

# District #2 – Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Michael Anania

Vice Chair: Dr. Ramey Salem

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## **MEETING SUMMARY**

Location: Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport

DATE: Monday, January 11, 2016

### **Attendance:**

#### **Organizations/Representatives**

#### **Members:**

Anania, Michael - Arlington Business Society  
Armstrong, Kirk – Lucina Lake Association  
Belge, Larry - River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA  
Brown, Pamela – Covington Creek HOA  
Dickinson, Gary – Grove Park  
Evans, Kacy - Caroline Forest Homeowners Association  
George, Shirley – University Park  
Hanapel, Lenore – Covington Creek HOA  
Hawkins, Lad - Communities of East Arlington  
Hunter-Nowak, Karen – Hawkins Cove HOA  
Keeley, Tim – Kensington Association  
Litwhiler, Shelia – Beachwood Civic Association  
Miller, Pete - Indian Springs Community Association  
Parsons, Eddi - Monument Oaks HOA  
Petoskey, Jerry - Old Mill Cove Community Organization  
Mione, Peter – Old Arlington Inc.  
Pougiouklidis, Nina – Ibis Point Owners Association  
Roberts, John - The Valley at Hidden Hills  
Salem, Ramsey – Queens Harbour POA  
Sanders, Patricia – Southern Grove Condominiums  
Shacter, Melody – Clifton Civic Association

#### **Excused:**

Agnihotri, Amita - Hawkins Cove HOA  
Davis, Michele - Council Appointee – District 1  
Henry, David - Kensington Association  
Lowe, Marcella - Alderman Park Civic Association  
Maxted, Ed - Bentwater Place  
Schirado, Carol - Communities of East Arlington  
Tucker, Ben - Cypress Cove Good Neighbor Group

#### **Elected Officials:**

Bowman, Aaron – District 3  
Morgan, Joyce – District 1

**Staff:** Davis, Paul; Figuerrez, Mina; Freeman, Terrance; Long, Steve; Nasrallah, Karen; Rhodes, Joshua;  
Smith, George; Wesolowski, Rosemary

**Guests:**

Gillem, Tiffany – JAA/JAXEX  
Cuetos, Jose  
Sanders, Yolanda - DCPS  
Hipps, Alberta - JAA

Smith, Juilus – DCPS  
Cherry, Albert  
Shelton, Maysha - DCPS

**1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum**

Chair Anania called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary**

Chair Anania verified that there was a quorum and that everyone had the opportunity to review the November meeting summary. Pete Miller made a motion to approve the meeting summary and Karen Hunter-Nowak seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Staff Reports**

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – Lt. Mullin** stated that the crimes statistic in Zone 2 are holding stable. YTD Violent Crimes are down 20% and Property Crimes are down 48%. There has been a shooting in the Justina Road area.
- **JFRD** – no report, but available for questions
- **Mayor's Liaison** – not present
- **Duval County Public Schools** – Mr. Julius Smith, MA Ed, Supervisor, Community Education/Extended Day/Driver Education and introduced himself. Mr. Smith also introduced Ms. Maysha Shelton, Principal, Fort Caroline Middle School; Ms. Megan Pardue, Principal, Terry Parker High School and Ms. Yolanda S. Sanders, Principal, Arlington Middle School. Each provided an overview about their school:  
Ms. Shelton, Fort Caroline Middle School stated they currently have 460 students enrolled at Fort Caroline Middle. The specialty programs that the school offers are an IB and AVID.  
Ms. Sanders, Arlington Middle School stated there are currently 800 students enrolled at Arlington Middle. This school offers pre-early college programs and a robotics program.  
Ms. Pardue, Terry Parker High School stated there are 1700 students enrolled and the high school offers IB (International Baccalaureate), AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), ACES (Academy of Coastal and Environmental Science), Advanced Placement Courses, Dual Enrollment and a ROTC Program.

A CPAC member expressed their concern about the traffic around the Alimacani Elementary School at 2051 San Pablo Rd S. The Duval County Staff members stated that they would take the concern back with them.

- **Regulatory Compliance Department** (Code Compliance Supervisor)- Gary Roberts was in attendance for Supervisor Elaine Lancaster. Mr. Roberts stated in Zone 2 (GAB) Code Compliance completed 1870 inspections between 11/10/15 and 12/10/15. Zone 2 Code Compliance then completed 1308 inspections between 12/11/15 and 1/11/16. The Zone 2 Code Compliance team worked this past Saturday in effort to witness reported violations that tend to only happen on the weekends. Mr. Roberts introduced Margretta "Gretta" Haywood, Regulatory Compliance Administration Manager. Ms. Haywood was available to answer questions after the meeting.

- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green – not present, but sent a hand out of the upcoming roadway project that has begun on the Arlington Expressway (in front of Regency Square Mall). Copies of the Arlington Expressway roadway project were circulated.
- **Jacksonville Aviation Authority** – Tiffany Gillem – introduced George Smith as the newest team member of JAXEX. Mr. Smith will be the point of contact for noise complaints for flights in and out of JAXEX. You can reach Mr. Smith at 741-5066. It was announced that the JAXEX Community meeting scheduled for January 12, 2016 has been cancelled, the meeting will be rescheduled. If anyone has any concerns or questions, please contact Ms. Gillem at 904-641-7666.
- **Renew Arlington** – Karen Nasrallah – The Renew Arlington legislation 2015-738 was passed by City Council on November 24, 2015 for the Renew Arlington CRA. The boundaries for the CRA begins at the University Blvd/Merrill Rd. intersection and continue south on University Blvd. to the Arlington Expressway. On Merrill Road the CRA begins at JU and continues east until I-295. The CRA also includes Arlington Road; starting at University Blvd on the west and ends Bruce Park on the east. For more information visit [www.JaxDevelopment.org](http://www.JaxDevelopment.org) then click on Redevelopment Initiatives. Ms. Nasrallah stated the first TIF money should be available in 2017 and it is approximated that there will be about \$250,000 for the various improvement projects. The Financing District (TIF) to provide a revenue stream to the proposed boundary area will be in place/effective for the next 20 years.
- **Planning Department:**
  - **Housing and Community Development** – Rosemary Wesolowski stated that Mayor Curry has expressed great interest in all of the CPAC's. At this time, an effort is under way to improve the meeting agenda, increase information that will be provided at the meetings and unify the CPAC's. In February 2016, the meeting agendas will be slightly different, but we hope you will see it as improvement. Rosemary reminded the CPAC that the GAB CPAC is in need of a TRUE Commission representative. Please contact Rosemary if you are interested in serving on the TRUE Commission.
  - **Planning Department** – Paul Davis reminded the CPAC if they would like to be on his email distribution list for LUZ applications, to please contact him at [PDavis@coj.net](mailto:PDavis@coj.net).
- **JaxParks** – Joshua Rhodes – informed the CPAC the Lions Club Boardwalk Extension project has entered into the pre-construction phase; the project will go out to bid soon. The Blue Cypress Park pool is currently in the design phase. Ft. Caroline Community Club is getting new carpet on the stage area; the carpet installation should be completed by tomorrow. The Blue Cypress, the park community programming section has gone out to bid.
- **Public Works** – Steve Long – Chief of Right of Way and Stormwater – reminded the CPAC that any concern or project that they have needs to be submitted to the city and his department through 630-CITY. Mr. Long stated that all of the divisions in Public Works stay busy. Mr. Long inquired if anyone had any questions. There were a few questions:

One of the CPAC members pointed out that the solid waste/recycling calendar for 2016 has a mistake. The calendar that was sent does not have leap day on the calendar. It was requested that they review the calendar and send a corrected calendar to Rosemary so she can distribute it to the CPAC.

There was a request for plans for the 7 retention ponds in the Indian Springs neighborhood. The community is having a lot of problems with the ponds and needs the plans.

There was a request to restore weekly recycling pick-up. It was stated with the bigger recycling bins and increased types of items that can be recycled homes are able to

recycle more and the bins are filling up fast.

It was stated that there are a number of traffic flow problems in the East Arlington/Intra-coastal West communities. The roads identified were San Pablo Road, Girvin Road and Atlantic Blvd.

A CPAC member stated that they are having a challenge with a right of way mowing on Grove Park Blvd. A number of the neighbors have submitted requests through 630-CITY, but the community is still waiting for the right of ways to be mowed.

- **Military Affairs** – not present
- **JTA** – Wendy Morrow – stated JTA has committed to keeping the Skyway. There will be a 1 year study to determine what needs to be updates and how it will be updated. JTA has plans to complete a roadway widening project; this will reconstruct Kernan Boulevard from a four-lane to a six-lane roadway between Atlantic Boulevard and Matthew Unger Drive and four lanes from Matthew Unger Drive to McCormick Road. The road will have landscaped medians, curb and gutter, sidewalks, bike lanes, a 12-foot multi-use path on the eastside of the road and utility improvements. JTA will also reconstruct existing roadway to five lanes between Atlantic Boulevard and Ashley Melisse and three lanes between Ashley Melisse and Wonderwood Drive. The road will now have curb and gutter, sidewalks and bike lanes. A public meeting for this project will be held in March. The San Pablo Road project is on hold for now. The roadway projects were previously BJP projects, but were not completed. JTA has agreed to complete some of the uncompleted BJP projects. The projects that have been selected met the criteria by being shovel ready. There will be additional unfunded BJP roadway projects completed in future years.
- **Jacksonville Public Library** – Mina Figuerrez, University Park Library, no report, but available for questions.

**4. Presentation(s): Gerard Pinto, Ph.D., Jacksonville University, Associate Research Scientist, Marine Science Research Institute**, provided a comprehensive overview of 2015 River Report, State of the Lower St. Johns River Basin, Florida.

The State of the River Report is the result of a collaborative effort of a team of academic researchers from Jacksonville University, the University of North Florida and Valdosta State University. The purpose of this project was to review various previously collected data and literature about the river and to place it into a format that could be used by the general public. Funding for the report is primarily by the Environmental Protection Board of the City of Jacksonville and began in 2007.

To define the area discussed in the report, the Lower St. Johns River Basin (LSJRB) begins near Deland and ends just north of Jacksonville all along the St. Johns River. The Lower St. Johns River report has been put together over the last seven years by a team of experts on various different aspects of the river.

The State of the River Report describes the health of the LSJRB based on a number of broad indicators in four major categories:

1. WATER QUALITY
  - Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
  - Nutrients (Nitrogen & Phosphorus)
  - Turbidity
  - Algal Blooms

- Bacteria (Fecal Coliform)
- Metals
- Tributaries
- Salinity
- 2. FISHERIES
  - Finfish Fishery
  - Invertebrate Fishery
- 3. AQUATIC LIFE
  - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
  - Wetlands
  - Macroinvertebrates
  - Threatened and Endangered Species
  - Non--- native Aquatic Species
- 4. CONTAMINANTS
  - Toxics Release Inventory: Point Sources of Contaminants in the LSJR Region
  - Poly-aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
  - Metals
  - Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
  - Pesticides

If you review the full report online, the State of the River Report is based on the best available data for each river health indicator listed above. How each indicator contributes to, or signals, overall river health is discussed in terms of its 1) Current Status, and 2) the Trend overtime. The Current Status for each indicator is based on the most recent data and is designated as "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory." In some cases, this designation is defined by whether the indicator meets state and federal minimum standards and guidelines. The Trend is derived, where possible, from statistical analyses of the best available scientific data for each indicator and reflects historical change over the time period analyzed. The Trend ratings for each indicator are designated as "conditions improving," "conditions stable," "conditions worsening," or "uncertain." The Trend rating does not consider initiated or planned management efforts that have not yet had a direct impact on the indicator. Statistical tests to indicate trends vary with each indicator and are described in each section.

It was announced that in Duval County, there are 75 impaired tributaries that feed into the St. Johns River. At this time there 25 of the tributaries have plans to clean them up. Dr. Pinto discussed the health of six tributaries in the GAB District that feed into the St. Johns River. The first tributary was the Arlington River.

#### Arlington River, WBID 2265A

This report presents the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nutrients for the Arlington River in the North Mainstem Planning Unit of the Lower St. Johns Basin. The river was verified as impaired for nutrients, dissolved oxygen and fecal chloroform. The overall health of the Arlington River is unsatisfactory.

#### Ginhouse Creek Tributary (2248)

This creek is located south of the St. Johns River and just west of Craig Airfield in a primarily residential are. Ginhouse creek is a fresh water creek that runs approximately 2 miles to the St. Johns River. The creek has some impairments; Fecal Coliform (med) levels.

#### Greenfield Creek Tributary (2240A, 2240B)

This fresh water creek is located west of the Intracoastal Waterway and runs through residential areas. Greenfield Creek has contamination problems, the problems are fecal coliform and mercury at elevated levels. A Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) was implemented in 2010 and (Total Maximum Daily Load) documents that discuss how much the waterbody can contain and still be considered 'healthy'. Recent Greenfield Creek water samples indicated improvements, especially after a pump station was repaired and pipes were cleaned.

#### Intracoastal Waterway Tributary (2205C)

The Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) study area started near the mouth of the St. Johns River and samples were collected in multiple spots along the ICW well into St. Johns County. The ICW is primarily salt water, marsh and wet land. The ICW has several contaminants, fecal coliform, iron and mercury.

#### Pottsburg Creek Tributary (2265B)

Pottsburg Creek is a fresh water creek that is located east of the St. Johns River and begins south of the Butler Blvd/I-95 interchange and runs through mostly residential areas for approximately 9.1 miles. Pottsburg Creek has contamination problems (fecal coliform) and TMDL. There is a (BMAP) for Pottsburg Creek that was implemented in 2010. Since the BMAP has been put into place, it has been determined that improvements in the water quality have been made.

#### Strawberry Creek Tributary (2239)

Strawberry Creek is a fresh water creek begins near Lone Star Road/Mill Creek Road and flows into the Arlington River. Most of Strawberry Creek runs through residential areas. It has been determined that it has contaminations problems, mainly fecal coliform. In 2009 a TMDL was started, but a BMAP has not been completed.

Dr. Pinto did clarify that fecal coliform bacteria are a natural component of digestive systems of birds and mammals. They aid in digestion, and are not normally considered harmful. In 1972, growing public awareness and concern for controlling water pollution led to enactment of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and was amended in 1977, this law became commonly known as the Clean Water Act. This law required the nation's publicly owned sewer systems to remove 90% of the solid matter, and to disinfect the effluent, which was usually done with chlorine, to protect streams and rivers. Recently there has been a trend to move from chlorine to other oxidants (such as peroxides, oxygen, or ultraviolet light) because chlorine by-products may be harmful.

Salinity in regard to aquatic life was briefly discussed. Salinity has a number of factors that impact the river and tributaries; droughts and hurricanes have a significant impact on the salinity of the St. Johns River. Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is also used to determine the health of the river. SAV provides nurseries for a variety of aquatic life, helps to prevent erosion, and reduces turbidity by trapping sediment. Dr. Pinto discussed the SAV distribution and abundance as major indicators of ecosystem health; the grasses serve as a nursery for many species and provide food for many others. As the amount salinity increases the amount and types of vegetation changes. The St. Johns River is now considered brackish to approximately the Buckman Bridge.

It was also stated that over the years, dredging to deepen the channel for commercial and naval shipping in Jacksonville, has led to salt water intrusion upstream. The magnitude of this intrusion over time has not been well quantified. Further deepening is likely to impact salinity

regimes that could be detrimental to the grass beds. This is especially important if harbor deepening were to occur in conjunction with freshwater withdrawals for the river.

Handouts were provided to the CPAC members and attendees. Additional information can be found at [www.sjrreport.com](http://www.sjrreport.com)

5. **Chair's Report** – Chair Anania – no report

6. **Elected Officials Reports** –

**District 1, Councilmember Morgan** announced her next Town Hall meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016 at the Regency Square Library at 6:00 pm. Councilmember Morgan informed the CPAC that the CRA – Renew Arlington will be creating an advisory board. Applications for the new advisory board can be found on the COJ.net website, go to Boards and Commissions to find the application.

**District 3, Councilmember Bowman** introduced Jose Cuetos as his representative on the GAB CPAC. Councilmember Bowman stated that his district covers 2 CPAC districts and he plans to attend the CPAC as often as he can. Bowman informed the CPAC he met with FDOT to discuss the crashes on Atlantic Blvd. The results of the study will be presented at the Queens Harbour board meeting tomorrow night. Bowman stated that he did want to recognize the beautification/tree planting that was completed on Kernan Blvd.

7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

The Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee met at 5:00 p.m. The subcommittee reviewed 9 applications and 2 motions were made:

**Approval of MM-16-02**, the request to increase lot coverage from 40 percent to 50 percent with the condition that the development shall be subject to proper technical review and engineering to ensure adequate septic systems. The lot area seems to be substandard in relation to the ¼ acre minimum for an on-site septic system. Increasing lot coverage may compound the undesirable impacts of the on-site septic on the Stormwater drainage system by decreasing the surface area available for a correctly functioning septic system with drain fields. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Supporting Approval of TR\_97 for rezoning 11335 Atlantic Blvd.** (Tracking Number 997). The request is consistent with the surrounding neighborhood of intense commercial activity, promotes commercial use and expansion and is consistent with traffic intensity and all appropriate plans and studies. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Beautification** – Larry Belge – no report
  - **Environment** – Lad Hawkins – no report
  - **Membership** – Karen Hunter-Nowak – no report
  - **Transportation** – Ben Tucker – no report
  - **Ad-Hoc:**
  - **North Florida TPO** – Roger Sharp – not present
  - **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – no representative
- Unfinished Business** - none

8. **New Business** – none

9. **Public Comments/Announcements (3-minute time limit)** –

**Motion to Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: February 8, 2016 ~ 6:30 p.m.**  
**LOCATION: Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport**  
**855-1 Craig Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32225**