

# 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 C-136

April 10, 2014

### Attendance:

#### **Members:**

Chair – Bobby Taylor  
Vice Chair – Rex Neidlinger  
Charter Member – Richard Berry  
Charter Member - David Spruill  
Ashford Wood - Evelyn "Kathy" Myers  
Betz Realty, Inc. - William Baker  
Blue Grass Northwood – Pastor Mark Bivins  
Blue Grass Northwood – Sharon Bivins  
Copper Hill – Joseph Tate  
Council Appointee District 11 – Tommy Ruffin  
Edwards Creek – Danny Ferreira  
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Fran Beach  
Johnson Community Civic Association – James Shronce  
Northlake Homeowners Association – Josephine Fiveash Porter  
Tasti D'Lite – Nancy Burnett  
The Cape Association – Delores Spruill

#### **Excused:**

Charter Member – Dot Mathias  
Amelia View – Gay Septon  
Black Hammock Island Civic Association - Mary Thompson  
Copper Hill - Bessie Williams  
Duval County PTS/PTA – Vicki Drake  
Eagle Bend – Mike Getchell  
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Gerie Leigh  
Highlands- Jack Stuart  
National Park Service – Shauna Allen  
Northside Lions – Harry Wagner  
San Mateo – Roland Biederer  
ShAdCo Q – Jenny Bray

#### **Absent:**

*Northside Business Leaders – Patrick Bennett*

*Please contact Mary Beth Ridderman at 255-8260 or [marybeth@coj.net](mailto:marybeth@coj.net) if members will be absent.*

**Elected Officials:** none present

#### **Staff:**

Mayor's Liaison – Mike Sweat  
Mayor's Representative – David DeCamp  
Jacksonville Electric Authority – Bea Fore  
Jacksonville Electric Authority – Brian Pippin  
Jacksonville Public Library, Highlands Branch – Ann Fridl  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office – Victor M. Pacheco  
Jacksonville Transportation Authority – Cheryl Riddick  
Parks & Recreation – Shaniqua Simmons  
Planning & Development, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman  
Planning & Development, Planning – Marvin Echols  
Regulatory Compliance, Municipal Code Compliance – Bruce Chauncey

#### **Guests:**

Alberta Hipps – Hipps Group  
Patricia Cooper – Easy Street  
Serena Wakefield – Wakefield Development Services

Greg Matovina – Matovina & Co.  
Robert Porter - Northlake  
Linda Hightower – ShAdCo Sector P

### 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Chair Bobby Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. A quorum was verified by Neighborhood Coordinator Mary Beth Ridderman. Chair Taylor reminded everyone to silence cell phones and sign-in.

### 2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the March summary was made by Richard Berry and seconded by David Spruill. The vote: All in favor.

### 3. Staff Reports

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) –** Lt. Pacheco reported:
  - He will be reporting each month to the North CPAC.
  - Operation Safe Streets was working in North District hotels. JSO illegal drugs, illegal weapons and stolen items.
  - In the Depaul Drive and Elmhurst Drive area, callers ordered food deliveries and then robbed the delivery persons. The robbers were apprehended.
  - Incidents of property crime and violent crime are down.
  - Business burglaries are up because of thefts of air conditioning units. Contractors' employees were arrested and the incidents have stopped.
  - Auto burglaries are up. Eleven incidents were reported -nine vehicles had been left unlocked.
  - A concern was expressed about burglaries to homes at Ashford Woods, along Starratt Road. JSO explained the daytime burglaries are often kids skipping school. JSO has been doing truant sweeps, so the number of burglaries should decrease.
  - To report suspicious activity, call 630-0500.
  - Chair Taylor welcomed Lt. Pacheco to the North CPAC and thanked him for his report.
- **Mayor's Liaison –** Agriculture Extension Office Director, Mike Sweat reported:
  - The Extension Office is working with the University of Florida Healthy Start Coalition. Healthy Start's goal is to reduce infant mortality, reduce the number of low birth weight babies, and improve health and developmental outcomes. Funding from the Federal Farm Bill is planned to support sending food trucks with fresh fruits and vegetables to sell in food deserts (communities that have no grocery stores). The program has been implemented in other cities, including Atlanta, Georgia; Washington, D.C.; and Portland, Oregon., using converted Coca-Cola trucks to display produce. Extension Office nutritionists will teach classes in the community to show how to prepare seasonal produce. This "Mobile Market" concept will be presented at no cost to the City of Jacksonville.
  - A question was raised about the number of hen permits available. Of 300 permits, 88 remain available. A class is scheduled soon and all permits are expected to be filled following the class. After all permits are filled, additional applicants will be placed on a waiting list. It is a popular program. The Beaches community is considering instituting a pilot program.
  - The Extension Connection (handout) lists the many programs available at the Extension Office.
  - He thanked Ms. Ridderman for distributing Extension Office and class information.
  - For information about Extension Office classes, please call the Extension Office at 255-7450.
- **Mayor's Representative –** David De Camp reported:
  - Mayor Brown met with the CPAC Chair on April 2. They discussed the Executive Order and By-Laws and an agreement was reached, after a few minor changes.
  - The City of Jacksonville & City Council Tire & Sign Buyback was a huge success. Over 23,000 tires were turned in. The tires will be taken to a waste energy plant to produce energy.
  - One Spark started today and the downtown area is very busy. Last year, One Spark had 300 creators, this year there are 600. The skyway is free. Free parking is available at the Houston Lot, near the Prime Osborne Convention Center (ride the skyway) and at EverBank Stadium (ride the trolley). JSO, JFRD and solid waste services have been arranged. COJ is a Super-Nova Sponsor. For more information, visit [www.beonespark.com](http://www.beonespark.com).
    - A resident expressed appreciation for the advance notice of free One Spark parking. She said she would not have come downtown without free parking.
  - Pension negotiations are in progress. The benefits package is part of collective bargaining. The budget is due July, 2014.

- A resident commended the Times Union for the article about the history of the pension program. According to the article, this administration will pay more into the pension fund than the last four mayors, combined.
  - Appreciation was expressed for the Mayor's and City Council's support of Bill 2014-167, which appropriated funds from Huguenot Memorial Park II Reserves to purchase & install an automated kiosk system to allow Early Bird Access to the park. That was a true example of everyone working together for the good of the community.
  - A brief discussion was held regarding the pension fund.
  - The following comments and concerns were expressed:
    - Parity should be considered in pension negotiations.
    - A local tax watch group has filed suit against the Pension Board.
    - The City has a contract with retired employees - pension obligations should be met.
    - The City may need to file bankruptcy to deal with the pension debt. The Mayor's Representative said the City will not declare bankruptcy.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – no representative.
  - Chair Taylor reported that Dr. Vitti suggested the CPAC provide a list of specific topics and he would send the correct person to meetings.
  - The following comments and concerns were expressed:
    - Charter Schools have removed funding from public schools.
    - All public schools should be the same quality.
    - The FCAT was dropped. Members would like information about the new tests.
    - The Duval County School Board Members will not visit the CPAC, although they have been repeatedly asked. Ms. Ridderman spoke to Dr. Vitti, who suggested the CPAC list specific topics and he will provide the appropriate speakers.
- **Planning & Development (formerly Neighborhoods)**
  - **Planning** – Marvin Echols provided staff support at the April 3, 2014 Governmental Affairs Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Echols was present at the CPAC meeting to answer residents' questions. Please contact Mr. Echols at 255-7823 or [MEchols@coj.net](mailto:MEchols@coj.net).
  - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Mary Beth Ridderman reported:
    - Her supervisor, Kenny Logsdon, asked her to announce that Operation Urban Blight will soon begin in the North District.
    - She electronically distributed information about One Spark events and free parking. Free printed One Spark pamphlets are available at downtown venues such as restaurants, the Main Library and One Spark creators' locations.
- **Regulatory Compliance ((formerly Neighborhoods)**
  - **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Bruce Chauncey reported:
    - Two officers were hired to pick up and write citations for snipe signs. A brief discussion was held about snipe signs. Mr. Chauncey thanked residents for their assistance in reporting or removing snipe signs.
    - He expressed appreciation to residents who remove snipe signs from the right-of-way.
    - A concern was expressed about vacant homes and the length of time required for problems to be corrected by going through 630-CITY. Mr. Chauncey explained that after the notice, the owner has 18 days to comply. Then the issue is reported to abatement and procurement arranges a contractor. If situations are not corrected in a timely manner, call 255-7035.
    - A concern was expressed that a reported overgrown yard was cut, but the hedges were not cut. Mr. Chauncey said to be sure to report overgrown hedges, which must be cited to be corrected.
    - A concern was expressed about basketball goals placed in the city right of way. Mr. Chauncey explained that is a JSO issue – call 630-0500.
    - The division is working hard on Operation Urban Blight.
      - The Mayor's Representative reported Code Officers have been working really hard and have done a great job. As a result of their hard work, Operation Urban Blight is very successful. He encouraged all residents to attend Operation Urban Blight Meetings.
    - Please call 630-CITY (2489) to report and track CARE concerns.

- **Parks & Recreation** – Shaniqua Simmons reported:
  - Summer Camp vouchers will be available soon. Applicants must first attend a meeting to be entered into the lottery, which will fill a total of 500 slots at 11 different locations. The summer lunch program will be available at those and other sites. For more information, please visit the brochures she provided.
  - Please contact Ms. Simmons at [ShaniquaS@coj.net](mailto:ShaniquaS@coj.net).
- **National Park Service** – Shauna Allen’s absence was excused.
  - For information about National Parks, visit <http://www.nps.gov/state/fl/index.htm?program=all>
- **Jacksonville Electric Authority** – see presentation.
  - For more information, please contact Ms. Kendrick at [hendwj@jea.com](mailto:hendwj@jea.com) or 665-7217.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green’s absence was excused.
  - 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)

4. **Presentation:** JEA Savings without Sacrifice by Brian Pippin

- Control the thermostat. Half of energy consumption is from the heat pump. In the summer, every degree below 78 degrees adds 5% to the utility bill. If you will be away for two or more hours, set the thermostat 5 degrees higher. Provide pets with a small fan. In winter, set the thermostat on 68 degrees.
  - Heat pumps control temperature and humidity. Humidistats measure humidity. The ideal indoor humidity is 50%.
  - Use a programmable thermostat.
  - Water lawns twice a week April – October. Water once a week November – March. Most people overwater by 30%. JEA offers a free lawn audit, a tune up of residential irrigation systems. Call 1800-664-8644.
  - JEA offers a free energy audit. Visit [jea.com](http://jea.com) or call 665-6000.
- JEA is available to provide presentations to neighborhood organizations

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

- A citywide clean-up is scheduled for April 22.
- Council Member Boyer is working with the Task Force on Consolidated Government. The group is recommending the city have neighborhood organizations instead of CPACs, where members are appointed by the Mayor. CPAC Chairs and Vice Chairs were not invited to meetings until after the first recommendations had been made. Chairs have provided a letter. The Task Force’ recommendations will be discussed at the Southeast CPAC meeting on April 28, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at St. Vincent’s Hospital South. Rena Coughlin will be available for questions.
  - A concern was expressed about staffing for neighborhood organizations instead of CPACs.
- Rex Neidlinger attended the Mayor’s Meeting with the CPAC Chairs. The group discussed the CPAC Executive Order and By-Laws. Recommendations for change to the Executive Order and By-Laws were made. When the summary is ready, it will be sent to the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee members and other CPAC members.

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

7. **Subcommittee Reports**

- **Governmental Affairs** –

**The following items were discussed or voted upon:**

2014-0197	Approve	An ordinance approving a proposed large scale revision to the future land use map series of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan by changing the future land use designations from Agriculture-II (AGR II), Agriculture-III (AGR-III), Agriculture-IV (AGR- IV), and Public Buildings and Facilities (PBF) to Low Density Residential (LDR) on approximately 392± acres of land located in Council District 11 at 2591 Arnold Road and 2595 Arnold Road between Arnold Road and Lannie Road
2014-0128 2014-0129	Deny	an ordinance adopting a small-scale amendment to the Future Land Use Map Series of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan by changing the future land use designation from Community/General Commercial (CGC) to Medium Density Residential (MDR) on approximately 9.95 acres of land located in Council District 11 at 12780 Yellow Bluff Road between New Berlin Road and Scarwin Lane ( <i>the denial was based on the planned lot sizes</i> )
2014-0143	Rescind March Letter	An ordinance rezoning approximately 3.22± acres located in Council Districts 7 and 8 on Trout River Drive, between Sycamore Street and U.S. 17 (R.E no(s): 032720-0000, 032865-0000, 032716-0000, 032725-0000), as described herein, owned by CDA Technical Institute, Inc., from Commercial Community/General-2 (CCG-2) District to Planned Unit Development (PUD) District. ( <i>The vote to rescind letter was based on new information obtained from the neighborhoods. This property is not in District 6.</i> )

- A concern was expressed about lot sizes and wetlands protection for 2014-0128 and 2014-0129.

The next Governmental Affairs meeting is May 1, 4 p.m. at FSCJ North Campus, Room C-136.

- **Membership** – Reverend and Mrs. Bivins reported:
  - They brought a guest from their neighborhood.
  - They have made several contacts and have some prospective new members.
  - They have experienced problems with lack of cooperation from a management company. Tommy Ruffin suggested a letter be mailed with a copy of the CPAC Executive Order. Mr. Bivins said he will provide Ms. Ridderman with an address.
- **Transportation** – Richard Berry reported:
  - I-95 North of Airport Road is being repaved. Construction is expected to continue through 2014.
  - I-295 North of Dunn Avenue – ramps are being reworked. Construction is expected to continue until September, 2014.

8. **Unfinished Business:** none.

9. **New Business:** none

10. **Public Comments:**

- Danny Ferreira encouraged everyone to contact their City Council Members regarding small lot sizes.
- Richard Berry reported that the CPAC might take a position that it is opposed to all LDR 50 in District 6. Chair Taylor suggested they review and consider each application. A discussion followed.

11. **Motion to Adjourn** – Mr. Berry made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ruffin seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: May 14, 2014 at 4 p.m.**

Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus  
4501 Capper Rd. **Building C – 136 Conference Room**  
The next Governmental Affairs Meeting is May 1, 2014, 4 p.m.  
FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd., Building C-136 Conference Room