

District 4 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Bruce Tyson

Vice Chair: Len Burroughs

MEETING SUMMARY

Florida State College at Jacksonville Kent Campus
3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Room E-112F
August 12, 2013

Attendance

Members:

Chair - Bruce Tyson
Vice Chair - Len Burroughs
Armstrong & Bosh Insurance - Opal Burgstiner
Confederate Point Civic - James Nolting
FSCJ Cecil North - Paul McNamara
Springtree Village - Dewey Walker
Watermill Master - Thomas Martin
Westside Business Leaders - Jane Miller

Excused:

Charter Member - Charles Mann
Charter Member - Don Ingram
Cedar Hills Estates - Johnny Carter
Council District 10 - Kathy Budd
Crystal Springs - Marilyn Lehman
Gleaners Dispatch - Jim Kelly
Hearing Loss Association - Judy Martin
Hyde Grove Terrace - Shirley Lowry
The Village Salon - Steve Shaffer
Timuquana Manor N. - Alice Turknett
Timuquana Manor N. - Polly Walker
West Jax Civic - Richard Dill
Westside Area Residents - Charles Kelley

Elected Officials:

Honorable Becki Couch, Duval County Public Schools

Staff:

City of Jacksonville Mayor's Office - Angela Spears, CPAC Representative
City of Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) - Assistant Chief Patrick Ivey
City of Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) - Lt. Jesse York
City of Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) - Sgt. C.B. Shivers
City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman
City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods, Municipal Code Compliance - Maria Buchwalter
City of Jacksonville Planning & Development - Andy Hetzel
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) - James Bennett, Speaker

Guests:

NSCDA - Gina Bradley	ShAdCo/Blue Lakes Estates - Capt. Blane Wilson
Hipps Group - Lara Hipps	IGS - Keri Stewart
ShAdCo - Ray Morkin	CBJ - Paul Bremer
Scenic Advocates Jax - Alicia Grant	Confederate Point - Ethel Mae Nolting
Scenic Advocates Jax - Cheryl A. Williams	M.B. Hughes & Assoc. - Marilyn B. Hughes
The Jenks House B&B - Tom Merten	William D. Brinton
The Jenks House B&B - Ila Rae Merten	Rick Ecklor
	Dory Miller

Call to Order/Verify Quorum

1. Chair Bruce Tyson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Mary Beth Ridderman verified a quorum.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the June summary was made by Dewey Walker and seconded by Tom Martin. The vote: all in favor.

3. Staff Reports

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)** - Lt. York introduced Assistant Chief Ivey and Sgt. Shivers. Lt. York congratulated Sgt. Shivers on his recent promotion. Lt. York reported:

- o Incidents of auto burglaries are up, city-wide. Residents leave cars unlocked and/or valuables in plain sight.
- o Incidents of new home construction burglaries are up, city wide. Most Zone 4 cases are in the 103rd Street area. Thieves take new appliances or anything of value.
- o Incidents involving the right to free speech have been occurring any where there's an audience, for example to obtain signatures on petitions. One person was obtaining signatures to legalize marijuana. JSO does not have the authority to prohibit free speech on private property. Business owners/managers may call JSO then JSO will focus on trespass after warning.
- o Incidents involving laser pointers, pointing at aircraft (temporarily blinding the pilots)n August 11, JSO helicopter in cooperation with on-ground units, tracked a vehicle using lasers. An arrest was made.
- o Lt. York commended residents for being at CPAC to advocate for their neighborhoods. He expressed appreciation being involved in for the community outreach. JSO could not do its' job without the community's help. He asked residents continue to pray for families who have lost their loved ones. Lt. York asked the CPAC continue to support JSO to make the community safer and better.
- o If residents observe suspicious activities, please call 630-0500. If a crime is in progress, dial 911.
- o The CPAC Chair thanked JSO for their work. The CPAC applauded.
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Housing and Community Development Division Chief Elaine Spencer's absence was excused.
- **Mayor's Representative** – Angela Spears, Special Assistant to Mayor Alvin Brown, introduced herself as the Mayor's Representative. She explained her role is to be at CPAC, listen to questions and concerns. She lives near here, in the Westside. She said she is happy to be at CPAC in behalf of Mayor Brown.
 - o There were no questions. A regular visitor requested Ms. Spears talk with Council Members and ask them to attend CPAC meetings.
- **Duval County Public Schools** –
 - o The Strategic Plan has been approved. Targets are being added for accountability.
 - o The final budget meeting is Sept. 16.
 - o School starts August 19. Traffic will increase.
 - o Bus transportation to magnet schools was reestablished.
 - o Bus transportation is available for children who live past 1.5 miles from school.
 - o Every school will have art, physical education and music.
 - o Elementary schools will have a security guard.
 - o Middle and high schools will have a school resource officer.
 - o Discipline will be handled by the Dean of Students.
 - o Each school will have a full time in-school suspension program with a teacher.
 - o The Honorable Becki Couch may be contacted at couchr@duvalschools.org or 390-2373.
- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** – Doreen Joyner-Howard's absence was excused.
 - o James Bennett was the main speaker.
 - o Please check FDOT's website for information about projects, to give compliments or express concerns: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/> or call 360-5400 or 367-5681.
- **Neighborhoods** –
 - o Housing and Community Development Division - Mary Beth Ridderman announced:
 - A written report was prepared.
 - August 15, 9 a.m. at Hipps Group, the final committee meeting of the 2013 Cecil Bus Tour.
 - Sept. 17 at 1 p.m., training for Condo owners. 213 N. Hogan St., Ed Ball Bldg. Room 851
 - Sept. 17 at 5:30 p.m., training for Homeowner and Townhome Associations. 213 N. Hogan St., Ed Ball Bldg. Room 851
 - Training provided at no charge by South Milhausen attorneys. Space is limited. Pre-registration required.
 - Aug. 22, 6:30 p.m. at Mary Lena Gibbs – Town Hall meeting hosted by Council Member Reginald Brown.
 - For more information, contact Mary Beth Ridderman at 255-8260 or marybeth@coj.net.
 - o Municipal Code Compliance Division – Maria Buchwalter reported:
 - Zone 4 has a staff shortage and it is challenging, particularly in summer, when there are so many lawn cases.
 - The officers have been working in Jacksonville Heights by request. They wrote 50 new cases.
 - They have worked in the Goldilocks/Lane Avenue area.
 - Mary Beth Ridderman thanked Ms. Buchwalter and the Zone 4 team for their responsiveness to the CARE issues Ms. Riddemran reported and those she was unable to write, due to lack of an address. The Code Compliance officers went out right away and cited those and other addresses. The neighborhood looks much better.
 - A visitor asked Ms. Buchwalter to discuss the volunteer training for snipe sign removal. Ms. Buchwalter explained that Kim Scott handles the program and training. For more information, contact Ms. Buchwalter at 255-7011 or maria@coj.net.
 - Please call 630-CITY (2489) if you have concerns about properties in your area.
 - o **Planning & Development** – Andy Hetzel provided a written report and stated he was available for questions.

The number of applications has increased. Contact Mr. Hetzel at ahetzel@coj.net or 255-7821.

- **Parks & Recreation** – Brian Burket reported:
 - After school programs will begin when school starts. There are 14 centers for kids ages 5 – 12 and 5 sites, called Teen Warehouse, for teens. For more information visit jaxparks.com
 - A public meeting will be held regarding the feasibility study for the First Coast Pool (North District), Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. at First Coast High School.
 - Sal Taylor Preserve will begin construction in Fall, 2013 for a picnic shelter, restrooms, and a horse wash rack.
 - The purchase was completed for the Thomas Creek historical project (North District). The park will open in Fall, 2013. Plans for a trail system and a master plan are in progress.
 - Sept. 21 – an inter-coastal cleanup is planned with partner Keep Jacksonville Beautiful.
 - The Tri-Jax Challenge is coming soon. A video contest will be held & the prize is a new bike.
 - He was requested to show Parks' video "Walk in the Park" – Cecil. In the interest of time, Chair Tyson asked that he show the film another night.
 - This is his last meeting at the SW CPAC. Next month Sherry Wilson will represent Parks.
 - **Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA)** – Lara Hipps reported:
 - Aug. 15 - The Cecil Bus Tour committee will meet at 9 a.m. at 10250 Normandy Blvd. Unit 701 to evaluate the bus tour survey results.
 - Thanks for attending the Flightstar Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
 - Sept. 23 - Cecil Airport Advisory Committee Meeting.
 - Cecil Space Port Summit is planned for 2014. FSCJ Cecil will host the summit. Ms. Hipps thanked Mr. McNamara for his partnership.
 - **Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ)** – Mr. McNamara reported:
 - Dr. Cabral-Maly has transferred to South Campus.
 - Dr. Crystal Albrecht is now at Kent Campus.
 - The name First Coast Career Tech has retired and is now under the FSCJ brand.
 - Mr. McNamara has been assigned management of the Naval College and Distance Learning Program.
 - Fall enrollment is in progress. Fall semester begins Aug. 26, 2013.
4. **Presentation** FDOT Managed Toll Lanes. James Bennett presented information and maps about "managed lanes", also called express lanes or toll lanes. Managed lanes provide more reliable travel times than general use lanes. The first three funded projects will be constructed on I-295: Buckman Bridge to I-95 South (funded 2013-2014); 9B to J. Turner Butler Boulevard (funded 2014 - 2015); Dames Point Bridge to I-95 (funded 2016-2017). There will be no toll booths. Motorists may purchase Sun Pass cards at Walgreens or other retail locations. The cost for a basic card is \$5.35 which includes \$5 in toll credits or \$25 for \$25 in toll credits. Toll fees will vary depending on the amount of traffic. Higher traffic will result in higher tolls. Currently over 50,000 Sun Passes are sold in Duval and 3 surrounding counties although there are no toll roads in this area. The money from card sales stays in this area for projects in this area. Two additional lanes are planned in each direction – no existing lanes will be converted. Funds will be obtained from bonds, gas taxes and the transportation trust fund. This will be part of a larger nationwide system.
- A concern was expressed that Duval County had voted against toll roads. FDOT replied that all state and federal roads will offer toll lanes but non-toll lanes are available. Residents may choose to use them or remain in slower lanes. Tolls were removed from bridges, but FDOT has rebuilt or replaced those bridges.
 - A concern was expressed about traffic bottle-necks caused by traffic transitioning from toll lanes back into non-toll lanes where toll lanes are not available. It is not working in other cities.
 - A concern was expressed that residents are not notified in advance before major decisions are made and become final. Then the residents may be notified of the change. The CPACs provide a platform for discussion that is rarely used by decision-makers.
 - A concern was expressed that notification is made to land investors who buy up land ahead of projects, increasing project costs.
 - Several members commented against tolls.
5. **Chair's Report** – Chair Bruce Tyson waived his report in the interest of time.
6. **Elected Officials Reports** – No representatives.
7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**
- LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – No report. A volunteer is needed.
 - Beautification/Parks/Environment – Mr. Carter's absence is excused. Mr. Kelley reported FDOT planted knock-out roses at their offices. He is working on plant donations for the trails.
 - Membership – no report. A volunteer is needed. See Mary Beth for forms.
 - Transportation – Thomas Martin provided an oral report and a written report:
 - Three new members were approved
 - A list of priority projects was approved.
 - A FDOT request amending Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2013/14 through 2017/18 was approved.
 - A FDOT request amending TIP 2012/13-2016/17 was approved.
 - Nassau County requests amending TIP 2013/13-2016/17 were approved.
 - Received updated presentation on Future Rail Corridor Feasibility Study.

- o Received presentation Role of Natural Gas in Expanding Alternative Fuels Choices in N. FL.
- o Next TPO meeting 9/4/13.
- o Mr. Martin attended a conference in Portland, Oregon and found the light rail system affordable and efficient.
- Education – Mr. Mann’s absence was excused.
- Sheriff’s Advisory Committee (ShAdCo) – Ms. Turknett’s absence was excused.
 - o The following are ShAdCo meeting dates:
 - ShAdCo Sector J meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Ortega United Methodist Church. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector K meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Lane Wiley Center. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector L meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Cecil Recreation Center – Aquatic Center. Visitors and new members are welcome.
- Safety – Chair Tyson reported that school starts soon – drive carefully.
 - o Cecil Area – Chair Tyson did not report, in the interest of time.
- Economic Development – Jim Kelly’s absence was excused. Education – Chuck Mann’s absence is excused.
- TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Chair Tyson reported that Tom Martin’s term ended. A volunteer is needed.

8. Unfinished Business – none.

9. New Business –

- Dewey Walker reported the SW is experiencing a violent crime wave. He is concerned for his family’s safety. The American He requested and made a motion for the CPAC write a letter to JSO to request additional resources on Jacksonville’s Westside. Tom Martin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mary Beth Ridderman will prepare the letter.

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

- Several comments were made in opposition to Billboard Ordinance 2013-0493.
- One comment was made in favor of Ordinance 2013-0493.
- A CPAC member made a motion to vote on 2013-0493, but another member reminded the body that a decision had been reached on an earlier subject, that no vote would be taken until both sides were present. Both sides declared they were present, but Mary Beth Ridderman said there was not sufficient time (the meeting should end by 8:30 p.m. at the latest and it was already over time) and neither side had contacted her to present information. Discussion was held regarding City Council’s date to vote. The possibility of a special CPAC meeting was discussed. Jim Nolting made a motion to hold a special meeting, maximum of one hour, to hear both sides of the Billboards issue. A second was made by Len Burroughs. Ms. Ridderman asked for show of hands to determine if a quorum was present. Paul McNamara abstained from voting. Five were in favor. The motion carried. Ms. Ridderman said she will look for and make arrangement for the meeting space.
- A concern was expressed that residents are not notified in advance before major decisions are made and become final. Then the residents may be notified of the change. The CPACs provide a platform for discussion that is rarely used by decision-makers.
- A guest commented that she is working with the State Attorney’s Office on a juvenile justice diversion program.
- Two comments were made to support Save our Libraries.
- A member suggested that if the visitors were concerned about the community, they should attend CPAC meetings on a regular basis.
- A member was unable to make a public comment during the meeting due to the contentious nature of the topic. She asked that this announcement be included in the summary: Westside Business Leaders Charity Golf Tournament, Friday, Sept. 27, 2013. Registration 12:30 with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Entry fees \$95. Box lunch dinner provided by Edgewood Bakery. Fiddler’s Green, Cecil Field Golf Club.

11. Motion to Adjourn – Dewey Walker made a motion to adjourn. Jim Nolting seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Sept. 9, 2013 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Florida State College at Jacksonville, Kent Campus
3939 Roosevelt Blvd, Room E-112F

Summary prepared by Mary Beth Ridderman, Neighborhood Coordinator