

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

January 9, 2013

Attendance:

Members:

Chair – Bobby Taylor

Vice Chair – Rex Neidlinger

Charter Member – Richard Berry

Charter Member - David Spruill

Amelia View – Gay Septon

Ashford Wood - Evelyn "Kathy" Myers

Betz Realty, Inc. - William Baker

Black Hammock Island Civic Association - Mary Thompson

Council Appointee District 11 – Tommy Ruffin

Heckscher Drive Community Club – Fran Beach

Johnson Community Civic Association – James Shronce

National Park Service – Shauna Allen

Northside Lions – Harry Wagner

ShAdCo Q – Jenny Bray

The Cape Association – Delores Spruill

Excused:

Charter Member – Dot Mathias

Duval County PTS/PTA – Vicki Drake

Eagle Bend – Mike Getchell

Eagles Hammock – Nancy Landau

Heckscher Drive Community Club – Gerie Leigh

Highlands- Jack Stuart

Northlake Homeowners Association – Howard Miller

San Mateo – Roland Biederer

Tasti D'Lite – Nancy Burnett

Turtle Creek Village - Art Sullivan

Absent:

Northside Business Leaders - Michael Fisher

Elected Officials: None present

Staff:

Mayor's Liaison - Mike Sweat

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office – Assistant Chief T.C. Davis

Florida Department of Transportation – Thomas Hill

Florida Department of Transportation – James Bennett

Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman

Neighborhoods, Municipal Code Compliance – Johnny Johnson

Planning & Development – Lisa Ransom

Public Works – Terry Theriault

Staff Excused:

Parks & Recreation – Elizabeth Palmer

Guests:

AHA – Lorie Strange-Paylor

Angel Lakes – Evelyn Kimbrough

Copper Hill IV – Rev. Joseph Tate

Garden City – Jim Breland

Garden City - Pastor Andre's Lavanderos

White Shell Bay – Aline Clements

Joe Blaumik

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

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 December summary was made by Tommy Ruffin and seconded by Mary Thompson. The vote: All in favor.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – Assistant Chief T.C. Davis reported:
 - The numbers of reported crimes are down, city wide, about 4 – 4.5 percent. This is about JSO's goal, which was to reduce crime by 2 percent.
 - The numbers are the lowest in years although 2012 was a challenging year due to the economy, which often causes increases in petty theft crimes, such as shoplifting. Shoplifting remains a problem in mini-malls and large stores.
 - Violent crime is down.
 - Property crime is up by 8 percent in Zone 6.
 - A concern was expressed by resident Jim Breland regarding drug activities in the Garden City area. He requested additional JSO involvement.
 - Chair Taylor thanked Chief Davis for his report.
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Agriculture Extension Office Director, Mike Sweat reported:
 - January – the office is preparing for spring gardening.
 - Jan. 19 – Starting vegetables from seeds
 - Jan. 29 – preparing the spring garden
 - Feb. 23 – Day of Gardening. Last year was standing room only – this year, the number of participants was limited.
 - Classes in money management are available. People who have previously been unable to open a checking account can earn a certificate and obtain a checking account.
 - Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Sweat for his report.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – No representative.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Thomas Hill reported:
 - Ongoing projects include I-95, I-295 and US 17.
 - Upcoming projects include:
 - Heckscher Drive – temporary repairs to the Sisters' Creek Bridge, 1/18/13. Lane closures will be at night. Scheduled completion Summer 2013.
 - Airport Road - ITS 2/1/13
 - Lane Closures
 - Mathews Bridge Westbound tonight after 9 p.m.; Eastbound Thursday 9-6 p.m.; closed over the weekend.
- **Neighborhoods**
 - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Mary Beth Ridderman provided a written report.
 - **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Sr. Officer Johnny Johnson reported they are in the process of hiring to fill a vacant position.

- A concern was expressed about 9442 Heckscher Drive where 6' barricade signs have been placed in the right of way. Officer Johnson said he will look into it.
 - A concern was expressed about derelict vehicles in the 5500 block of Heckscher Drive, just past Browns Creek. Officer Johnson said it has already been reported and cited. JSO joined the discussion and said it will be taken care of.
 - **Planning & Development** – Lisa Ransom reported:
 - There were no land use and zoning applications filed in January and none pending for February.
 - If you see orange, blue or lime green signs posted, you may call the following numbers for more information:
 - 255-7800 – main number
 - 255-7834 - Lisa Ransom
 - **Parks & Recreation** – Elizabeth Palmer's absence was excused.
 - **National Park Service** – Shauna Allen reported:
 - Flyers are available for the first Timucuan Adventure Day, Jan. 26, 2013 - science, demonstrations, research will be showcased, presentation. Explore the preserve as a living laboratory.
 - The 25th anniversary of the Timucuan Preserve, Feb. 16 and Feb 23 will offer musical performances and living history reenactments.
 - A brief discussion was held regarding the development of Half Moon Island. It was to be discussed during New Business.
 - Please visit the National Park Service's website: <http://www.nps.gov/foca/index.htm>.
4. **Presentation:** James Bennett, Florida Department of Transportation, 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.
 - A concern was expressed about traffic bottle-necks which would be caused by traffic transitioning from toll lanes back into non-toll lanes where toll lanes are not available.
 - Vice Chair Neidlinger suggested that all states be reciprocal, so that visitors to the state would be able to use their own cards and Florida residents could use the cards when traveling out of state. Mr. Bennett said they are working on that. A few states are reciprocal now.
 - Chair Taylor
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5. **Chair's Report** – Chair Taylor reported:
- He received correspondence from the Greater Arlington-Beaches CPAC which had voted against an exception for a liquor store in a CN zoning district. A discussion was held. No motion was made to prepare a letter of support.
 - He received information about a bike survey and encouraged everyone to respond whether they bike or not because bikes and bike lanes affect everyone.
 - Vice Chair Neidlinger led a discussion about Huguenot Park and the Army Corps of Engineers. Chair Taylor explained that there are two leases: State and the Corps of Engineers. A letter explained a plan had been approved as the park is operating now. There was a 30 day window to respond. The lease changed to a multi-year lease ending in 2017 with no other major modifications.

6. **Elected Officials Reports** –no representative.

7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

- **Governmental Affairs** – Rex Neidlinger reported the subcommittee did not meet in January – there were no items to review. The next Governmental Affairs Subcommittee meeting is Feb. 7, 2013, 4 p.m. at the FSCJ North Police Academy.
- **Membership** – Harry Wagner was present. Nominations are in processing. Nothing to report.
- **Transportation** – Richard Berry reported:
- **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – A volunteer is needed.

8. **Unfinished Business** – none.

9. **New Business** –

- Mr. Wagner expressed his concern regarding a local business owner, State Farm Agent Danny Dupree, at River City Market Place, who approached him because the business was not permitted by the City to display a sign on the building. The appeal process, fees and time frame were discussed. Mr. Wagner requested a letter from the CPAC to support the business owner’s contract with the landlord which allows him to display a sign. Chair Taylor explained that after the ruling, thirty days are allowed for the appeal. When the business owner receives the final order, it cannot be appealed. Mr. Wagner said he believed it has been over thirty days and the paper work seemed to include a final order. Discussion briefly continued and Chair Taylor determined it would not be useful for the CPAC to provide a letter at this stage in the process. The motion died for lack of a second.
- Mr. Berry reported that Memorial Hospital is attempting to stop construction of the Shands Hospital (North) scheduled to be built near the River City Market Place. He said residents in North Jacksonville and in Nassau County would utilize a full-service hospital in North Jacksonville. Further discussion was held - Shands plans to transfer 25 beds to North Jacksonville and utilize the main hospital’s top floor for research. Memorial Hospital has been approved to build Memorial West Side near the Cecil Airport. Mr. Berry made a motion to draft a letter of support to say that Shands Hospital is needed in North Jacksonville. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

10. **Public Comments:** none

11. **Motion to Adjourn** – Richard Berry made a motion for adjournment and Mary Thompson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:27.

NEXT MEETING: February 13, at 4:00 p.m.

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