

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- 171

January 8, 2014

Attendance:

Members:

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
Blue Grass Northwood – Pastor Mark Bivins
Blue Grass Northwood – Sharon Bivins
Copper Hill - Bessie Williams
Copper Hill – Joseph Tate
Council Appointee District 11 – Tommy Ruffin
Edwards Creek – Danny Ferreira
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Fran Beach
Tasti D’Lite – Nancy Burnett
The Cape Association – Delores Spruill

Excused:

Chair – Bobby Taylor
Betz Realty, Inc. - William Baker
Black Hammock Island Civic Association - Mary Thompson
Duval County PTS/PTA – Vicki Drake
Eagle Bend – Mike Getchell
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Gerie Leigh
Highlands- Jack Stuart
Johnson Community Civic Association – James Shronce
National Park Service – Shauna Allen
Northside Lions – Harry Wagner
Northside Business Leaders – Patrick Bennett
Northlake Homeowners Association – Josephine Fiveash Porter
San Mateo – Roland Biederer
ShAdCo Q – Jenny Bray

Absent:

White Shell Bay – Sandra Kessler

Please contact Mary Beth Ridderman at 255-8260 or marybeth@coj.net if members will be absent.

Elected Officials:

Duval County Public Schools -Honorable Paula Wright

Staff:

Mayor’s Representative – David DeCamp
Jacksonville Electric Authority – Wanyonyi Kendrick
Jacksonville Public Library – Ann Fridl, Highlands Branch
Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office – Lt. Rich Buoye, Guest Speaker
Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman
Neighborhoods, Municipal Code Compliance – Bruce Chauncey
Parks & Recreation – Shaniqua Simmons
Planning & Development – Lisa Ransom

Staff Excused:

Mayor’s Liaison – Mike Sweat

Guests:

Priscilla Sandefur

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Vice Chair Rex Neidlinger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum was verified by Neighborhood Coordinator Mary Beth Ridderman.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the December summary was made by Richard Berry and seconded by Tommy Ruffin. The vote: All in favor.

3. Staff Reports

- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) was represented by guest speaker Lt. Buoye. Residents expressed concern JSO did not have a Zone 6 representative at the meeting to provide a monthly report and information about the December River City Market Place theatre incident.
 - A concern was expressed that children are allowed to drop out of school at age 16.
 - To report suspicious activity, call 630-0500.
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Agriculture Extension Office Director, Mike Sweat's absence was excused.
 - For information about Extension Office classes, please call the Extension Office at 255-7450.
- **Mayor's Representative** – David De Camp reported:
 - A pension reform meeting was held today to discuss pension governance, structure, COJ's contribution, fund management and investments. Only about 40% of the pension is funded. Mayor Brown opposes a tax increase. The City is looking at unused real estate to help fund the pension. Considerations under discussion: change benefits for new employees, increase earlier contributions and others. For more information, please visit www.coj.net.
 - A concern was expressed that residents will be responsible for pension debt that was previously not managed properly.
 - A brief discussion was held regarding JEA's participation in the pension fund, collective bargaining, public input and existing liability for library, police and fire employees.
 - Saturday, January 11, 9 a.m. the City will host a hazardous waste remote collection event at Oceanway Park, 12215 Sago Ave.
 - Bobby Taylor and staff members met regarding access to Huguenot Park. Suggestions included making internal staff adjustments, talking with residents about options and gate automation as ways to provide better park access.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – the Honorable Paula Wright, School Board Member, reported:
 - Last month an inquiry was made about testing in Compass Odyssey. Testing must be completed in front of an instructor – testing is not done on-line.
 - At age 16, a child can drop out of school. Legislation is being advocated for the minimum age to be 18 years.
 - The December River City Market Place Hollywood theatre incident involved approximately 600 people, the majority consisted of African American high school students with some grown adults in the group. A number of teens got off buses near the theatre, then students rushed an armed police officer to gain entrance into the theatre. DCPS identified some students and talked with them to determine what happened and to prevent it from happening again. African American leaders are working on a plan to reach out to kids, to identify/work with parents, listen to kids and other solutions. Workshops are planned on the subjects of how to deal with authority and respect for self/community. An adult accompaniment policy for the theatre has already been instituted. JSO has been handing out information at the Rivers City Market Place. The initiative is called "Say No To Disrespect" and is being distributed via social media.
 - The Duval Delegation is meeting on Jan. 23 from 1 – 5 p.m. in City Council Chambers. She will send the information to Mary Beth Ridderman for distribution.
 - A concern was expressed about the need for stricter curfew enforcement. A brief discussion was held on neighborhoods as the key to helping solve curfew and truancy issues.
 - The CPAC applauded Ms. Wright and Vice Chair Neidlinger thanked her for her report.

- **Neighborhoods**
 - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Mary Beth Ridderman reported:
 - Vice Chair Neidlinger attended the January 7 training for CPAC Chairs and Vice Chairs. Bobby Taylor’s absence was excused.
 - March 18, 1 p.m. - training for Condo owners. 213 N. Hogan St., Ed Ball Bldg. Room 110, 214 N. Hogan St., Ed Ball Bldg. Pre-registration required. Contact marybeth@coj.net or 255-8260.
 - March 18, 5:30 p.m., training for Homeowner and Townhome Associations, 213 N. Hogan St., Ed Ball Bldg. Room 110. Pre-registration required. Contact marybeth@coj.net or 255-8260.
 - **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Bruce Chauncey reported:
 - One of four newly hired officers will be assigned to Zone 6.
 - Officers have been busy with Operation Urban Blight, a citywide program.
 - Officers have been busy removing stick signs.
 - A resident thanked officers for the citation and clean up on the vacant lot near Food Lion at Starratt Road. The property looks nice, now.
 - Please call 630-CITY (2489) to register and track CARE concerns.
- **Planning & Development** – Lisa Ransom was present to answer questions.
 - Please call 255-7800 regarding posted signs/notices or contact Ms. Ransom at 255-7834/lransom@coj.net.
- **Parks & Recreation** – Shaniqua Simmons reported:
 - Regular hours start Monday because of school
 - After school hours are 2:30 – 7:30 with drop-in sites and gyms from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- **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** – Wanyonyi “Wi” Kendrick reported:
 - JEA plans to be part of the solution to the pension reform.
 - JEA plans to support neighborhoods and individuals, particularly those who are not connected to COJ sewer/water.
 - A brief question and answer period followed Ms. Kendrick’s report. A question was asked about a target date for connecting those homes not on COJ sewer/water. The answer: no target date has been identified. Rates are currently above median; for every commitment, rates go up, JEA wants to drive rates down. A question was asked if the emphasis is on waterfront properties. The answer: JEA does not want to impact the river or rates.
 - For more information, please contact Ms. Kendrick at hendwj@jea.com or 665-7217.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green reported:
 - He is temporarily filling this position. FDOT will try to have someone at each meeting.
 - Sisters Creek Bridge maintenance project is nearing completion. This summer construction of the new bridge begins.
 - Dunn Avenue and Lem Turner interchange improvements will be complete within 2 months.
 - I-95 resurfacing is scheduled for the next 6 months.
 - I-295 and Heckscher Drive area is scheduled for major improvements to improved access to the Port and Intermodal Terminal. Construction will occur for the next 2 years.
 - I-295 and Dunn Avenue will be completed in Spring, 2014.
 - A member expressed concern that Yellow Bluff Road paving is in very poor condition and needs to be repaved. Yellow Bluff Road is a COJ property – please report to 630-CITY.
 - A member requested a presentation and update on the I-295/I-95 expansion with a 4-level interchange.
 - 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

- 4. Presentation:** Street Drug Identification by JSO Lt. Rich Buoye, JSO Narcotics Unit
- o Lt. Buoye has 19 years' experience in law enforcement. His division consists of four squads of 6 – 8 detectives on each squad, with a total of 28 detectives, all street-level operatives. The division is undermanned. Working undercover is the most dangerous job in the city. A mid-level team has 7 officers that inspect UPS, USPS and FedEx distribution sites. This team does call-outs on meth labs and marijuana grow-houses (houses that have been gutted and are being used to grow marijuana under electric lighting.) The pill squad works with doctor-shopping and pill mills. Now that the pill mills have been investigated and many closed, pill-users have turned to heroine instead of prescription pills such as Oxycodone, Oxycontin and Roxycodone, Percoset, which are also opiates. Major narcotics cases may involve other agencies, wire taps and travel to other states. The narcotics team's ultimate goal is to obtain evidence - a video recording of a dealer selling to a JSO undercover detective. JSO officers take a pre-hire drug screen and afterwards undergo random drug screening.
 - o Drugs are in every neighborhood in Jacksonville. Drugs are the nucleus of everything JSO does.
 - o The DART or Drug Abatement Response Team is another strategy to combat drugs in the community. DART condemns buildings being used for drugs – but the process takes time because proof is needed.
 - o Lt. Buoye brought sealed displays of street drugs and paraphernalia.
 - o Marijuana remains the number one drug of choice followed by crack cocaine and pills. Marijuana is a gateway drug, often lowering inhibitions and allowing users to accept other drugs and crimes. Marijuana possession is not strongly prosecuted because so many people think it is acceptable.
 - o Synthetic marijuana, sometimes called potpourri, K-2, Spice or Wacky Weed is illegal. It is marketed to children, using attractive packaging with popular cartoon and other characters. Previously marketed in convenience stores, synthetic marijuana is seldom seen now in chain stores, but only in smaller stores, sometimes in back rooms, for example, where certain customers have access.
 - o Methamphetamine is usually in crystal or powder form which is smoked or snorted. It is made from a variety of easily obtainable ingredients: lighter fluid, iodine, match heads, lithium (from batteries) Drano, Sudafed, brake fluid, lye or hydrochloric acid. Small batches are made in the One Pot Shake & Bake method, using 2-liter bottles or Gatorade bottles. Meth is extremely combustible, even in small batches. It is highly addictive and most users make enough meth to sell to purchase ingredients for another batch, then use the rest.
 - o Bath salts (i.e. Cloud Nine or Bliss) are designer drugs, that look like Epsom salts. Ingredients are synthetic and vary from batch to batch. Very addictive, this drug causes hallucinations and paranoia and some users see demons. He referred to the Miami incident of face-eating.
 - o Krokodil or Crocodile is an inexpensive designer drug, made with iodine or crushed iodine and other ingredients then injected under the skin, causing the skin to look like crocodile skin and deteriorate. The drug is highly addictive and users die within two years.
 - o He suggested watching the movie "Breaking Bad", about a meth lab operator.
 - o To report suspected drug activity, call 630-CRAK. Each report will be investigated but remember that investigations take time to complete.
 - o A member commended JSO Narcotics detectives for doing a dangerous job. The CPAC applauded.
- 5. Chair's Report** – Vice Chair Neidlinger reported that Chair Taylor will return in February.
- 6. Elected Officials Reports** – See the above report by the Honorable Paula Wright.
- 7. Subcommittee Reports**
- **Governmental Affairs** – Subcommittee Chair Rex Neidlinger reported the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee did not meet in January. The next Governmental Affairs meeting is February 6, 4 p.m. at FSCJ North Campus, Room C-136.
 - **Membership** – Mrs. Bivins was present and available for questions.
 - **Transportation** – Richard Berry reported:
 - o I-295/I-95 expansion is funded for \$176 million. The project is currently in the right of way

- acquisition phase. The 4-level interchange will be the tallest in Jacksonville.
- o I-295/I-95 to the Dames Point Bridge - right of way and additional lanes will be added in the Five Year Plan.
 - o North Access Road funding is being addressed by FDOT, TPO and COJ.
 - o A concern was expressed that speed limits are not being enforced on Heckscher Drive.
 - o A brief discussion was held about the St. Johns River Ferry closure. Mr. Berry requested that Sisters Creek Bridge repairs be delayed until the ferry is operational. Mr. Green said the bridge will remain open during repairs. A concern was expressed that ferry closure is adversely affecting local weekday commuters.

8. Unfinished Business: none.

9. New Business:

- o A concern was expressed that billboards are polluting Jacksonville's landscape. The CPAC opposed the billboard ordinance. It appears that nothing is being done. A discussion was held regarding billboards.

10. Public Comments:

- o Ms. Paula Wright was asked to share an update on the School Board district.

11. Motion to Adjourn – Mr. Ruffin made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Tate seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 12, 2014 at 4 p.m.

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

The next Governmental Affairs Meeting is Feb. 6, 2, 2014, 4 p.m.
FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd., Building C-136 Conference Room