

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 D Room 213

June 12, 2013

Attendance:

Members:

Chair – Bobby Taylor
Vice Chair – Rex Neidlinger
Charter Member – Richard Berry
Charter Member - David Spruill
Amelia View – Gay Septon
Blue Grass Northwood – Pastor Mark Bivins
Council Appointee District 11 – Tommy Ruffin
Eagle Bend – Mike Getchell
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Fran Beach
Highlands- Jack Stuart
Johnson Community Civic Association – James Shronce
National Park Service – Shauna Allen
Northlake Homeowners Association – Josephine Fiveash Porter
San Mateo – Roland Biederer
The Cape Association – Delores Spruill
White Shell Bay – Aline Clement

Member Alternates Also In Attendance:

Excused:

Charter Member – Dot Mathias
Ashford Wood - Evelyn "Kathy" Myers
Betz Realty, Inc. - William Baker
Blue Grass Northwood – Sharon Bivins
Black Hammock Island Civic Association - Mary Thompson
Duval County PTS/PTA – Vicki Drake
Garden City – Andrea Lavanderos
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Gerie Leigh
Northside Business Leaders – Patrick Bennett
Northside Lions – Harry Wagner
ShAdCo Q – Mozelle Masters
Tasti D'Lite – Nancy Burnett

Absent:

Eagles Hammock – Nancy Landau

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

Staff:

Florida Department of Transportation – Thomas Hill
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) – Lt. Shawn McCormick
Jacksonville Transportation Authority - Ivan Rodriguez
Mayor's Liaison – Mike Sweat
Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman
Neighborhoods, Municipal Code Compliance – Bruce Chauncey
Parks & Recreation – Sherry Wilson
Planning & Development – Lisa Ransom

Guests:

The Cape - Catherine Delre
Copper Hill IV – Rev. Joseph Tate
Copper Hill IV – Bessie Williams

Tiara Cohen
Danny Ferreira
Robert Porter

Gina Bradley
Barbara Jordan

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

The meeting was held in a temporary location. Chair Bobby Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. A quorum was verified by Mary Beth Ridderman.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

A correction was noted to the May Summary: Delores Spruill's name was listed as both present and excused. She was present. A motion to approve the May summary as corrected was made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Jack Stuart. The vote: All in favor.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – Lt. Shawn McCormick reported:
 - One case of abduction and kidnapping is still under investigation.
 - One case of sexual battery – the perpetrator was known by the victim.
 - Three cases of robberies to individuals.
 - One case of aggravated battery.
 - No cases of arson.
 - Thirty eight reported burglaries to residences.
 - Five burglaries to businesses.
 - Five auto thefts. One arrest was made for insurance fraud.
 - Thirty one auto burglaries – most were unlocked cars. One significant arrest was made – more arrests will follow.
 - Twenty one cases of grand theft to non-businesses.
 - Eighteen cases of grand theft to businesses.
 - Forty two cases of petit theft.
 - JSO officers will be deployed to parks for Summer Night Lights.
 - JSO has reinstated Operation Heat Shield:
 - Incidents of crime rise in the summer.
 - JSO pooled resources, funding and manpower from Zones 4, 5 and 6
 - Look at hot spots of crime, using crime analysis to proactively address problems before they increase.
 - Lieutenant's Walks will be held during Operation Heat Shield.
 - ShAdCo Sector P Sheriff's Walk was held yesterday at Turtle Creek.
 - Sheriff Rutherford is interested in developing the ShAdCo, which is at an all-time-high in numbers of participants, to include young people. JSO will be visiting youth programs to recruit to ShAdCo.
 - June 25, ShAdCo Sector Q Sheriff's Walk at Sheffield Oaks Park.
<http://www.coj.net/departments/sheriff-s-office/docs/news-room/government-in-the-sunshine/sheriff-s-walk/sheriff-s-walk-flyer-6-06252013.aspx>
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Agriculture Extension Office Director, Mike Sweat reported:
 - Mayor's Office announced a summer jobs program for youth. City employees will volunteer to provide the program at no cost. The program will provide jobs for 300 kids. For more information, please call 630-CITY.
 - The old courthouse project is moving forward.
 - In the news: articles about JFRD discrimination suits which were filed 40 years ago.
 - The Mayor has been discussing CPACs and the opportunity to present information to numerous people. One person may be designated to be at all CPACs.
 - The Extension Office is offering several classes, including dilly beans and pickled okra.
 - It is canning season! Duval County residents or non-profit groups may use the canning kitchen for \$7.50 per hour plus additional costs per can/jar processing costs. Canning assistance and training are provided by certified volunteers at no cost to the City. Appointments are required to use the facility. For more information call (904) 255-7450.
 - Camp Florida Friendly begins June 19 – adults only. Learn about Florida Friendly landscaping, rain barrels, lawns and plants. The cost is \$5 per session or \$20 for all four sessions. Rain barrel and vermicompost bin sessions have optional costs. For more information call Becky at 255-7450.
 - New Master Gardener classes begin July 31. The cost to attend is \$65. For more information

- o call Becky at 255-7450.
- o Mayor Brown has been involved in the Jr. Master Gardener Program which is funded by Stormwater funds. The program uses volunteers to teach how to save water, how to reduce water run-off. The program will save future Stormwater dollars paid to the State. Beginning in August, 2013, the program will expand to more schools.
- o Be sure to see the Extension Office's newsletter: Solutions for Your Life http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/canning_center.shtml
- o For more information, please visit <http://www.coj.net/departments/parks-and-recreation/county-extension-office.aspx>.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – Vicki Drake's absence was excused.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Thomas Hill reported:
 - o On-going projects are all on schedule.
 - o Expect single lane closures on the Sisters Creek Bridge.
 - o Accident and related Florida Highway Patrol information: www.fhp.state.fl.us
 - o Regional traffic information: www.northfloridaroards.com
 - o 511 websites: www.jax511.com and www.fl511.com
 - o Interstate highway traffic information: call 511 telephone service
- **Neighborhoods**
 - o **Housing and Community Development Division** – Mary Beth Ridderman reported the Housing and Community Development Division will offer training for Homeowner Associations, Townhomes & Condo Associations on July 16, 5:30 p.m. in the Ed Ball Building, Room 851. More information will be distributed when fliers have been approved. Seating is limited, please register by calling 255-8260 or emailing marybeth@coj.net.
 - A resident raised the issue of abandoned or foreclosed homes in neighborhoods. The Vacant Property Registry was discussed. The resident was advised to call 630-CITY to report the addresses of concern.
 - o **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Bruce Chauncey reported:
 - Please call 630-CITY (2489) if you suspect a code violation.
- **Planning & Development** – Lisa Ransom reported:
 - o She received a call from Mr. Berry regarding the North FL Saltwater Mitigation bank on Heritage River Road. Culvert pipes will be installed under the road to allow saltwater to go back and forth to/from the marsh. The property is privately owned, and it will be fenced. For more information call Lawsikia Hodges, COJ Attorney, at 255-1726.
 - o A brief discussion was held regarding mitigation banks. A concern was expressed regarding the restricted water movement in and out of the marsh.
 - o A concern was expressed regarding a salt marsh area grass-kill. The grass kill is reportedly caused by exploding populations of native periwinkle snails.
 - o Please call 255-7800 regarding signs or contact Ms. Ransom at 255-7834/ lransom@coj.net.
- **Parks & Recreation** –Sherry Wilson reported:
 - o Upcoming events on these dates at these parks:
 - 6/14/13 Camp Milton
 - 6/28/13 Huguenot Park
 - 7/12/13 Baldwin Trail Head
 - Summer Night Lights will run June 20-August 10 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.
 - For all Waterproof Jacksonville swim lesson locations, please log on to jaxparks.com.
 - Summer Camp begins June 24. Information and locations at jaxparks.com.
 - Register to volunteer at handsonjax.org.
- **National Park Service** – Shauna Allen reported:
 - o News4Jax featured an article about the anthropology program at the Theodore Roosevelt Park <http://www.news4jax.com/news/students-dig-for-jacksonville-artifacts/-/475880/20276764/-/afd0f/-/index.html>
 - o Public Archeology Day at Theodore Roosevelt Park – June 15, 2013, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 - o To learn more about National Parks, visit <http://www.nps.gov/state/fl/index.htm?program=all>

4. **Presentation:** No presentation was scheduled this month.

5. Chair’s Report – Chair Bobby Taylor:

- Welcomed all visitors. He recognized Gina Bradley, a visitor from the SW CPAC District 4 who is observing Governmental Affairs to gain ideas for a similar subcommittee in the SW CPAC.
- Presented Certificate of Appreciation to the following Municipal Code Compliance Officers for their dedication and service: Johnny Johnston, Katie Urban and Richard Dodd. Chair Taylor presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bruce Chauncey, Code Compliance Supervisor. Officers are doing more work with ½ their usual staff, often performing 25-30 inspections per day.
- The rarest endangered sea turtle, Kemp’s Ridley, was confirmed as nesting on June 6, 2013 at Huguenot Memorial Park, within the Timucuan Preserve. Kemp’s Ridley is the smallest sea turtle, weighing in at approximately 100 pounds. The Kemp’s Ridley turtles lay their eggs during daylight hours while other sea turtle lay their eggs at night. The turtle is anticipated to return in two weeks to lay more eggs.

6. Elected Officials Reports – Evelyn Coney, Soil & Water Conservation District, Group 2, introduced herself. Chair Taylor welcomed Ms. Coney to the North CPAC.

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.
No Number	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.
2011-0239	Approve	Closing & Abandoning Heritage River Rd at Req. of Riverfront Associates, LLC, upon Dedication by Plat to City of a 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.

- o The date of the last meeting changed due to bad weather from Tropical Storm Andrew.
- o Jack Stuart was appointed to Governmental Affairs Subcommittee.
- o Fran Beach introduced the topic of the Pine Island Saltwater Marsh Mitigation Bank or Conservation Area. The Heckscher Drive Community Club wrote a letter to support installing culverts under the roadway because the owner had planned to abandon the road altogether and build a second road. The Corps of Engineers did not approve of abandoning/moving the road. A fence will be installed on both sides of Heritage River Road with a walking gate at the end of the fence, so walkers may access the water. Legislation was approved in 2011. Ms. Beach made a motion to support the current draft, 2011-0239. Mr. Berry seconded the motion. All were in favor.

o The next Governmental Affairs Subcommittee meeting is July 3, 4 p.m. at the FSCJ North Police Academy, Room 207.

- **Membership** – Harry Wagner’s absence was excused. Mr. Neidlinger asked residents to provide information about Homeowner Association meetings so the CPAC can recruit new members.
- **Transportation** – Richard Berry was present. He deferred to FDOT’s report.

8. **Unfinished Business** – none

9. **New Business** –

- A lengthy discussion was held beginning with a request from Evelyn Coney that the CPAC support 2013-0362, which had already been approved by City Council. Dick Berry made a motion, Jack Stuart seconded the motion to prepare a letter to recommend that May be designated Motorcycle Month every year. All were in favor.
- Mr. Ruffin expressed a concern about safety. He announced that he may ask the CPAC to support placing a traffic light at Percy and Lem Turner and to post consistent speed limits in the area. The speed limit is too high and varies within a short distance, causing motorists to speed, putting other motorists at risk.
- Mr. Berry asked the Chair to request that all visitors introduce themselves now and at future meetings.

10. **Public Comments:** none

11. **Motion to Adjourn** – Tommy Ruffin made a motion for adjournment and Shauna Allen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 10, at 4 p.m.

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

The next Governmental Affairs Meeting is July 3, 2013, 4 p.m.
FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd., Police & Corrections Academy, Room 207

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