

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 A Room 117

May 8, 2013

Attendance:

Members:

Chair – Bobby Taylor
Vice Chair – Rex Neidlinger
Charter Member – Richard Berry
Charter Member – Dot Mathias
Charter Member - David Spruill
Amelia View – Gay Septon
Ashford Wood - Evelyn "Kathy" Myers
Betz Realty, Inc. - William Baker
Blue Grass Northwood – Pastor Mark Bivins
Council Appointee District 11 – Tommy Ruffin
Duval County PTS/PTA – Vicki Drake
Eagle Bend – Mike Getchell
Garden City – Andrea Lavanderos
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Fran Beach
National Park Service – Shauna Allen
Northlake Homeowners Association – Josephine Fiveash
Northside Business Leaders - Michael Fisher
San Mateo – Roland Biederer
Tasti D'Lite – Nancy Burnett
The Cape Association – Delores Spruill

Member Alternates Also In Attendance:

Blue Grass Northwood – Sharon Bivins
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Gerie Leigh

Excused:

Black Hammock Island Civic Association - Mary Thompson
Highlands- Jack Stuart
Johnson Community Civic Association – James Shronce
Northside Lions – Harry Wagner
ShAdCo Q – Mozelle Masters
The Cape Association – Delores Spruill

Absent:

Eagles Hammock – Nancy Landau

Elected Officials: None present

Staff:

Duval County Schools – Dr. Nikolai Vitti
Florida Department of Transportation – Thomas Hill
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) – Assistant Chief T.C. Davis
Mayor's Liaison – Mike Sweat
Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman
Neighborhoods, Municipal Code Compliance – Johnny Johnson
Parks & Recreation – no representative
Planning & Development – Lisa Ransom

Guests:

The Cape - Catherine Delre
Copper Hill IV – Rev. Joseph Tate
Copper Hill IV – Bessie Williams
Clearly Jacksonville – Shirley Dasher
Deon Singletary

AVA Engineers – Henry Vorde
Eagle Bend Island – Melanie Pratt
Eagle Bend Island – Babs Jordan
Clearly Jacksonville – Suzanne Jenkins

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 correction was noted to the April Summary, where Mary Thompson's name was listed as both present and excused. A motion to approve the April summary as corrected was made by David Spruill and seconded by Tommy Ruffin. The vote: All in favor.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – Assistant Chief T.C. Davis, reported:
 - Violent crime is down 27.09%
 - Property crime is up 3.58, driven by reports of commercial Petit Theft.
 - The overall goal is 2% for the year. Currently at 6%.
 - A recent trend in thefts of utility and homemade trailers. Citywide, over 90 trailers were stolen. In Zone 6, 13 trailers were stolen in the past 30 days. If you have a utility trailer, secure it. Use scotch glow tape, record the serial number and take photos.
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Agriculture Extension Office Director, Mike Sweat reported:
 - Mayor's Office reached a retirement reform agreement with JFRD and FOP leadership. It will be voted upon by members. It is a \$1.1 Billion savings for taxpayers over 30 years. This year \$50 million in savings. Please visit [coj.net](http://www.coj.net) for more information.
 - The Extension Office is offering several classes, including rain barrel workshops.
 - For more information, please visit <http://www.coj.net/departments/parks-and-recreation/county-extension-office.aspx>.
 - A resident thanked the Extension Office for the recent beekeeping class and the follow-up assistance.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – Vicki Drake was present but said she deferred to Dr. Vitti's presentation.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Thomas Hill reported:
 - On-going projects are all on schedule.
 - Lane closures:
 - Mathews Bridge will be closed this weekend.
 - I-95 between I-295 and Airport Road for replacing signs – night time closures. 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
 - Interstate highway traffic information: call 511 telephone service
 - FDOT was commended for allowing Ospreys to stay on their nests under the Sisters Creek Bridge until nesting season ended.
- **Neighborhoods**
 - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Mary Beth Ridderman had no report:
 - **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Bruce Chauncey was present, He had no report.
 - Please call 630-CITY (2489) if you suspect a code violation.
- **Planning & Development** – Lisa Ransom reported:
 - She deferred to the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee report.
 - She suggested residents call 255-7800 regarding signs or contact Lisa at 255-7834 or lransome@coj.net.
- **Parks & Recreation** – No representative
- **National Park Service** – Shauna Allen reported:
 - Last month was Living History Month at Ft. Caroline.
 - Events are continuing for the 25th Anniversary.
 - The Kingsley to Ribault Tram issue is going to the public comments phase. The park hopes to begin construction on the tram in June or July, 2013.
 - To learn more about National Parks, visit <http://www.nps.gov/state/fl/index.htm?program=all>
 - To learn about Senior National Park Passes, which cost \$10 (\$20 by mail) and allow the senior free lifetime admission into National Parks, please call the visitor's center at (904) 641-7155 or visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/senior.html>.

- o For information on free passes for active duty military personnel and dependents, visit <http://www.nps.gov/drto/parknews/freemilitarypassesdrto051812.htm>
- o For information about free passes for persons with permanent disabilities, visit <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm>

4. Presentation:

Nikolai Vitti, Ed.D., Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, presented information about schools.

- The Strategic Plan was passed. It drives the budget development process and focuses in four areas:
 - o Development of great educators and leaders, adapting common core standards. Moving away from bubble and multiple choice answers to more writing and more rigor. Leaders need to stay in place longer. More support is needed for teachers and principals. Training will need to be ramped up at the school level.
 - o Engaging the community, caregivers and parents. Link partnerships to the Strategic Plan. Create a Parent Academy in the community, try to reach hard-to-reach parents before school, after school or on weekends; teach parents to navigate the system, build capacity for parents to advocate; teach parents how to navigate the portal, teach them how to access Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms.
 - o Effective, equitable and efficient use of resources. Be sure every penny is focused on the Strategic Plan, child-centered and school-centered. More support focused in the classroom. More transparency in funding.
- Developing the whole child. Every student inspired or prepared for college and life or the workforce and life. Previously the focus has been on testing. The focus will shift to the whole child, with full time teachers in art, music and electives, which are needed to prepare children to learn basic skills of math and reading. Technology funding will be at a higher level within 2 years.
 - o A question was raised about communication with parents. Dr. Vitti discussed the town hall meetings, surveys and the Parent Academy.
 - o A concern was expressed about graduation rates and drop-out rates in schools.
 - o A concern was expressed that the tax rate may be affected by proposed increases in school services.
 - o Appreciation was expressed for Dr. Vitti’s focus on decentralization and that the Superintendent has his children enrolled in public schools.
 - o Chair Taylor thanked Dr. Vitti for his presentation. The CPAC expressed their appreciation with applause.

5. Chair’s Report – Chair Bobby Taylor reported:

- The Chair had surgery and was unable to attend the St. Johns Ferry Commission Meeting; Fran Beach attended the meeting. Chair Taylor thanked Ms. Beach.
- Residents have been questioning the status of the proposed roundabout on Heckscher Drive. An ordinance is needed from City Council regarding land transfer to accommodate the roundabout.

6. Elected Officials Reports –no representative.

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- **Governmental Affairs –** The Vice Chair/Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Chair, Rex Neidlinger, was present at this meeting, but he was out-of-town during the last Governmental Affairs Meeting. Acting Subcommittee Chairs Tommy Ruffin and Dick Berry led this portion of the meeting. The following items were discussed or voted upon:

2013-0185	Approve	Estab a Context Sensitive Streets Standards Committee within the Public Works Dept & Revise Code of Subdivision Regs; Amend Sec 30.402 (Div Chief), Part 4 (Community Planning Div), Chapt 656 (Zoning Code) & Sec 32.202 (Div Chief), Part 2 (Engineering & Constrn Mgmt Div) & Sec 32.302 (Div Chief), Part 3 (Right of Way & Grounds Maint Div), Chapt 32 (Public Works Dept), Ord Code, to Estab a Committee to Revise & Make Recommendations re Policies & Standards re Context Sensitive Streets Issues; Amend Chapt 654 to address the Mobility Process & Transfer of Responsibilities under Chapt 654 to the Planning & Dev Dept & Modify Responsibilities of the Subdiv Standards & Policy Advisory Comm.
2013 - 0208	Approve	The bill appropriates \$1,212,906 from the Trail Ridge Landfill mitigation trust fund to the Public Works Department (\$1,201,346.70) for design and construction of a parking lot at the Maxville Park and to the

		Parks and Recreation Department (\$11,559.90) for purchase of 4 computers and 2 printers, replacement of the building's front entrance canopy, and replacement of the shuffleboard courts at the Maxville Senior Center.
2013 - 0210	Approve	The ordinance concerns a continuation grant; it appropriates \$281,693.00 received from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to provide funding to hire a Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Coordinator and to acquire tactical response kits and automated blood pressure equipment for the MMRS program for Duval County, as authorized by B.T. 13-045; the ordinance authorizes the Mayor and Corporation Secretary to execute the federally-funded Sub grant Agreement between FDEM and the City; the ordinance authorizes a position, as initiated by R. C. 13-111.
2013 - 0226	Discussion Only	The bill repeals Part 2 (Entertainment District) of Ordinance Code Chapter 191 – Special Events and Entertainment District. Additionally it removes from Chapter 368 – Noise Control the exemption for fireworks and outdoor musical entertainment events pursuant to Chapter 191, Part 2, which is being repealed.
2013 – 0228	Approve	The resolution petitions the U.S. Congress to preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and to reject any proposal that would reduce or eliminate the tax exemption.
2013 - 0229	Approve	The bill requests the Florida Department of Transportation to designate State Road A1A in Jacksonville, from the St. Johns County line to the Nassau County line, as a State Scenic Highway pursuant to Sec. 335.093, Florida Statutes – the Florida Scenic Highway program.
2013 - 0230-	Discussion Only	The bill expresses the City's support for regional cooperation and the common policy framework provided by the pending update to the Northeast Florida Regional Council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan.
2013 - 0243	Approve	2013 - 0243 - The bill appropriates \$2,040,000 from the Loblolly Wetlands Mitigation Fund to the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens to pay a portion of the construction cost of the zoo's new Land of the Tiger exhibit. It authorizes the execution of a Funding Assistance Agreement between the City and the zoo for the project and invokes the exception in the City's Procurement Code which allows the City Council to fund a contract without a competitive solicitation process by directing the award of the contract to a particular party in the ordinance that appropriates the funding for the project. The bill amends the 2012-17 Capital Improvement Program to add and authorize funding for the zoo project.
2013D – 003	Approve	A request to amend the Future Land Use Map of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Property is located at 15961 Main Street (east side of Main Street, between Tisonia Road and Northside Drive) Twenty-nine and 62/100 acres; current land use category is CGC and MDR and current zoning is PUD. The proposed land use category and zoning are LDR and RLD-50, respectively.
2013C-0007	Approve with concerns mentioned	Flamingo Lake RV Resort, 3640 Newcomb Road, Jacksonville, 32218 requests a land use change of 8.3 acres from LDR/RR to ROS to expand the business and to accommodate larger units.

- o Calvin Burney, Director, Planning Department, presented information regarding 2013-185. He provided copies of Ordinance 2013-185-E.
- o A concern was expressed that the North CPAC/District 6 has a number of dirt roads.
- o A concern was expressed that Heckscher Drive has no sidewalks or bike lanes.
- o 2013-0185 was removed from abeyance by motion/second/vote.
- o Henry Vorde, from AVA Engineers, presented information regarding 2013C-0007.
- o A concern was expressed regarding the width of the Newcomb Road and ability for motor homes to pass/meet each other safely.
- o A concern was expressed regarding a buffer for the new area.
- o A concern was expressed about the Loblolly Fund being used for the Zoo, when it was set aside for parks. Huguenot Park hours have been reduced because the park will no longer employ night guards. This impacts residents' quality of life who enjoy being on the beach in the early morning hours. It also impacts safety of residents who camp there overnight. Huguenot Park has numerous maintenance issues that are not being addressed, for example, the road is in very bad condition.
- o Under Governmental Affairs New Business, a concern was expressed that Shands Hospital will not begin construction on a small hospital near the River City Market Place. A hospital in that area would serve North District residents as well as others from Nassau County. The distance to the nearest hospital is of concern. The hospital would not have added extra beds to the community, but instead would have transferred beds from the main hospital and used vacated space for research. A discussion was held and the CPAC voted to write a letter. The vote was 3 (for) – 8 (against); the motion failed. A suggestion was made to address this matter with the Legislative Delegation.
- o The next Governmental Affairs Subcommittee meeting is June 6, 4 p.m. at the FSCJ North Police Academy, room 207.
- **Membership** – Harry Wagner's absence was excused.
- **Transportation** – Richard Berry was present. He deferred to FDOT's report and FDOT reports

forwarded by Ms. Ridderman.

8. **Unfinished Business** – none

9. **New Business** – none

10. **Public Comments:**

- Shirley Dasher and Former City Council Member Suzanne Jenkins were CPAC Guests. Ms. Dasher announced Clearly Jacksonville offers free digital billboard displays to nonprofit groups, civic groups and neighborhood associations. The City of Jacksonville and Duval Public Schools use the service. Ms. Dasher may be contacted at (904) 524-8481 or ccsd@comcast.net.

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 6:05.

NEXT MEETING: June 12, at 4 p.m.

Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus
4501 Capper Rd. **Building D-213**

The next Governmental Affairs Meeting is June 6, 2013, 4 p.m.
Policy & Corrections Academy, Room 207, FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd.

Summary prepared by Mary Beth Ridderman, Coordinator, Neighborhoods Department, 904-255-8260, marybeth@coj.net.
No audio recording is available for this meeting due to technical difficulties.