will take the FCAT now. With this change, state wide there will be a drastic increase of F (failing) schools. At this time morale district wide is down and the school board decided not renew Ed Pratt Dannals contract as Superintendent. The School Board feels they need to do a nationwide search for a superintendent in order to make the transformation that is needed. In the news there is has been a lot of focus on the \$100 million reserve balance that is in place. The school board feels that in these challenging economic times it is prudent for the school to have a safety net. Graduation rates are up 14% in the last 4 years. Andrew Jackson, Raines and Ribault High Schools remain a problem. Because they are failing schools, the student/families have the choice to send their children to other schools; this causes the brightest kids to leave and attend other school thus further compounding the problem.

Chair's Report –

- Verified quorum.
- Voted and approved January 2012 meeting summary
- Introduced Councilman Schellenberg, Gulliford and Boyer
- Discussed his concern about the changes that are being made to CPAC's Stated that the CPAC's were formed to give the citizens a voice and the CPAC's need to make sure they don't lose their voice.

Subcommittee Chair Updates:

Beautification and Environment – Chairperson: Dick Cardell: be careful while conducting your spring pruning. Many don't know how to correctly prune and recycle their yard waste. There are regulations for yard waste recycling. Details about yard waste collections are listed at the end of the report.

Economic Development– Chairperson: Gloria Stephens: not present

Education – Co-Chairs: George Banks and John Waddell: state that the 2 reports covered everything.

Growth Management & Transportation – Chairman: Danny Becton: stated that he had attended a City sponsored training class on Ethics and Roberts Rules of Order. In the Ethics class the subject of Sunshine Law and how it applied to private groups was brought up; thus caused further investigation. Trough research, attorney group Becker & Poliakoff published an article in 2004 that dictates how a meeting must be conducted. This is in agreement with Florida Statues 720 (homeowner associations) no report, but available for questions. On a transportation note, George Bollinger informed the group that Amtrak service was suspended from Jacksonville to New Orleans since hurricane Katrina. CSX replaced the tracks and repaired the rails within months of the hurricane, but Amtrak service was never restored. George would like to see daily rail service by Amtrak which will not only improve transportation, but will

increase jobs and exposure to Jacksonville.

Land Use & Zoning – Co-Chairs: Michael Lashbrook and Jim Hill: discussed several applications and no action will be taken on any of them.

Membership Recruitment – Chairman: Kathleen Perera: met with Gloria Stephens and Rosemary Wesolowski to work on membership. It was determined that many of the CPAXC members do not have alternates to cover for them if they could not attend the meeting. Each CPAC member was encouraged to reach out and try to get an alternate to represent their neighborhood.

Safety – Co-Chairs: Roger Inman and Betty Wolfe: reminded everyone that Lt. Judge gave a good report. Also, Joe Ryan discussed the new Crime mapping at ShAdCo and encouraged everyone to try and check it out. December was a bad month in Zone 3; criminals are very bold and we need to be careful and vigilant everywhere we go.

I.R.U.E. Commission – Gamal Lyons: the commission is still reviewing the same audits. They have been looking at incentives (property tax and electric); JEDC has been very good at documenting incentives. Jacksonville Journey and the Children’s Commission will also be audited.

The floor was opened to all in attendance:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Monday, March 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

at

***St. Vincent’s Southside Hospital, 4201 Belfort Road,
Main Hospital – Auditorium C***

Yard Waste

Place Yard Waste Curbside

If your yard waste collection and your garbage collection fall on the same day, please place yard waste apart from the garbage.

Yard Waste includes:

Grass clippings and leaves (these items must be in cans of 20 to 32 gallon size or in sealed plastic bags holding a maximum of 40 pounds)

Shrub trimmings

Tree limbs

Palm fronds

Collection of yard waste is limited to 5 cubic yards weekly or 30 bags.

Cut any limbs to 5 feet or shorter, 6 inches or less in diameter and stack in piles parallel to the curb.

Please note that tree removal and trimming services are required by ordinance to remove any yard waste they generate.

Items that are not yard waste:

*Fencing, landscape timbers, garden hoses, planters, flower pots,
yard decorations*

*The South Mulch Facility at 11600 Davis Creek Road East is closed
until further notice. Alternative sites for disposal of yard waste are:*

Old Kings Road Landfill

8540 Old Kings Road

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

(904) 768-5363

First Coast Mulch

11864 Camden Road

Jacksonville, Florida 32218

(904) 751-6495

*Private individuals, companies and waste haulers are encouraged to
contact the above facilities to confirm hours of operations, rates and
acceptability of waste.*

Don't Bag it, Recycle it Yourself!

Use your yard waste rather than placing it curbside for collection by:

Using a mulching blade and leaving your grass clippings on the lawn, as one bag contains up to 1/4 pound of organic nitrogen that is vital to lawn and plant growth.

Using your oak leaves and pine needles as a mulch. This helps the soil retain moisture, reduces weeds and prevents erosion.

Making your own backyard compost. You may include vegetable waste from the kitchen in your compost pile.

**Note: Hired tree trimming or removal services are responsible for the disposal of the yard waste they produce.*