

# North District Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Bobby Taylor

Vice Chair: Rex Neidlinger

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## MEETING SUMMARY

Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus

4501 Capper Rd. Building D Room 213

July 10, 2013

### Attendance:

#### **Members:**

Chair – Bobby Taylor  
Vice Chair – Rex Neidlinger  
Charter Member – Richard Berry  
Charter Member – Dot Mathias  
Amelia View – Gay Septon  
Betz Realty, Inc. - William Baker  
Blue Grass Northwood – Pastor Mark Bivins  
Council Appointee District 11 – Tommy Ruffin  
Eagle Bend – Mike Getchell  
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Gerie Leigh  
Johnson Community Civic Association – James Shronce  
National Park Service – Shauna Allen  
Northlake Homeowners Association – Josephine Fiveash Porter  
Northside Business Leaders – Patrick Bennett  
San Mateo – Roland Biederer  
Tasti D'Lite – Nancy Burnett  
White Shell Bay – Aline Clement

#### **Member Alternates Also In Attendance:**

Blue Grass Northwood – Sharon Bivins

#### **Excused:**

Charter Member - David Spruill  
Ashford Wood - Evelyn "Kathy" Myers  
Black Hammock Island Civic Association - Mary Thompson  
Duval County PTS/PTA – Vicki Drake  
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Fran Beach  
Highlands- Jack Stuart  
Northside Lions – Harry Wagner  
ShAdCo Q – Mozelle Masters  
The Cape Association – Delores Spruill

#### **Absent:**

Eagles Hammock – Nancy Landau  
Garden City – Andrea Lavanderos

**Elected Officials:** Evelyn Coney, Soil & Water Conservation District Group 2

#### **Staff:**

Florida Department of Transportation – Thomas Hill  
Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman  
Neighborhoods, Municipal Code Compliance – Bruce Chauncey  
Planning & Development – Lisa Ransom

#### **Staff Members Excused:**

Mayor's Liaison – Mike Sweat  
Parks & Recreation – Sherry Wilson

#### **Guests:**

Gina Bradley  
Sabrina Ashburn  
Suzanne Jenkins

Danny Ferreira  
Shirley Dasher

Thomas Jarworn, FSCJ North Campus SGA/NTCA  
Robert Porter, Northlake HOA  
Kahla Coney, NTCA

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### 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 June summary was made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Bill Baker. The vote: All in favor.

### 3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – no representative.
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Agriculture Extension Office Director, Mike Sweat's absence was excused.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – Vicki Drake's absence was excused.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Thomas Hill reported:
  - A contract change involving ITS devices on I-295. Changes are due in July 2013.
  - Electrical repairs are scheduled for Fall 2013 on the Sisters Creek Bridge.
  - Joint project replacing drainage end caps to meet safety specifications on Dunn Avenue.
  - A concern was expressed that no end caps were installed at Bridges Road. Mr. Hill said he will talk with the project manager. At this time, only 54% of the project is completed.
  - Overhead ITS devices are being installed at Airport Road.
  - Expect lane closures on Sisters Creek Bridge tonight only. A brief discussion was held regarding the bridge replacement time schedule. A request was made for a presentation.
  - Accident and related Florida Highway Patrol information: [www.fhp.state.fl.us](http://www.fhp.state.fl.us)
  - Regional traffic information: [www.northfloridaroads.com](http://www.northfloridaroads.com)
  - 511 websites: [www.jax511.com](http://www.jax511.com) and [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com)
  - Interstate highway traffic information: call 511 telephone service
- **Neighborhoods**
  - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Mary Beth Ridderman reported the Housing and Community Development Division's training for Homeowner Associations, Townhomes & Condo Associations has been rescheduled to September 17, 5:30 p.m. 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](mailto:marybeth@coj.net).
  - **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Bruce Chauncey reported:
    - The newly-hired third officer is on duty working in the community.
    - A resident of San Mateo raised the issue of recreational vehicle parking long-term, possibly with persons living in them close to or on the right-of-way, creating a safety hazard by obstructing street views. Mr. Chauncey said he will check the area.
    - A resident expressed concern about blight caused by the poor condition of homes in foreclosure or short-sale status. He is submitting CARE issues and encouraged code compliance officers to cite them.
    - A concern was expressed regarding motor homes permanently parked on vacant lots.
    - A concern was expressed regarding pools, green or black from neglect, creating health and safety issues.
    - A concern was expressed about a hazardous tree in the right-of-way at 301 Baisden Rd. It has been reported but nothing has been done. Mr. Chauncey said he will look into it.
    - Chair Taylor asked residents to call 630-CITY (2489) to report violations.
    - Mr. Berry reminded residents that Zone 6 only has 3 officers and they work from reported violations. Please call 630-CITY.
    - A resident expressed appreciation for Municipal Code Compliance officers' work.
- **Planning & Development** – Lisa Ransom was present and available for questions.
  - Please call 255-7800 regarding signs or contact Ms. Ransom at 255-7834/ [lransom@coj.net](mailto:lransom@coj.net).
- **Parks & Recreation** – Sherry Wilson' absence was excused.
- **National Park Service** – Shauna Allen reported:
  - The Department of Environmental Protection is investigating the issue of marsh grass dying.
  - Please visit the Florida Shorebird Alliance website, <http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/>.

o To learn more about National Parks, visit <http://www.nps.gov/state/fl/index.htm?program=all>

4. **Presentation:** Shirley Dasher presented information about Clearly Jacksonville. Clearly Jacksonville is a non-profit organization offering free public service announcements on electronic billboards. The billboards display Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, FBI Most Wanted alerts and emergency management alerts such as flooding, detours and road closures. Amber Alerts and Silver Alerts preempt paying customers and are "up" and displayed within 7 minutes of submission from a law enforcement agency. Free service is available to non-profit organizations. Space may be available for announcements from CPAC or neighborhood associations. For more information, contact Shirley Dasher at [ccssd@comcast.net](mailto:ccssd@comcast.net).

- A discussion was held during which one member expressed concern about a specific billboard that is not in compliance on I-95 East Bound near Arlington. Another member expressed concerns about visual pollution caused by billboards.

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

- Welcomed all visitors.
- Presented appointment letters from Mayor Brown to Pastor Mark Bivins and Sharon Bivins, representing Blue Grass Northwood and Patrick Bennett representing Northside Business Leaders.
- Expressed his concern that the current tax rate does not properly support efficient operation of government. He expressed concern regarding further cuts that have been proposed – one such cut is to close city pools in Summer, 2014. Chair Taylor said he wants the city to be better and that cannot be done with further cuts. He suggested members contact their City Council Members.
  - o A member expressed concern that increased library conference center rental costs (previously \$800 to current \$2400) have driven out customers who would plan events to attract visitors to downtown.
  - o A concern was expressed regarding raising taxes. The Chair said the average homeowner would pay less than \$50 per year additional taxes.
  - o A concern was expressed that taxes are based on assessments.
  - o A concern was expressed about companies considering relocating to Jacksonville.

6. **Elected Officials Reports** – Evelyn Coney, Soil & Water Conservation District, Group 2, reported she is working on a presentation about soil and water.

7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

- **Governmental Affairs** – The Vice Chair/Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Chair, Rex Neidlinger led this portion of the meeting. The following items were discussed or voted upon:

2013-0285	Disapproved	Amends Ordinance Code Ch. 15 Jacksonville Sunshine Law Compliance Act. This bill was already passed by City Council.
2013-0287	Approve	Amends Ordinance Code Chapter 602 Ethics Code to add a new Part 5 Whistleblower Protection.
2013-0290	Approve	Accepts and appropriates a \$5,000.00 reimbursement grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District (F.I.N.D.) to provide funding for litter prevention and education programs for Keep American Beautiful affiliates
2013-0291	Approve	Appropriates \$130,000 from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund to First Coast Crime Stoppers, Inc. in order to fund its Gun Bounty Program
2013-0292	Approve	Appropriates \$1,826,684.91 in Community Development Block Grant Program income to 1) Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corporation (North Point Project) (\$400,000), 2) Limited Repair Program (\$225,684.91), 3) Utility Tap-In Program (\$110,000), 4) Emergency Services Homeless Coalition (Jacksonville Day Resource Center Project) (\$120,000, and 5) Clara White Mission, Inc. (Beaver Street Villas Phase II) (\$971,000)
2013-0294	Discussion Only	Extends the City's contract with Finger & Nelson, PLLC to continue providing outside legal counsel for environmental issues relating to compliance with state and federal consent orders for ash sites and formerly closed landfills. The bill appropriates \$50,000 from the Public Works Department's Professional Services account to pay for these services.
2013-0299	Approve	Approves and authorizes the Mayor and Corporation Secretary to execute a Utility Easement between and among the St. Johns River Water Management District, the City of Jacksonville, and AT&T
2013-0350	Approve	Amending Board membership to allow participation by all county residents; Amending SECTION 90.101 (Board of Library Trustees), Chapter 90 (Board of Library Trustees), Ordinance code, to state that membership is restricted in part to County residents; Amending SECTION 57.101 (Membership; terms), Chapter 57 (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures Commission), Ordinance Code, to state that membership is restricted to county residents;
2013-0351	Approve	Amending the code to prohibit payment for travel as a gift, amending section 106.703
2013-0362	Discussion only.	Declaring May 2013 as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Jacksonville, (This resolution was already approved by council.)
2011-	Approve	Closing & Abandoning Heritage River Rd at Req. of Riverfront Associates, LLC, upon Dedication by Plat to City of a

0239		2-Lane Access Rd bet Heckscher Dr & Sisters Creek Joe Carlucci Boat Ramp & Park & upon Occurrence of other Conditions Ensuring Perpetuation of a Salt Water Marsh Mitigation Bank or Conservation Area; Provide 5-Yr Limit to Construct & Plat New Access Rd.
No Number	Discussion only	Stop light and consistent speed limits are needed for safety reasons at Percy and Lem Turner.
No Number Reference Resolution 2013-0362	Approve	Prepare a letter to propose May be declared Motorcycle Awareness Month every year to raise awareness of bikers' community involvement and to raise automobile drivers' awareness of motorcycles in traffic.

o The next Governmental Affairs Subcommittee meeting is August 8, 2013 4 p.m. at the FSCJ North Building C Auditorium.

- **Membership** – Harry Wagner’s absence was excused. Chair Taylor appointed Reverend Bivins and Sharon Bivins to the Membership Subcommittee. Chair Taylor thanked them for their service and requested a round of applause from the audience.
- **Transportation** – Richard Berry reported on the following planned lane closures:
  - o I-295 between Commonwealth and Trout River: July 7 – 12 at night.
  - o I-295 from Atlantic to near the Airport: July 13 – 14.
  - o I-295 near Alta Road

**8. Unfinished Business –**

- Last month, Tommy Ruffin introduced the subject of safety on Lem Turner near Percy Road. His neighborhood requested installation of a signal light at Lem Turner and Percy and lowered, consistent speed limit signage (45 m.p.h.) A discussion was held. FDOT inspected the location and found that the speed limit posting is correct. FDOT looked at crash incidents (3 in 4 years). A traffic signal is not indicated but FDOT will conduct a signal warrant study. A motion was made by Tommy Ruffin to prepare a letter of support. A second was made by Dick Berry. All were in favor. Tommy Ruffin will complete a letter for the Chair’s signature.
- Evelyn Coney inquired about the CPAC’s position on amending the Biker’s Bill to request that May of every year be recognized as Motorcycle Awareness Week. A brief discussion was held: at last month’s meeting the CPAC voted to prepare a letter which was signed and sent to City Council in June 2013.

**9. New Business – none.**

**10. Public Comments:**

- Roland Biederer stated he appreciates volunteerism in Jacksonville and suggested residents offer to help neighbors.
- Evelyn Coney said she organized an action organization with the goal to empower and have unity in our community.

**11. Motion to Adjourn –** Tommy Ruffin made a motion for adjournment and Dick Berry seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: August 14, 2013 at 4 p.m.**

Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus  
4501 Capper Rd. **Building C-Auditorium**

The next Governmental Affairs Meeting is August 8, 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](mailto:marybeth@coj.net).