

SOUTHEAST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY May 23, 2011

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

Call to Order

Gloria Stephens, SE CPAC Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Speaker

Bill Killingworth, Planning and Development Department, Director, spoke on the City Council Redistricting process. The group was informed on how the data analysis from the National Census was calculated and divided into 2 different categories on which the new district boundaries would be determined.

Chapter 18, Ordinance Code, provides that a redistricting plan be prepared by the committee and transmitted to the City Council for consideration within 30 days after the U.S. Bureau of the Census officially certifies the results of the 2010 Census, which certification must occur by April 1, 2011. Section 18.107, Ordinance Code, also provides that the Rules Committee hold not less than three public hearings at various locations around the city to solicit public input on the proposed plan before recommending a plan to the full Council for action, to take place no later than six months from the date of certification of the Census data.

For the past few reapportionments, the council hired outside consultants to assist in the complex process of drawing boundary lines and studying the demographics of various neighborhoods, but City Council wants to look into using existing resources like the Planning Department, Supervisor of Elections Office and the city's Geographic information System to save taxpayer dollars. The Jacksonville City Council decided against appointing a special reapportionment committee, as was the case in the past. Chairwoman E. Denise Lee and her Rules Committee will handle the job. The Council is obligated to insure that all districts are as nearly equal in population and are arranged in as logical and compact a geographical pattern as it is possible to achieve and to insure that all federal and state constitutions, laws and requirements are complied with; While the Council districts are based upon population with respect to their size, the geographical arrangement and territorial boundaries of the districts must take into consideration other factors, particularly compactness and contiguity, so that the people of the city, and their varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives, are adequately represented in the City Council.

The data from the National Census will be calculated and divided into 2 categories: Voting Age Population or Total Population. From the preliminary data it appears that the areas north and west of the St. Johns River will be losing a city council district and the areas south and east of the St. Johns River will be gaining a city council district.

It is recommended that the Council work closely with the Planning Department to understand the differences in these measures: providing balanced needs for all council districts, stay within the 10% relative deviation range from council district to council district, minimize crossing the river with boundaries and the beaches will get their own district. It has been held that this 10% relative deviation (meaning a combination of deviations from the actual numerical equality number no greater than 10% for any two districts) is acceptable for state legislative districts, and hence, by implication, for local districts, but that greater deviations must be justified. The justification will have to be demonstrated using the traditional neutral redistricting principles.

The council will eventually approve new boundary lines for 14 single-member districts, as well as the residency boundaries for five at-large seats. Again, the Council members are obligated to insure that all districts are as nearly equal in population and are arranged in as logical and compact a geographical pattern as it is possible to achieve and to insure that all federal and state constitutions, laws and requirements are complied with. While the Council districts are based upon population with respect to their size, the geographical arrangement and territorial boundaries of the districts must take into consideration other factors, particularly compactness and contiguity, so that the people of the city, and their varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives, are adequately represented in the Council. In November 2010, Florida voters approved two constitutional amendments that outlawed gerrymandering in the creation of legislative and congressional districts. However, Jacksonville voters have not been asked to weigh in on gerrymandering for local seats.

Once an initial plan is submitted, the Rules Committee will hold a series of public hearings to allow voters to chime in. If the maps are substantially altered along the way, more public hearings will be added.

In July, at least seven new council members will take office and immediately be thrown into the reapportionment debate. The council must adopt a new plan within eight months of receiving the final census numbers, meaning the process would likely end in November 2011.

Staff Reports

- **Bill Killingsworth, Mayor Liaison, Planning & Development Department:** no report
- **Jim Green, FDOT:** I-95 – concrete pavement rehabilitation is underway from Greenland Road, near I-295; to Atlantic Blvd.; for the Department, it is two contracts, which meet at Butler Blvd.; the north contract includes extending the Sound Walls farther north: on the east side of I-95 to Stevens Street, adjacent to a new retention pond that will replace several businesses west of Stevens Street; on the west side, the walls will extend approximately to Redmond Avenue and Westmont Road.

Painting of the Mathews Bridge will begin this fall. Jim introduced Milton Locklear from the North Florida TPO. Milton shared the Transportation Improvement

Program, Southeast CPAC Draft, Fiscal years 2011/12 – 2015-16. A packet was provided to each attendee that included some information on each project; the information included was the name / location of the project, the phase of the project, fund source for each of the projects and how much money would be spent over the 5 year period. Mr. Locklear briefly reviewed a few of the projects that were listed in his packet.

- **Doni Parkinson, Duval County Public Schools:** introduced herself and informed the group that Career Academies and Accelerated programs are available at each high school in the district. These programs are available at all schools to discontinue the “brain drain” to the magnet schools. Working closely with the 9th graders to inspire them to get enrolled in advanced and college classes. The Summer Bridge Program will be offered again this year. The Summer Bridge is an academic program that academically involved over the summer. Students can attend anywhere from 1 to 6 weeks to keep up or improve in any subject. Also, Virtual Alignment between middle and high schools to properly align students for accelerated programs for college placement.
- **Aaron Glick, Planning & Development Department:** available for questions
- **Rosemary Wesolowski, Housing & Neighborhoods Department:** reminded the group that on May 26, 2011 there will be a free Roberts Rules of Order Training Class at 6:00 p.m. in the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan St, 32202. Also, inquired with the group to determine if the group would be interested in touring UNF for the July meeting. The group voted to tour UNF. Next the group was presented with choice to actually tour the new building or if they were interested in taking the virtual tour. The group voted to take the virtual tour. Space will be provided before the tour for the LUZ Subcommittee to meet.
- **J.P. Morgan, JSO, Zone 3:** reminded the group to keep cars locked. Groups are working together and hitting neighborhoods as a team. They are hitting unlocked cars and unattended open garage doors. Remember to write down the serial numbers on your valuables.
- **Bob Crawford, Code Compliance Supervisor:** informed the group that he attended a Sheriffs Walk earlier in the evening. Code Compliance will be conducting systematic inspections in the neighborhoods south of Emerson, starting in the South Riverside neighborhood. Abandon homes are becoming quite a problem, please contact Code Compliance if you think you have a unsafe property in your neighborhood.
- **John Kelly, Recreation & Community Services Department:** introduced himself announced that Summer Camp began last week. Currently there are 19 locations throughout the city. If you are interested in summer camp call 255-7931. Life guards are on duty in the park pools and ocean front parks. The Jazzfest is this weekend in downtown Jacksonville. Summer Recreation Guides are available in the back of the room.

Chair's Report – Chair Pat Corrado joined the meeting and he shared:

- Verified quorum.
- Voted and approved May 2011 meeting summary.
- Recognized newly elected Council members Lori Boyer, Matt Schellenberg and Bill Gulliford.
- Announced that 2 of the subcommittee have new chairs. Gloria Stephens is now chairing the Economic Development Subcommittee (instead of Transportation) and Roger Inman and Betty Wolfe will co-chair the Safety Subcommittee. If you are interested in chair a subcommittee, please speak to the chair.
- Encouraged all the new council members to send a representative to the CPAC meetings.

Subcommittee Chair Updates:

Beautification and Environment – Chairperson: Dick Cardell: no report, available for questions

Economic Development– Chairperson: Gloria Stephens: JP Morgan Chase & Co. is opening a homeownership center in Jacksonville to help families struggling to pay their mortgage. On Wednesday, May 25th the center will open in Building 400 of the Deerwood Center at 10151 Deerwood Park Blvd. JP Morgan Chase will provide Chase loan counselors to help borrowers who have a mortgage serviced by Chase or EMC, which was the mortgage are of Bear Sterns prior to Chase acquiring that company. The Jacksonville center is the newest of the 59 home ownership centers operates throughout the country. The center will be open 8am to 8pm Monday –Thursday, 8 am to 6 pm on Friday and 9am – 1pm on Saturdays. Call 620-6092 to make an appointment. There will also be a name change for the Modis Building downtown; it will now be the Wells Fargo Building.

Education – Co-Chairmen: George Banks and John Waddell: announced that the CPAC will not have a school representative for the summer.

Growth Management – Chairman: Frank Morgan: The Baymeadows Golf Course area off Baymeadows Road is working on a Vision Plan for the area. Currently, they are working with all the stake holders and they state that the plan should be completed in March.

Land Use & Zoning – Co-Chairmen: Michael Lashbrook and Pat Corrado:

The LUZ Subcommittee discussed a lot that has been cleared along Shad Road. It was determined that it was a permitted tree harvesting. The subcommittee also discussed 2010-585. There was no opposition to the application and no action by the subcommittee. During the subcommittee report to the full CPAC meeting, ordinance 2010-585 was discussed by the full CPAC and a motion was made to send a deferral letter on behalf of the CPAC. The CPAC voted 15 vs. 1 to send the letter. A copy of the letter is at the end of this summary.

Membership Recruitment – Chairman: Kathleen Perera: asked the group to make sure they had active alternates to ensure that their association would be represented at every meeting.

Safety – Chairman: Roger Inman: not present

Transportation Development – Gloria Stephens: informed the group that Jacksonville is working with Allied Fiber, LLC. Allied Fiber created the Dark Fiber Community in response to the rising demands for its dark fiber products and services from network operators and companies seeking to build new, as well as extend existing dark fiber networks. The Dark Fiber Community is an online resource providing information, visibility and contact details for industry-leading vendors as well as the opportunity to plan meetings with global suppliers.

T.R.U.E. Commission – Gamal Lyons: stated that the commission was still working on studies for City Council. The future use of the banking fund and the retirement funds are very pertinent at this time. Gamal will forward a overview report on the commissions findings. (The report was emailed to the CPAC on June 2nd, if you need another copy please contact Rosemary).

The floor was opened to all in attendance:

Member Ann Clapp informed the group that her association was working closely with the Larsen Neighborhood Association in regard to application E-11-18. This application (which they strongly oppose) would place a recycling facility on Philips Highway at the corner of Reba St. (next to Wal-Mart). The group had a discussion in regard of E-11-18, but felt they did not have enough information to make a motion on this issue.

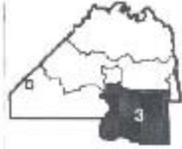
The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Monday, June 27, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

at

St. Luke's Hospital, 4201 Belfort Road,

Main Hospital – Auditorium C



Southeast Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
Chair: Pat Corrado Vice Chair: Gloria Stephens

May 23, 2011

To: Hon. John R. Crescimbeni
W. Marc Hardesty, Chairman, Planning Commission

Re: Ordinance R-2010-585

It is the recommendation of the SECPAC that no action be taken by the Planning Commission nor City Council LUZ subcommittee until the applicant engages in dialog with surrounding residents in opposition.

Furthermore, it is the recommendation of the SECPAC that the LUZ subcommittee defer hearing this application until installation of the new council members elect.

Sincerely,

Pat Corrado, Chair
South East Citizens Planning Advisory Committee