

District #1 - Urban Core

Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Meeting Location: Ed Ball Building – Training Room 110 – 214 N. Hogan St.

Chair: Christina Parrish 434-0959 ceparrish.CPAC@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Gloria DeVall 449-4340 gloria.devall2010@comcast.net

Mayor's Representative: Carolyn Shehee-Williams 630-1636 cshehe@coj.net

Neighborhood Coordinator: Rosemary Wesolowski 255-8261 rosemary@coj.net



Meeting Summary Monday, March 3, 2014

Members

Arnold, Ruth – 02nd Mile Ministries
DeVall, Gloria – Preservation SOS
Harris, Darcel – Mother Midway AME
Merrick, Dorothy – Plaza Condominiums
Parrish, Christina – SAMBA
Partlow, Levoyus – Good Neighbor M.A.N.I.A.
Radlinski, Greg – Parks at the Cathedral
Swain, Deloris – Grand Boulevard Crime Watch
Swain, Johnny – Grand Boulevard Crime Watch
Trent, Erica – Pathways Academy Charter School
Vanderlaan, Doug – SPAR Council

Excused –

Demopoulos, Dimitri – Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Assoc. Inc.
Hamilton, Victoria – St. John's Lutheran Church
Hamilton, William C. – St. John's Lutheran Church

Guests

Cannon, Alice – JTA

Staff/Resource

Barth, Michelle -Mayor's Office	Logsdon, Kenny - HCDD
Myers, Tim - Code Compliance	Ransom, Lisa – Planning
Ricks, Lt. Jimmy - JSO	Simmons, Shaniqua – JaxParks
Taulbee, Karen – FDOT	Wesolowski, Rosemary -HCDD
Shehee-Williams, Carolyn – Mayor's Liaison	

Call to Order

Chair DeVall called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.; it was established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone.

Approval of the Minutes

Member Demopoulos made a Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the January 2014 meeting and a second was made by Member Ruth. The motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers:

Jim Robinson, City of Jacksonville, Director of Public Works – attended the meeting to provide an update on a couple of projects. The Main Library is getting some restoration work to repair a water intrusion problem. Until the repair crews opened up the damaged area, no one was aware of the extent of the damage. It appears that there is a design flaw, which caused the water damage. Due to the scope of the problem, the restoration is taking a bit long than they had hoped, but the project should be completed in 2-3 months. Also at the Main Library, one of the Conference Centers is being converted to an Enterprise Center. Also in the Urban Core, work has begun on the Southbank River Walk. This project is going to be extensive. The plans include replacing now breaking and decaying wood with concrete, adding new lighting, more shade and seating space and floating docks. The funding for this project was actually

approved years ago, and at that time, the price tag covered the entire renovation. Now, however, the easternmost portion of the Riverwalk will not be included. The pricing now vs. more than two years ago doesn't bring in as much. Currently there is a barge moored of the Southbank as a staging area to hold building materials and workers. The Southbank River walk project is expected to be completed by December 2014. Heming Plaza has also had some of the tables and chairs removed. Currently, JaxParks is looking into developing programs and activities that can be used regularly in Heming Plaza.

Suraya Teeple, JTA, spoke on the BRT East Corridor – The east corridor includes the east side of Jacksonville in to Arlington. With the BRT, JTA is planning improve routes, improve reliability, add shelter where they are needed, reevaluate bus stop locations and blend services to improve the transportation needs of those in the East Corridor. System is also supposed to reduced travel time, provide more convenient and frequent service, offer transit vehicles with quicker and easier boarding, add exclusive lanes for transit vehicles, add a system to enable traffic signal priority, coordinated neighborhood shuttles and feeder bus system and with the aid of cell phones and apps enhanced transit stop locations with reliable real-time schedule/arrival. The East Corridor Begins at the Rosa Parks Station, travels east on Union Street, over the Mathews Bridge on the Arlington Expressway, past Regency Square Mall on Atlantic and ends to return at San Pablo Road.

Carl Weckenmann, JTA, Blue Print Corridor for Transportation Excellence, to include elements relative to alternate fuels, improving on-time performance, pilot with next bus, choice riders, transit signal priority, technology of Skyway System, Plan, Regional Transportation Commission, Commuter Service to park n Ride in Clay County as well as opportunities in St. Johns and Nassau Counties and commuter rail planning. However, his primary focus was more on the restructuring of the transit routes. 80% of their changes are expected to be in place by the end of 2014. Mr. Weckenmann also spoke briefly on the apps that are under development; once the app is completed, riders will be able to use the app for real time route information. There was also some dialogue about routes, the skyway and improvements at the Rosa Parks Station.

Alice Cannon, JTA, informed the groups about the JTA Community Advisory groups. The Jacksonville Transportation Authority is undergoing a transformation and we want the community to help and share the transportation needs of all in the community. JTA developed the Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) to reach out to the community. JTA has a lot of good news to share about JTA, but need the communities help so they can better prepare for the regional transportation needs of 21st Century commuters and new public transportation customers. JTA's objective is to create a sustainable transportation network of public transit choices, state roads and bridges that will greatly improve mobility in our area.

There were a few questions for Ms. Teeple and Mr. Weckenmann:

What is the future of the Skyway Express? At this time JTA is evaluating the system and they are looking to expand the system into Brooklyn. Will they extend the Skyway to the Stadium? JTA is conducting a cost benefit analysis for adding that line; will it be used enough to offset the cost to build? Will you start charging to use the Skyway? Not at this time.

Does JTA still offer service to the JIA? Yes, the CT3 bus will take you to the airport for \$1.50. The CT3 departs once an hour from the Rosa Parks Station.

Elected Officials Reports –

None

Staff Reports:

JSO Zone 1 – Lt. Jimmy Ricks

Lt. Ricks informed the group that crime is down in Zone 1. Year to date, violent crime is down - 8% and property crime is down 3.6%. Recently JSO looks at crime data to see when and where they need to have officers stationed in the district. In the Urban Core on Friday and Saturday nights, officers do need to focus on the activities around the Landing. Other than the Landing, the Urban Core has several other hot spots. Each of these hot spots are small in size, but they need the additional attention. For assistance and information call the JSO Zone 1 Sub Station at 924-5361 or JSOzone1@jaxsheriff.org

It was brought to Lt. Ricks attention that one neighborhood has concerns that prostitutes are working the corner where a school bus stop is located. It was requested to have some additional help from JSO at the bus stop. Lt. Ricks suggested that they call the non-emergency JSO number whenever they need assistance at the bus stop.

The group also informed Lt. Ricks that Jay walking along Main Street and that the crossing light located at Tallulah & Main street is problematic. They ask JSO address these concerns.

Mayor's Representative – Ms. Shehee Williams – no report

Mayor's Liaison – Michelle Barth

Ms. Barth stated that she tried to follow up on all the questions that arose at last month meeting. If your question or concern was not addressed, please let Ms. Barth know. Ms. Barth also informed the group that Mayor Brown is actively working on Pension/Retirement reform. Mayor Brown has a task force that is looking at every option available to get this reform underway. Looking at JEA is just one of the options that will be explored. For more information, please contact Ms. Barth at MBarth@coj.net.

Member Vanderlaan thanked Ms. Barth for assisting with his 630-CITY concern, but inquired if she had any additional information about the City owned property at 9th and Main. Ms. Barth informed him that she has researched the property and that our Real Estate Division is currently conducting a property asset study on all city owned property and that study has not been completed yet.

Duval County Public Schools – not present

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Karen Taulbee reported that on February 10, 2014 FDOT will be kicking off a study on the I-10/I-95/Fuller Warren Project to add another lane to the Fuller Warren Bridge and I-10. The latest proposal would add lanes to the northbound side of the bridge via striping, and only widen the southbound side to six lanes. Some right of way for construction would be needed for the Roosevelt Boulevard changes, including the flyover off the interstate westbound. The study is focused on identifying low impact/moderate cost modifications that will improve the flow of traffic through the existing interchange area. The project study area runs along I-10 from McDuff Avenue (Exit 360) to the I-95 interchange and along I-95 from I-10 to Kings Avenue. The study kick-off meeting will begin with a presentation at 4:30 pm followed by a public comment opportunity at the Riverside Park United Methodist Church , 819 Church Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204 on February 10, 2014.

Mr. Green can be reached at 360-5684 or James.green@dot.state.fl.us

Planning and Development – Planner Lisa Ransom, informed the group that there has been a change in Planners assigned to the Urban Core. Marvin Echols has been reassigned to the North CPAC and Lisa Ransom has now joined the Urban Core team. Ms. Ransom brought applications for those that are interested in adding hens in their backyard; she also stated that there is a \$25.00 fee for each application. For additional information on the Hen Application process, call Aaron Glick at 255-7826 or Helena Parola at 255-7842. Ms. Ransom also informed the group that she works in the Historic Preservation Division of the Planning and Development Department. Currently, the Historic Preservation Division is accepting nomination applications

for Historic Preservation Projects. Ms. Ransom brought nomination applications; if you have questions call Lisa Sheppard at 255-7843. Ms. Ransom was happy to announce that the Mayor's Office made 3 nominations to the Civil Rights Hall of Fame and they were all chosen by Governor Scott. The nominations were for Dr. Robert Hayling from St. Augustine, A. Philip Randolph of Jacksonville and James Weldon Johnson of Jacksonville (Ms. Ransom wrote this application). They will be inducted on May 14, 2014 in Tallahassee, FL. In regard to the interest on the Mobility Fee Ordinance, Steve Smith is handling the ordinance for the department. Mr. Smith can answer questions on the on the departments position on the ordinance that is being presented. Mr. Smith can be reached at 255-8319.

Ms. Ransom can be reached at 255-7834 or lransom@coj.net

Project New Ground – Bill Holman

Stated that contractors are supposed to a cleanup in Springfield, but there appears to be some sort of contract dispute. For the time being the cleanup has been put on hold.

One of the members stated that he had his property remediated and now all of his trees are dying. Does Project New Ground have an arborist that can come out and look at the trees? It was confirmed that they do have an arborist. The CPAC member requested contact information.

Project New Ground can be contacted at 630-CITY (2489) or the Outreach Center at 357-8077.

Parks & Recreation – Shaniqua Simmons stated that she is filling in for Mark Hartley. Ms. Simmons informed the group that JaxParks is working on programming for Hemming Plaza. Currently the programs are limited to Thursday and Fridays from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm; you can find a variety of food trucks at the park during this time. An RFP will be going out for additional programming. Ms. Simmons stated that she was uncertain to the seating, but would share that question with Mr. Hartley.

The CPAC discussed the smell of Heming plaza and requested that they stay up on the cleanliness of the park. There was also a difference in ideas in regard to adding more or removing more seating from Heming Plaza. It was discussed that the CPAC may want to have Heming Plaza as a discussion for a future meeting.

It was also mentioned that there continues to be problems with Confederate Park getting the park locked at night and unlock at a reasonable time in the morning.

Mr. Hartley can be reached at 472-2865 or mhartley@coj.net

Jacksonville Public Library – not present

Public Works – Mr. Robinson spoke earlier

Neighborhoods –

Code Compliance – Interim Supervisor Tim Myers, informed the group that they will be rotating Supervisors until someone is hired permanently, next month a different representative will be at the UC CPAC meeting representing Code Compliance. Last month, they completed 1226 inspections in Zone 1.

It was questioned when the Special Masters hearing will be held. It was stated that the next meeting will be held on tomorrow, February 4, 2014 at 10:00 am. There was also a question if they inspected 302 E. Ashley Street for a broken window and non-repair. It was confirmed that it has been inspected and that it should already have a rolling fine on it. The bank is having problems getting in to the unit, but they should have access now. It was requested to have someone drive by it in the morning before the Special Masters Hearing in the morning so they can have someone confirm if the window has been repaired or not. A member stated that he saw his house on television as part of a story about demolition of homes with asbestos that are

being torn down using Federal funds. How are homes with asbestos being demolished? It was stated that before any home is demolished by the city, an asbestos survey is completed first to determine if the house needs to be sprayed down to control asbestos. If you have questions in regard to asbestos and/or demolitions, please contact Kim Scott, Chief of Code Compliance. **Code Compliance can be reached at 255-7000.**

Neighborhoods – Housing and Community Development Division – Neighborhood Coordinator Rosemary Wesolowski informed the group that the Neighborhood Initiatives Team will be offering Free Training for Condo, Townhome and Homeowner Association training/certification on March 18, 2014; additional details will follow. It was stated that she has contacted the Duval County School Board and asked if a DCPS representative would be able to attend UC CPAC meeting. The DCPS stated that they would try to have a representative attend. FDOT has announced that they will start working on the Main Street Bridge; there will be periodic bridge closures. Free tax assistance is available at all Jacksonville Libraries; contact AARP or RealSense to schedule an appointment if you need assistance or preparation.

Ms. Wesolowski can be reached at 255-8261 or rosemary@coj.net

Chair's Report

- Chair DeVall brought the Mobility Fee Ordinance to attention. The goal is to have the developers pay for the road improvements needed to accommodate their new developments instead of the taxpayers. Next there was a moratorium and now there is another bill on this topic. Chair DeVall stated to the best of her understanding, the new bill will allow the developers to have the option to choose how they spend their money and changes the priority. At the BPAC meeting on Friday the group decided that they needed more time to understand the bill. BPAC plans to ask City Council to defer the bill to let the public digest the information. The UC CPAC discussed their interpretation of the bill and decided that it would be beneficial if the CPAC also sent a letter requesting a deferral. A motion was made and seconded and the CPAC voted unanimously that a letter be sent to City Council asking for a deferral on the Mobility Fee ordinance.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Preservation** – Chair DeVall ~ There is a home in Durkeeville that will be going for landmark status.
- **Transportation** – not present
- **Parks** – Greg Radlinski - no report
- **TRUE Commission** – Greg Radlinski – no report

Unfinished Business

New Business

Public Comments/Announcements:

Attendee Megan Dobb presented on the Casino gambling and stated that it is a statewide problem with Miami scheduled to be the 1st destination resort casino. She provided a handout and asked if everyone would look into this.

Adjournment

*Member Arnold made a Motion to adjourn and was Member Vanderlaan seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.*

The next Urban Core CPAC meeting is on
Monday, February 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.,
at the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan Street, 1st floor Training Room