

District #1 - Urban Core

Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

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

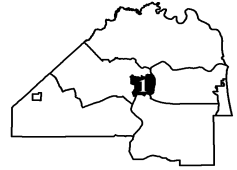
Chair: Gloria De Vall 449-4340 gloria.cpac@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Greg Radlinski 354-8080 giradlinski@bellsouth.net

Mayor's Liaison: Michelle Barth 630-2456 mbarth@coj.net

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

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



Meeting Summary Monday, April 7, 2014

Members

Arnold, Ruth – 02nd Mile Ministries
Demopoulos, Dimitri – Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Assoc. Inc.
DeVall, Gloria – Preservation SOS
Hamilton, Victoria – St. John's Lutheran Church
Hamilton, William C. – St. John's Lutheran Church
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, John B. – Grand Boulevard Crime Watch

Excused –

Vanderlaan, Doug – SPAR Council

Guests

Manis, Steve	Spiritas, Jackie – Jacksonville Public Library
Lewis, Richard – Plaza	Hyde, Robert – JPRC
Tappanni, Michelle	Good, Allison,
Whisler, Terry	Manis, Lane
Holman, Bill – Hester Group	

Staff/Resource

Logsdon, Kenny – HCDD	Ransom, Lisa – Planning
Ricks, Lt. Jimmy – JSO	Hartley, Mark – JaxParks
Wesolowski, Rosemary -HCDD	

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 Merrick made a Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the March 2014 meeting and a second was made by Member Parrish. The motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers:

Stephen Joost, City Council at Large, spoke to the group about the upcoming gas tax extension.

Joost informed the group that in the past decade, revenues from Jacksonville's "local option gas tax" have declined 20 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars even as our population and economy have grown. Gov. Rick Scott's transportation secretary, Ananth Prasad, has

repeatedly said the gas tax is unsustainable. Florida has lost billions of dollars in recent years because of declining state gas tax revenues.

How we pay for our infrastructure must change with it. To think we can simply continue business as usual, especially for another 20 years, is a formula for failure. Two major trends make the gas tax a dinosaur. First, fuel-efficient cars and trucks are traveling many more miles on less gas. Today's standard mileage is 23.6 miles per gallon. In 2016, the fuel efficiency standard for new cars and light trucks will be 34.1 miles per gallon. In 2025, it will be 54.5 miles per gallon.

Second, more cars and trucks no longer run on gasoline alone. Joost used the Toyota Prius as an example; once the Prius was novelty, but now it's mainstream. Even more dramatic is the conversion of the large diesel-powered trucks to natural gas. The average heavy truck consumes as much gasoline/diesel as 40 cars in a year. Although these trucks are just 1 percent of all vehicles on the road, they consume 20 percent of all gasoline/diesel. Companies with large truck fleets like UPS and FedEx are in the midst of a mass conversion to natural gas. Relatively speaking, natural gas is cheap, abundant, environmentally friendly and American-made.

These trends also make the gasoline tax unfair. The gas tax used to make sense because people who drove more paid more. But with fuel-efficient and alternative-fuel vehicles, that link between road usage and gas tax revenue is now broken. As fuel choices change, we need to think outside the box of more appropriate funding sources for our infrastructure. With the gas tax expiration still more than two years away, we have time to analyze what is best for us. Instead of rushing ahead to make a 20-year commitment to a dying revenue source, we should have a discussions and research that's focused on the future.

There are gas tax advocates and they insist we must decide right now because we would be able to issue bonds to borrow money before interest rates and construction costs go up. Joost acknowledged that interest rates are currently low, but stated that they have been for a long time, and the Federal Reserve gives every indication it will keep them that way. No matter the interest rate, it's not fiscally responsible to jump deep into debt when we are unlikely to have the money to pay it off because the gas tax revenue stream has dried up.

Joost stated that he wanted to take advantage of the time (2 years) we have to engage in a thoughtful community conversation about how we pay for transportation. It's time for the City Council to reach out to the community and ask our citizens for their thoughts and input.

Stephen Dare, MetroJacksonville.com

Mr. Dare informed the group that he has been involved in MetroJacksonville.com since it's inception in 2005. Mr. Dare stated he it has been interesting to watch his social media grow. Initially, there was 500 communicating back and forth on bulletins, but now there are over 500,000 readers every month.

Mr. Dare went on to say that social media has changed everything in publishing. It was noted that local politics are changing and starting to utilize social media too. Social media is also changing how we communicate and inform each other of happenings, events, news and politics.

Public Comments/Announcements:

Terry Whisler and Steve Mannis both spoke in regard to their concern of overzealous code enforcement officers writing violations/citations for problems that don't exist at their homes in Springfield. This spurred a passionate and very lengthy discussion with CPAC members and visitors in regard to the amount of and inappropriate reasons that the violations / citations were

written. Almost every attendee had been cited for at least one violation and most shared why they were cited.

From this discussion it was identified that Operation Urban Blight was the catalyst behind the recent code enforcement sweep. Staff member Kenny Logsdon informed the group that Operation Urban Blight is supposed to target illegal dumping, trash, tires and various other violations. The Code Enforcement Officers completed zip code 32206 and next will be working in zip code 32202; followed by 32204.

Other CPAC members spoke up and thanked the Code Enforcement Officer, stating that they did not live in Springfield and their neighborhood really needed this program and Code Enforcement is invited into their neighborhood any time.

Dennis Steele, Code Enforcement Supervisor for District 1 introduced himself to the CPAC. Mr. Steele encouraged those that were concerned to call him. He stated that he was willing to work one on one with them in regard to their concerns.

Dennis Steele can be reached at 255-7040 or dsteele@coj.net

Elected Officials Reports –

None

Staff Reports:

JSO Zone 1 – Lt. Jimmy Ricks

Lt. Ricks informed the group that JSO has completed some undercover work at the Confederate Dog Park. An undercover narcotics agent worked the area 7 times. Twice the security guard for the park ran him off, 5 times were uneventful and the 7th time a transient person took the officer to purchase drugs in an area away from the park.

For assistance and information call the JSO Zone 1 Sub Station at 924-5361 or

JSOzone1@jaxsheriff.org

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

Mayor's Liaison – Michelle Barth

Not present

Duval County Public Schools – not present

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – not present

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

Planning and Development – Planner Lisa Ransom, stated there are no new zoning applications pending until April 24. One application is for a recycling facility to expand on Talleyrand Ave. and the other is for the Cummer Museum to add additional signage and parking across the street. They also applied for a special event liquor license.

No motions were made or actions taken on either application.

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

Project New Ground – not present

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

Parks & Recreation – Informed the group that registration for Summer Camp began last week. Individuals can register for summer camp online at coj.net or at JaxParks.net. Once you are on online you can see all the locations of the camps and their hours of operations. There will be 450 vouchers available for summer camp. Currently, updates are underway for A. Philip Randolph Park. First the play-set will be updated and secondly a cross training fitness circuit will be set up. Completion is scheduled for June 1, 2014. One Spark begins on Thursday
Mr. Hartley can be reached at 472-2865 or mhartley@coj.net

Jacksonville Public Library – not present

Public Works – not present

Neighborhoods –

Code Compliance – Dennis Steele, Supervisor introduced and spoke earlier in regard to citations and Operation Urban Blight.

Code Compliance can be reached at 255-7000.

Neighborhoods – Housing and Community Development Division – Neighborhood Coordinator no report, available for questions or assistance

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

Chair's Report

- Chair DeVall updated the CPAC about her continued involvement with the Consolidated Government Task Force and the recommendations of the Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, Planning, Services and St. Johns River Subcommittee. DeVall gave an overview of their proposed recommendations: creative 30-40 neighborhood councils, hold meetings on a quarterly basis, include the neighborhood councils in the CIP process, electronic communication of ideas from the city to the citizenry should expand (the chairs agree with this) and to have the more involvement with the administration (the chairs agree with this too). Chair DeVall informed the group that she and the 5 other CPAC chairs have continued to meet and jointly sent a letter to Councilmember Boyer and to the Subcommittee Chair, Rena Coughlin. Chair DeVall encouraged the CPAC members to read the minutes from the subcommittee meetings online. Chair DeVall reiterated that she and the other CPAC Chairs have great concern that none of the CPAC Chairs or members were invited to participate on the task force; the chairs and members are subject matter experts and could have contributed a wealth of knowledge. Chair DeVall also stated that none of the task force members are CPAC members and until recently, only one task force member ever attended a CPAC meeting.
Chair DeVall also announced that Dawn Gilman would be the May guest speaker. This will be timely to discuss housing homeless and services. Also, DeVall asked if anyone would be interested in chairing a Membership Subcommittee.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Preservation** – Chair DeVall ~ no report
- **Transportation** – no report
- **Parks** – Greg Radlinski - no report
- **TRUE Commission** – Greg Radlinski – no report

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Public Comments/Announcements:

Adjournment

*Member Arnold made a Motion to adjourn and was Member Harris seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.*

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