

# Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

## August 8, 2016 Meeting Summary

Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport, 855-1 Craig Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32225

Organizations - Representatives	Staff and Officials
Arlington Business Society - Michael Anania	FDOT - Jim Green
Queens Harbour POA - Dr. Ramsey Salem - Vice Chair	Jax Library - Sara Roberts
Caroline Forest Homeowners Assoc. - Kacy Evans	JaxParks - Megan Williamson
Charter Point Community Association - Bob Barletta	JEA - Judi Spann
Clifton Civic Association - Melody Shacter	JFRD - Chief Owens
Communities of East Arlington - Lad Hawkins	JSO Zone 2 Assistant Chief - Lt. Nader
Hawkins Cove - Amita Agnihorti	JTA - Mike Miller
Hawkins Cove HOA - Karen Hunter Nowak	Military Affairs and Veterans Department - Bill Spann
Ibis Point Owners Assoc. - Nina Pougouklidis	Neighborhoods -Code Enforcement - Elaine Lancaster
Kensington Assoc. - Tim Keeley	Neighborhoods Department - Margretta Haywood
Lucina Lake Association - Kirk Armstrong	Neighborhoods Services Office - Rosemary Wesolowski
Monument Oaks HOA – Bob Davis	Planning & Development Department - Christian Popoli
Old Arlington Inc. - Peter Mione	
Old Mill Cove Community Organization - Jerry Petowsky	Visitors:
River Woods - St. Johns Landing HOA - Larry Belge	Maysa Shelton - DCPS
Southern Grove Condo Association - Patricia Sanders	Mack Brandon - DCPS
The Valley at Hidden Hills - John Roberts	Megan Pardue - DCPS
The Woods Community Association - James Blanche	Alberta Hipps - JAA
University Park Civic Association - Shirley George	Nicole Riether - UNF
	Tamera Branam - JPL
Excused:	
Alderman Park - Marcella Lowe	
Bentwater Place - Ed Maxted	
Council Appointee - District 1 - Michele Davis	
Council Appointee - District 3 - Jose Cuetos	
Covington Creek HOA - Lenny Hanapel	
Monument Oaks HOA - Eddi Parsons	

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum-** Chair Anania called the August 2016 GAB CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary –** Chair Anania announced that the GAB CPAC will approve the July and August meeting summaries at the September 12, 2016 GAB CPAC meeting.  
**Presentation(s): Shannon Blankinship, Education Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper,** provided a brief overview of the purpose and role of the St. Johns Riverkeeper. Ms. Blankinship discussed toxic algal blooms and how the community could help improve the health of the St. Johns River and its tributaries. To improve the health of the river, the Riverkeeper recommends that homeowners minimize the use of fertilizers; use water wisely (install low-flow fixtures in your home); do not pour toxic chemicals into the ground, drains, toilet or send to landfill; clean up pet fecal matter; maintain vehicles to reduce air pollution and prevent fluid leaks; keep plant clippings,

leaves, fertilizers and chemicals from going into storm drains; create rain gardens, swales, use rain barrels and divert downspouts away from driveways; do not throw trash, cigarette butts and chemicals into the river.

Ms. Blankinship discussed the proposed plan to dredge the St. Johns River. In effort to increase the depth of the cargo shipping lanes, JaxPort and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have applied for permits to complete a dredging project that would apply to thirteen miles of the river, from the mouth of the St. Johns River to just west of the Dames Point Bridge near Blount Island. Two areas of the channel close to Chicopit Bay and Ft. Caroline National Memorial would be widened. Up to 56 million cubic yards of dredge material would be removed from annual maintenance dredging over the 50-year life of the project. The dredged material will be placed in a newly created Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS), located in the Atlantic Ocean southeast of the mouth of the river. Ms. Blankinship stated the proposed dredging project will have environmental impacts that would be significant. Salinity will move farther upstream, impacting hundreds of acres of wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs) and killing or stressing numerous trees in some sections of the river. The most significant impacts to wetlands are expected to occur along the St. Johns, within the Ortega River, Arlington River, Julington, Durbin, Pottsburg and Black Creeks. Water may remain in the river for a longer period of time, increasing the probability of algal blooms. Larger ships will create larger wakes, increasing the likelihood of shoreline erosion.

Ms. Blankinship stated the mitigation plan for the dredging project is inadequate, failing to offset the damage incurred from dredging. It was mentioned that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have expressed concerns regarding the potential impacts to threatened and endangered species from the blasting that will be necessary. The impacts from dredging are expected to significantly exacerbate and expedite the inevitable effects of sea level rise (SLR). Ms. Blankinship informed the CPAC that the Riverkeeper has filed a lawsuit with the Federal Court in effort to stop the dredging project.

#### **4. Elected Officials Reports –**

##### **No reports**

#### **5. Staff Reports**

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – Lt. Nader stated year to date, Citywide crime is down 6.52% and in Zone 2 crime is down 7%.
- **JFRD (Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department)** – Chief Owens did not have a report, but was available for questions.
- **Mayor's Liaison –**
- **Duval County Public Schools** – Brandon Mack, DCPS, Partnership and Community Engagement, Supervisor informed the CPAC that August 15, 2016 will be the first day of school in Duval County. Mr. Mack introduced Principal Maysha Shelton from Arlington Middle School. Principal Shelton reminded the CPAC that she was a Principal at Fort Caroline Middle School, but Fort Caroline Middle School has been changed to a performing arts magnet middle school. At Arlington Middle School, Principal Shelton is looking forward to the new school year. Terry Parker High School Principal, Megan Perdue informed the CPAC that the graduation rate at Terry Parker is up to 86%. Principal Perdue proudly announced the Terry Parker Navy JROTC participated in the NJROTC Nationals. The NJROTC Nationals is currently the most comprehensive test of overall JROTC training and performance. This year, units from each of the eleven Navy Areas participated in the two-day academic, athletic and drill competition. The Terry Parker High School NJROTC ranked 25<sup>th</sup> out of 473 NJROTC programs that participated. Principal Dean Ledford, Fletcher High School, introduced himself and informed the CPAC that he currently has 2200 students enrolled and has a waiting list to attend Fletcher High School. Fletcher High School offers curriculum that consists of AP, Dual Enrollment, Honors, and Advanced courses provides exceptional support to students who are preparing for college.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green did not have a report, but was available for questions.
- **Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport** – Tiffany Gillem – report was read by Rosemary Wesolowski. The report read: Southwest Airlines announced new nonstop service between Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) and Dallas Love Field (DAL). The flights will initially operate on Saturday and Sunday. Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) has been inducted into the Airports Council International (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence for consistently delivering excellence in customer service. The award recognizes airports worldwide that received high marks from passengers who participated in ACI's Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Surveys. The ACI ASQ Survey measures passengers' appraisal of 34 key performance indicators on the day they travel, allowing airports to get an accurate picture of traveler sentiment.

If you are traveling to Jacksonville International Airport (JAX), please be aware that part of Pecan Park Road is closed. A curb is being realigned in the road (south of the airport entrance) off of International Airport Blvd. The road is expected to be closed for approximately one year. At this year's Florida Airports Council Conference & Exposition held in July, Cecil Airport received FDOT's Project of the Year Award for the "Eastside Development Improvements." JAA's Board Meeting for August is cancelled. A meeting cancellation notice will be sent out. At JAXEX, the arsenic removal work at the golf course is complete. The Interim Source Removal (ISR) report has been submitted to FDEP.

- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)** – Sara Roberts, Region Manager for Pablo Creek Region announced that most of the summer programs are ending and JPL will be rolling out new programs for the fall; details will be provided soon.
  - **JaxParks** – Megan Williamson addressed a previous concern in regard to the dumpsters at the Fort Caroline Community Club; new dumpsters will be delivered to the club soon. Ms. Williamson stated 15 dead trees were removed from at the dog park located near the Ed Austin Regional Park.
  - **JEA (Jacksonville Electric Authority)** – Judi Spann no report, but provided an update. JEA is spraying the kudzu and other vines growing on poles. If there is a concern or question, please call 665-6000
  - **JTA (Jacksonville Transportation Authority)** – Mike Miller provided a number of handouts/brochures to the CPAC members and guests. The handouts/brochures included: Hurricane Evacuation Routes; Beaches Trolley; Game Express; August 1, 2016 Bus Services Changes; December 5, 2016 Bus Services Changes; Bus Rapid Transit Service and the JTA Transit Hub.
  - **Military Affairs and Veterans Department** – Bill Spann – no report
  - **Neighborhoods Department (Municipal Code Compliance)** – Elaine Lancaster announced two systematic inspections were completed in the past 30 days. The systematic inspections were conducted in the East Arlington and Atlantic Highlands communities. In August, Fort Caroline Shores is scheduled for a systematic inspection. Ms. Lancaster stated that she has two new code compliance officers and they are running about two weeks behind.
  - **Planning & Development Department** – Christian Popoli, no report, but available for questions.
  - **Public Works** – Steve Long – not present
6. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports (3 minute time limit)**
- **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs** – Jerry Petoskey on behalf of Mike Anania. The LUZ Subcommittee reviewed several LUZ applications and the subcommittee decided not to take an action on any of the applications. No motions were made.
  - **Beautification/Parks** – Larry Belge – No report
  - **Environment** – Lad Hawkins – No report
  - **Membership** – Karen Hunter-Nowak – No report
  - **Transportation** – Ben Tucker – Not present
- Ad-Hoc:**
- **TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission** - vacant
  - **North Florida TPO** – vacant
7. **Neighborhood Coordinator Report** – Rosemary Wesolowski announced the Neighborhood Services Office has two upcoming community training classes. The classes and schedules are:  
 Condo Association Training – September 27, 2016, 1:00 – 4:30 pm in the Ed Ball Building.  
 HOA/Townhome Training – September 27, 2016, 6:00 – 9:00 pm in the Ed Ball Building.  
 Land Use and Zoning Training – October 13, 2016, 6:00 – 9:00 pm in the Ed Ball Building.  
 Rosemary reminded the CPAC that we are approaching the time of year to form the temporary Nomination Subcommittee. Please consider serving on this vital subcommittee.
8. **CPAC Chair's Report – Michael Anania** – informed the CPAC that members of City Council would like the CPAC's to have more involvement and a greater voice within city government.
9. **Unfinished Business** - none
10. **New Business** – Member Pougouklidis expressed concern about the synchronization of traffic lights on Atlantic Boulevard near Kernan Boulevard, Girvin Road, Hodges Boulevard and San Pablo Road. Other CPAC members from the east Arlington communities shared this concern. The CPAC as a group made inquiries about the traffic lights with Jim Green, FDOT representative. Mr. Green stated he would research information the signals that are controlled by FDOT, but he stated the City of Jacksonville is responsible for some of the signals.
- Chair Anania and the members requested to have a presentation from both FDOT and the City of Jacksonville on traffic light synchronization at a future meeting.
11. **Public Comments, Concerns or Announcements (3-minute time limit)-**
12. **Motion to Adjourn**

**The next meeting of the District 2 CPAC will be Monday, September 12, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport, 855-1 Craig Drive, Jacksonville FL, 32225**