

North District Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Bobby Taylor

Vice Chair: Rex Neidlinger

MEETING SUMMARY

Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus
4501 Capper Rd. Building C Auditorium
August 14, 2013

Attendance:

Members:

Chair – Bobby Taylor
Charter Member – Richard Berry
Charter Member - David Spruill
Amelia View – Gay Septon
Ashford Wood - Evelyn "Kathy" Myers
Blue Grass Northwood – Pastor Mark Bivins
Council Appointee District 11 – Tommy Ruffin
Duval County PTS/PTA – Vicki Drake
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Fran Beach
National Park Service – Shauna Allen
San Mateo – Roland Biederer
White Shell Bay – Sandra Kessler

Member Alternates Also In Attendance:

Blue Grass Northwood – Sharon Bivins

Excused:

Vice Chair – Rex Neidlinger
Charter Member – Dot Mathias
Betz Realty, Inc. - William Baker
Black Hammock Island Civic Association - Mary Thompson
Eagle Bend – Mike Getchell
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Gerie Leigh
Highlands- Jack Stuart
Johnson Community Civic Association – James Shronce
Northlake Homeowners Association – Josephine Fiveash Porter
Northside Lions – Harry Wagner
ShAdCo Q – Mozelle Masters
The Cape Association – Delores Spruill
Tasti D'Lite – Nancy Burnett

Absent:

Eagles Hammock – Nancy Landau
Garden City – Andrea Lavanderos
Northside Business Leaders – Patrick Bennett

Elected Officials: none

Staff:

Florida Department of Transportation – Thomas Hill
JSO – Sgt. R.E. Valentine
Mayor's Liaison – Mike Sweat
Mayor's Representative – David DeCamp
Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman
Neighborhoods, Municipal Code Compliance – Bruce Chauncey
Planning & Development – Lisa Ransom

Staff Members Excused:

Guests:

Copper Hill - Bessie Williams	City Beautiful Jax – Cheryl Williams	SCA - Nicholas Sanzone
Cedar Bay Funeral Home – Dan Boswell	Scenic Advocates of Jax – Tracy Arpen	William Brinton
Shady Rest - Danny Ferreira	Scenic Jacksonville – Bill Gasset	
Kahla Coney, NTCA	Scenic Advocates – Alicia Grant	

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

The meeting was held in a temporary location. Chair Bobby Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum was verified by Mary Beth Ridderman.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the July summary was made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Ruffin. The vote: All in favor.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – Sgt. Valentine reported:
 - This is his first CPAC meeting.
 - In the last 30 days, violent crime is down 5%. In the last 7 days down 37.5%, year-to-date, violent crime is down 19.3%
 - There was a 3.8% increase in personal property crimes. This increase reflects retail establishments, for example, Walmart doubled their loss prevention staff, more thieves are caught and this causes the numbers to increase.
 - Please lock car doors, leave no valuable items in sight. Things that may seem unimportant to a resident, may entice a thief, for example change, cell phone, cell phone cords, bags, book bags, purses, even empty bags.
 - Please remember to close garage doors
 - Please remember to lock the entry door between the house and garage.
 - There has been an increase in “sliders” – crimes of opportunity, occurring at gas stations when residents leave car doors unlocked while pumping gas. Lock the doors when you exit the car, even to pump gas.
 - A concern was expressed about a recent jet ski theft. Sgt. Valentine suggested residents call JSO when someone is trespassing on their docks. Do not confront the person. Get a description of the person/persons and boat. Use technology, such as cell phones, to take a photo of the boat and person/persons. JSO can issue a trespass warning. The next time – the person will be arrested when trespassing.
 - A concern was expressed about homeless persons camping on Pine Island and offering for prostitution.
 - A concern was expressed about portable basketball hoops in or near streets, attracting kids who play in the streets. Kids check nearby windows and doors to see if they are locked.
 - To report suspicious activity, call 630-0500.
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Agriculture Extension Office Director, Mike Sweat reported:
 - The Mayor's Office has arranged for jurors to park free at the courthouse garage.
 - The NBA pre-season game is Oct. 9 at the arena.
 - The Mayor's Office submitted the budget to City Council on July 15. City Council voted against the budget. City Council voted to enact a tax increase. Mayor Brown is against a tax increase. To make budget suggestions, visit COJ.Net and go to BudgetSuggestions@coj.net.
 - Discussion was held regarding increased taxes. A concern was expressed that Duval County is third in the nation for foreclosure.
 - Extension Office fliers were provided -classes include landscaping, making salsa, finance management and others.
 - Mr. Sweat introduced the Mayor's Representative, David DeCamp.
- **Mayor's Representative** – David DeCamp introduced himself. He will provide an added resource from the Mayor's Office. He is available for questions and thanked CPAC members for their work.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – No representation. Vicki Drake was present from DCCPTA.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Thomas Hill reported:
 - Resurfacing project is underway on Dunn Avenue to I-295 West.
 - A follow-up on the drainage cap question last month. The one at Bridge Road is excluded due to lack of project abilities. FDOT will address it later with other funds.
 - Heckscher Drive and Sisters Creek Bridge- the contract goes out in Dec. 2013. The contract will be awarded in January 2014. After that, it will be a 3 year project.
 - A concern was expressed about the closures lasting 45 + min. or more which inconvenience residents and harm businesses. (FDOT replied that temporary closures are scheduled to end when school starts).

- A concern was expressed that there is no number to call to obtain advance information about a road closure.
 - A request was made for a presentation about Sisters Creek Bridge.
 - Accident and related Florida Highway Patrol information: www.fhp.state.fl.us
 - Regional traffic information: www.northfloridaroads.com
 - 511 websites: www.jax511.com and www.fl511.com
- **Neighborhoods**
 - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Mary Beth Ridderman reported:
 - Condo Associations training Sept. 17, 1 p.m. in the Ed Ball Building, Room 851.
 - Homeowner and Townhome Association training Sept. 17 5:30 p.m.
 - Both trainings will be held in the Ed Ball Building, Room 851. More information will be distributed electronically. Seating is limited. Please register by calling 255-8260 or emailing marybeth@coj.net.
 - Marilyn Fenton-Harmer, coordinator for the Urban Core and Northwest CPACs, is leaving the City. She is a valuable employee and will be missed. Mary Beth will assume her duties with the NW CPAC and neighborhoods, for a total of three CPACs and JHFA Board support. Rosemary Wesolowski has the other three CPACs. No assigned duties were cut - the ability to continue to provide an appropriate level of service is a concern. Please contact her supervisor, Kenny Logsdon, with questions or concerns, 255-8237 or logsdond@coj.net.
 - **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Bruce Chauncey reported:
 - In Pecan Park/Oceanway, 3 officers wrote 111 inspections.
 - CPAC members reported numerous CARE issues. Chair Taylor requested that residents call 630-CITY (2489) to register and track CARE concerns.
- **Planning & Development** – Lisa Ransom:
 - Suggested that the CPAC provide reasons in a letter recommending denial of an issue, for example, the July letter in which the CPAC did not support a sign waiver but did not provide a reason. Mr. Ruffin said the letter format is being changed.
 - Please call 255-7800 regarding posted signs/notices or contact Ms. Ransom at 255-7834/ lransom@coj.net.
- **Parks & Recreation** – no representative.
- **National Park Service** – Shauna Allen reported:
 - The new Regional Director, Stan Austin, approved the tram for Kingsley and Ribault. The fee for tram services was not approved, so the tram will only be used for in an interpretive tour service between Kingsley and Ribault during special events. They will go forward with the tram purchase and storage building.
 - Fliers with information about the Timucuan Preserve 25th Silver Anniversary are available.
 - The next event at Kingsley is Harvest Day, October 5. The event will feature living history demonstrations.
 - Student Conservation Association Intern, Nicholas Sanzone, was introduced.
 - To learn more about National Parks, visit <http://www.nps.gov/state/fl/index.htm?program=all>

4. **Presentation:** none

5. **Chair's Report** – Chair Bobby Taylor:

- Presented video on a rare Kemps Ridley sea turtle nesting at Huguenot Park. A discussion followed and members applauded.

6. **Elected Officials Reports** – no representatives. A concern was expressed that City Council Members choose not to attend the North CPAC, but constituents feel they need to at the meetings so constituents' concerns may be heard.

7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

- **Governmental Affairs** – The Vice Chair/Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Acting Chair, Tommy Ruffin led this portion of the meeting. Mr. Ruffin announced David DeCamp attended the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee. Mr. Ruffin expressed his appreciation that Mayor Brown is increasing his profile and interest in CPAC.

- The following items were discussed or voted upon:

2013-0374	Discussion	Amends Ordinance Code Chapter 656 – Zoning Code – to add uninhabited mobile homes or residential trailers used for non-residential purposes (i.e. storage) to the list of vehicles that are prohibited from being parked in off-street parking lots, on highway access roads, or on private property in residential or certain commercial districts except for the purpose of normal loading or unloading.
2013-431	Approve	The bill requests a legal opinion from the Florida Attorney General on three questions: 1. Can the City levy or impose a “new or subsequent” local option gas tax for a collection period to commence at some point after the current collection period of 30 years expires on August 31, 2016? 2. Can the City of Jacksonville “extend” the currently imposed local option gas tax for a collection period to commence at some point after the current collection period of 30 years expires on August 31, 2016? 3. In the event the City of Jacksonville may levy or impose a “new or subsequent” local option gas tax, or extend the currently imposed local option gas tax, for a collection period to commence after the current collection period of 30 years expires on August 31, 2016, for up to what maximum period of time could the new or extended local option gas tax be levied?
2013-0460	Discussion	A resolution concerning the proposed ad valorem tax millage rates for the 2013 tax year; advising the property appraiser of the “rolled-back rate” and proposed millage rates for the general services district
2013-0473	Approve	An ordinance rezoning approximately 69.56 acres located in council district 11 on Max Leggett Parkway between Main street and I-95 (r.e. no(s). 106608-1010, 106253-0000, 106251-0000, 106245-1000, 106247-0000 and 107618-1155), as described herein, owned by Shands Jacksonville Foundation, Inc., from Industrial Light (IL) District and PUD (Planned Unit Development) District to PUD District
2013-0476	Deny	An ordinance rezoning approximately 1.86 acres located in council district 11 on New Berlin road between Ponce boulevard and Magnolia Avenue (R.E. NO(s). 108002-0000, 106956-0110 and 108003-0000), as described herein, owned by Cedar Bay Enterprises, LLC, from CN (Commercial Neighborhood) District and PUD (Planned Unit Development) District to PUD District, as defined and classified under the zoning code, to permit a funeral home and crematory and certain commercial uses, as described in the approved written description and site plan for the cedar bay funeral home PUD.
2013-0481	Approve	Ordinance authorizing a License Agreement with Humane Society of the United States, Inc to Utilize Old Animal Shelter at 2580 W 1st St; Waive Sec 126.202 (Competitive Sealed Bid) of Part 2 (Supplies, Contractual Services & Capital Improvements), Ordinance Code.
2013-0483	Discussion	An ordinance amending section 30.602 (Division Chief), part 6 (Building Inspection Division), chapter 30 (Planning and Development Department), ordinance code, to change the requirements for the Building Inspection Division Chief.
2013-0486	Discussion	An ordinance relating to real estate signs; amending chapter 656 (zoning code), section 656.1306 (real estate signs), ordinance code, and amending chapter 741 (zero tolerance on litter), section 741.102 (definitions), ordinance code, to allow for the placement of real estate signs between the edge of the pavement and the front lot boundary line of single-family residential lots (in the case of corner lots, both front lot lines shall be considered)
2013-0487	Approve	An ordinance establishing a period of 1 year from the date of hire, a one-time 6 month extension, so as to retain an experienced environmental lawyer within the Office of General Counsel and not require automatic termination of employment; waiving section 116.910(d) (residence within city required; exception), ordinance code, requiring that individuals that are hired after July 1, 2012 who do not live in Duval County move into Duval County within 6 months of hire, to allow for an extension of time for the environmental attorney.
2013-0492	Approve	An ordinance appropriating \$364,500 from storm water projects to provide funding for the purchase of certain parcels described herein, from Mr. & Mrs. David M. Moore, owners of the property at 8681 Moss Haven Road (r.e. no. 008806-0632), Mr. & Mrs. Larry T. Jewel, owners of the property at 8669 Moss Haven Road (r.e. no. 008806-0630), and Mr. & Mrs. Aldon Sims, owners of the property at 1554 Polaron Court (r.e. no. 008806-1036), for the country creek flood control project; authorizing the mayor, or his designee, and the corporation secretary to execute all closing documents, and otherwise take all necessary action to effectuate the purchase of the real property; requesting one cycle emergency passage.
2013-0493	Deny	An ordinance concerning the regulation of off-site commercial signs... ((partial description due to space). See CPAC summary below.
2013-0496	Approve	A resolution encouraging the finance department to seek approval of a first amendment to the agreement for operation management and maintenance of the Jacksonville pier and retail concessions to provide a discount to senior citizens.
2013-516	Approve	An ordinance appropriating \$190,457.94 from the Florida Department of Transportation ferry boat discretionary program to the St. Johns river ferry- ferry capital project vessel rehab; providing a carryover of funds to fiscal year 2013-2014; ...

- 2013-0493 – a lengthy discussion occurred with a number of comments in opposition to this ordinance. Discussion followed regarding the 1987 sign ordinance. A suggestion was made that the issue be brought back for a vote again. A resolution was reportedly signed by the Greater Arlington Beaches CPAC, the Urban Core CPAC and the NW CPAC. At 6:15 p.m. Chair Taylor made a point of order – the meeting had exceeded its’ time limit. He asked for a motion to extend the meeting to 6:45 p.m., (45 minutes past the usual time). Mr. Berry made a motion to extend the meeting for 30 more minutes. Kathy Myers seconded the motion. All were in favor. Comments continued in opposition of 2013-0493. The CPAC voted unanimously to oppose 2013-0493.
- The next Governmental Affairs Subcommittee meeting is Sept. 5, 2013 4 p.m. at the FSCJ North Building A Conference Room C-136.
- **Membership** – Harry Wagner’s absence was excused. Reverend Bivins and Sharon Bivins reported they are working to obtain nominations for several new members: Bessie Williams, Evelyn Coney and Joseph Tate. They have been in contact with and invited several other people to the CPAC meetings. Chair Taylor thanked them for their diligent work.
- **Transportation** – Richard Berry reported:
 - Lane closures may occur on I-295 for resurfacing work between 7 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

8. **Unfinished Business:** none.

9. New Business:

- Chair Taylor announced new members are needed for Governmental Affairs. Please talk with him if you are interested in serving on this interesting subcommittee.

10. Public Comments:

- Roland Biederer does not understand why people have not opposed the Ft. Hood decision. We are not taking care of veterans or widows.
- Roland Biederer expressed his concern that the CPAC is hearing only one side of the sign ordinance issue. Acting Vice Chair Ruffin responded that this is a public meeting, and the agenda is posted - the meeting is available for everyone.
- Chair Taylor said he would like to reinstitute quarterly meetings with the CPAC Chairs and the Mayor, as was done during Chair Taylor's prior service as N CPAC Chair.
- Shauna Allen expressed her concern that no City Council Members attend the North CPAC – it is important that they hear constituents. She made a motion to send a letter to elected officials to request support and participation. A second was made by Roland Biederer. There was no discussion. All were in favor. Chair Taylor said Ms. Allen will draft the letter and send to Ms. Ridderman for the Chair's signature.
- Kathy Myers announced a meeting will be held on Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. regarding the First Coast Pool Feasibility Study.

11. Motion to Adjourn – Mr. Berry made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Biederer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 11, 2013 at 4 p.m.

Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus

4501 Capper Rd. **Building A – Room 171**

The next Governmental Affairs Meeting is Sept. 5, 2013, 4 p.m.

FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd., Building C-136 Conference Room

Summary prepared by Mary Beth Ridderman, Coordinator, Neighborhoods Department, 904-255-8260, marybeth@coj.net.