

# **Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**

## **January 12, 2017 Meeting Summary**

The Legend's Center, Community Room, 5130 Soutel Drive, 6 p.m.

### **Meeting Attendance**

#### **CPAC Members:**

John Pittman, CPAC Vice Chair  
Elaine Billups: Better Living  
Johnathan Blackburn: 2nd Mile Ministries  
Rhonda Boyd: Timber Oaks HOA  
Tyrona Clark-Murry: Blue Flame Publications  
Carlotta McIntosh: Moncrief Springs  
Linda Moore: North Riverside CDC  
Barney Roberts: Charter Member  
Velma Rounsville: Timber Oaks HOA  
Yvonne Ward: Moncrief Springs

#### **Visitors:**

C.J. Lazenberry  
Rosemary Thornton  
Tracie Thornton  
Catherine Brooks  
Doris Russell  
Freddie Harris  
Anthony Harris  
Lester Quaintance

#### **City Staff:**

Florida Department of Transportation: James Green  
JEA: Berdell Knowles  
Jacksonville Fire and Recuse: Matt Cipirani  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Zone 5: Lt. Michael Shell  
Jacksonville Transportation Authority: Cheryl Riddick  
Jacksonville Public Library: Marshelle Berry  
Jacksonville Code Compliance: Ernest Murphy III  
Jacksonville Mayor's Liaison: E. Denise lee  
Military Veterans: Ken Johnson  
Parks, Recreation and Community Svcs: Vicki Preston  
Senior Services: Jeff Backfisch  
Neighborhood Services Office: Amy Holliman

#### **Excused:**

Larry Solomon: CPAC Chair  
Roxsan Currier: Marietta Senior Center  
Tim Rossetter: Marietta Senior Center

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1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Vice Chair John Pittman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, staff confirmed a quorum; eight of the 25 Northwest CPAC organizations were represented for 31% in attendance.
  2. **Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** Velma Rounsville motioned to approve the November minutes; the motion was seconded by Carlotta McIntosh and was unanimously approved.
  3. **Presentation:** Lt. Michael Shell (Michael.Shell@jaxsheriff.org) from Zone 5 reported that auto break-ins continue to be an issue. Lt. Shell informed everyone that the Zone 5 station lobby is available as a safe place to meet someone for a transaction arranged on social media. Tyrona Clark-Murry asked about the potential of getting a shot detection system in the area, which uses a system of microphones to triangulate the sounds of shots fired and sends real-time location data to first responders. Lt. Shell replied that Edward Waters College currently has the system in place and is very effective. He is aware that City Council is looking into funding to purchase the system but nothing official has been decided yet.
  4. **Staff Reports**
    - **Jacksonville Fire and Recuse:** Fire Chief Matt Cipriani (MatthewC@coj.net) reported that all fire and ladder units in the city now have Advance Life Support; this means each is equipped with a paramedic and the supplies and drugs available in an emergency facility. Chief Cipriani was asked if there was anyone available to speak to businesses or organizations about how to properly use their on-site fire extinguishers. For public education and fire prevention contact 630-0434. He also mentioned that through the same number you can reach the smoke detector program, that they will come install one free detector per location.
    - **Mayor's Representative:** E. Denise Lee (EDeniseL@coj.net) was asked about the Blight Program and if anything is being done to create permanent solutions to the problem of blight. She reiterated that she has been in contact with Municipal Code Compliance and the city council representatives in the area to ensure property owners are in

compliance. A CPAC visitor asked anything can be done about evicted renter's property being left out on the street. The property owners are responsible for arranging for curb side pick-up of the property. If the trash is not picked up in a reasonable time, please contact 630-CITY and report the issue.

- **Military and Veterans Affairs:** Ken Johnson (KenJohns@coj.net) reported that there are many veterans who are not familiar with their services. Please share information about the office and services available with your family, friends and neighbors. They have expanded to include legal services with more information to come.
- **Municipal Code Compliance:** Ernest Murphy (EMurphy@coj.net) reported that 282 properties were cited in a systematic inspection in the Royal Terrace Neighborhood in December. Currently they are conducting a systematic inspection in the Edgewood Manor area which will end January 13, with 160 properties cited so far. The February systematic inspection will be held in the Ribault Neighborhood. From September 2016 to today, 11,471 properties have been cited in the district. Several people expressed concern about the homeless population in the area and the trash and debris left on property. Mr. Murphy stated that they will cite the property owners to clean the property. However, the homeless individuals should be reported to JSO. Ms. Lee stated that any business with a posted no loitering sign can have individuals removed from their property by JSO. She encourages everyone to spread that information to all the businesses in the area. A visitor asked about junk car citation. Mr. Murphy replied that if a car is visible to them and is obviously not drivable, the property owner will be cited.
- **Jacksonville Transportation Authority:** Cheryl Riddick (criddick@jtafla.com) reported that there are flyers available, which are smaller versions of the posters placed in busses and at stops that list JTA public meetings for the month. JTA held its first meeting on plans for the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center in the LaVilla area. There is a meeting Tuesday, January 17, at the Jacksonville Main Library regarding the Skyway modernization program. The survey is still available for completion online, she encourage those who haven't yet to complete the survey.
- **Florida Department of Transportation:** Jim Green (James.Green@dot.state.fl.us) reported that the resurfacing project at Golfair Boulevard and Norwood Avenue should be wrapping up in the next few weeks. The additional lane project at I-295 and Commonwealth Road was completed just before the end of the year and a couple projects on Beaver Street will wrap up this spring. He was asked about a project at two intersections on Lem Turner Road, one at Soutel Drive and one Ribault Avenue, Mr. Green will look into it and report back. Ms. Boyd asked about the merge lane from I-95 south onto I-295 west. Mr. Green reported that the entire interchange is being reconstructed.
- **Public Library:** Marshelle Berry (MBerry@coj.net) reported that the Highlands branch library is closed due to major plumbing issues. Murry Hill branch is going to be closed for new carpeting this month. The libraries are preparing for tax season, where there is free tax assistance. Computer and technology classes are available at all the library locations, booklets are available that include the class listings. The library had their first class of high school graduates last year. If you know anyone over 18 who needs high school completion, please refer them to the library. Ms. Berry was asked if there was assistance for people with dyslexia. There is an adult learning center at the Edgewood Library and several other Jacksonville libraries that can assist.
- **Senior Services:** Jeff Backfisch (bjeffrey@coj.net) reported that Senior Services is a division of Parks, Recreation and Community Services with 20 senior centers throughout the city. They hold special events and provide support services for citizens over 60. Mr. Backfisch was asked if transportation was provided to senior centers. He confirmed that door to door transportation is provided in Duval County at no cost by calling 630-0921. A visitor asked about the trash at the park adjacent to Martin Luther King Elementary School. She has requested that it be cleaned, but Parks says it is school property and the School says

it is City property. Mr. Backfisch said he would look into this. Mr. Backfisch was asked about what was happening at Carvill Park. It appears to be rented and the children cannot use the park. He reported that he would look into that as well.

- **Parks, Recreation and Community Services:** Vicky Preston (VPreston@coj.net) spoke up when Mr. Backfisch was asked about Carvill Park and reported that park partnerships is under their purview and that those partnerships should bring activities to the community. She will look into their contract to see exactly what services they should be providing. Parks will begin their after school program soon, and preparation for summer programs are underway. If you know of students who want summer employment, now is the time to start looking for that information. She should have flyers next week.

#### 5. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports

- **TRUE Commission Subcommittee:** John Pittman reported that commissioners are trying to find their place in the City's hierarchy.

6. **Neighborhood Coordinator:** Amy Holliman (aholliman@coj.net) reported that the Neighborhood Services Office will be offering the 2017 Matching Grants program very soon. The Neighborhood Magazine will be replaced with a smaller version that will be produced six times a year and along with other social media marketing efforts in conjunction with the City's Public Affairs Office. Finally the CommUniverCity program will start again in the spring with additional classes in the fall. She reminded everyone that to receive these benefits, organizations need to complete the Directory of Neighborhood Organizations form so that we can update our database with current information.

#### 7. Public Comments and Announcements

- Mr. Pittman stated that Mr. Solomon would like to create a membership subcommittee. Anyone interested in being a member, please let Amy know so that you can be included when the committee is formed.
- Visitor Rosemary Thornton stated that the interaction at this evenings meeting was the best she has attended and that she appreciated the opportunity for everyone to be able to speak and interact. Many agreed with this sentiment. She also asked if there was an effort to reach out those organizations listed on the City's website, and if there was a standard for reporting to the City to ensure that they are active. Ms. Holliman reported that there is no means to check up on these organizations that when paperwork is submitted it becomes a public record, so we assume the information is correct.
- Visitor Tracie Thornton announced that the first meeting of the Harborview Community Association would be January 18, at 6 p.m. at the Legends Center.
- Visitor Doris Russell announced that the Cleveland Arms tenant association would like the support of their neighbors as the try to build up their community. One major issue is the lack playground equipment on site. Tyrona Clark-Murry suggested that she peruse the help of the print media. Ms. Boyd invited her to attend the Sheriff's Watch meeting the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. so she can share her community concerns. She also suggested that she contact the at-large City Council members for support and assistance and that Denise Lee is also an excellent advocate to have on the community's side.

8. **Adjourn:** Velma Rounsville motioned to adjourn, Tyrona Clark-Murry seconded and all approved. The meeting at 7:36 p.m.

**Next CPAC Meeting:** February 9, 2017, 6 p.m. at the Legends Center, Community Room, 5130 Soutel Drive.