

District #1 - Urban Core

Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

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

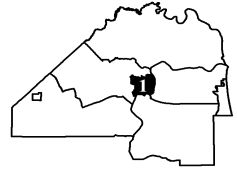
Chair: Gloria De Vall 449-4340 gloria.cpac@gmail.com

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: Stacey K. Burch 255-8236 sburch@coj.net



Meeting Summary Monday, August 4, 2014

Members

Arnold, Ruth – 02nd Mile Ministries
DeVall, Gloria – Preservation SOS
Hamilton, William C. - St. John's Lutheran Church
Harris, Darcel – Mother Midway AME
Holzendorf Jr., Mike – City Council District 7
Merrick, Dorothy – Plaza Condominiums
Pryor, Kim – Preservation SOS
Radlinski, Greg – Parks at the Cathedral HOA
Swain, Deloris – Grand Boulevard Crime Watch
Vanderlaan, Doug – SPAR Council

Excused –

Demopoulos, Dimitri – Churchwell Lofts at East Bay condo Assn. Inc.
Hughes, Michelle – FreshMinistries
Miller, Celia - Good Neighbor M.A.N.I.A.
Parrish, Christina – SAMBA
Redden, Shereline – Stand Your Ground Inc.
Strickland, Ashley – MaliVai Washington Kids
Tippins, Louvenia – District 8 Rep – Charter Member
Trent, Erica – Pathways Academy Charter School
Walker, Gerre – 12th Street Loyalty Club

Guests

Para, Bud - JEA	Brosche, Anna
Holzendorf, Honey	Lewis, Richard
Hyde, Robert	Good, Allison
Sanders, Jeneen	Holman, William – Project New Ground

Staff/Resource

Barth, Michelle – Mayor's Office
Chauncey, Bruce – Code Compliance
Hartley, Mark – JaxParks
Ransom, Lisa – Planning and Development Dept.
Ricks, LT. Jimmy - JSO
Wesolowski, Rosemary -HCDD

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Minutes

It was determined that the CPAC members received the CPAC Summary for the month of June and July. The June and July CPAC meeting summary was sent out and was submitted for approved at the meeting. Minutes approved.

Guest Speakers:

Assistance Chief of Operations Les McCormick, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, provided some information on JFRD response time in the Urban Core Area. Chief stated that the department is accredited and that there are state standards by ISO regulations that are being met within the Urban Core. However, standards are not being met out in the rural areas because of budget. Stations are projected but have not been built yet. The standard response time is 6-8 minutes throughout the country for the same population as the Urban Core and JFRD meet those standards. A fire truck or recuse is normally on the scene within five minutes. Trucks with long ladders are stationed closer to the downtown area because of the buildings downtown. All calls are record live. Chief went on to explain how the system works if the fire station closes to you is currently on a call. If this happens then another station will get the call and the reaction time will be a little longer. Mrs. Darcel Harris restated that if station #1 was busy, it would take station #18 or station #7 longer to come to cover down on station #1 area. Therefore, if a fire station is cover another fire station outside their primary area the response time will be longer than the normal five minute window due to added travel time. Chief agreed with Mrs. Harris. Currently JFRD has more fire trucks than recuses so there is a more than 30% chance the fire trucks will arrive first. JFRD is projected to buy more recuses in the future. All this information is public information. Citizens can get ride along forms to ride along with JFRD. Deloris Swain asked if there was a rule for JFRD not to handle walk up calls. Chief stated no, all calls should be handled in the same matter. But, he could not clearly answer the question because he was not at the scene. JSO Lt. Ricks stated you can report incidents to JFRD higher headquarters if you have any problems. 515 Julia Street is the headquarters.

Chairs Report:

Mike Holzendorf received his official letter from the mayor saying he is now a UCCPAC member.

Elected Officials Reports –

None

Staff Reports:

JSO Zone 1 LT Ricks – The committee asked for information on DART (Drug Abate and Response Team) is a combined effort of city and state agencies along with JSO to stop all the nuisance properties and or illegal drug activity. This program helps educate the landlords concerning the issues that are going on at the house to get those tenants out. After educating the landlords JSO may issue search warrants or make an arrest. The property maybe owned, rented or leased. The goal is to get the nuisance tenants out the house. When the DART team comes they bring code enforcement with them to ensure the house is up to code. If pets are involved then they will bring animal control. Whatever, special agencies are needed for the situation the DART team will bring that agency. If the property is not in compliance then a DART sticker will be placed on the property until all deficiencies are met. No one will be allowed to live there or conduct business until that sign is removed. DART also covers illegal drug activities, prostitution, gang related activity, dog fighting, alcohol violations, human trafficking and gambling. It has to be a nuisance. It cannot be just a one time offense for the DART team to come out. Department of Children Family Services and the Fire Marshall are also involved and a part of the DART team. The rules for DART also apply to businesses. DART 630-0764

JSO has a bike squad (led by Sgt. Senterfitt) that patrols the Urban Core/ Zone 1, Monday thru Friday. They go out early in the morning to get all the vagrants off the benches around The Landing and Memorial Park between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. There are over 70,000 people that come through the area during this timeframe. If you have complaints run them through the substation.

For assistance and information call the JSO Zone 1 Sub Station at 924-5361 or JSOzone1@jaxsheriff.org

Mayor's Representative – Ms. Shehee Williams – not present

Mayor's Liaison – Michelle Barth, announced the Mayors' newsletter was on the table if anyone had not received it. Council hearings are scheduled to run through the end of August. The last council meeting will be in September.

Duval County Public Schools – not present

Regulatory and Compliance Department (Code Compliance) – Zone 1 Supervisor Bruce Chancy - just hired two new people for the Urban Core area. Contractors have to come to the code compliance office before they start working on a house that has been tagged by DART. Contractors will not be able to go online to get the paperwork for the DART work to be completed.

The Foster property issues have been resolved. Kennys' house is being worked out with the help of S.O.S. Preservations.

The wood treatment factory on Fairfax will not be demolished; it is in the process of being sold.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – not present, however, Jim Green e-mailed Rosemary and told her that the sidewalk on the Main Street Bridge, Eastside would remain open until the Westside sidewalk was completed. Then they would repair the eastside sidewalk. FDOT is hoping to have the Westside of the sidewalk completed by October.

Doug Vanderlaan stated a concern about all the potholes in the Urban Core area. He will have a list of potholes for Jim Green to address at the next meeting. An email is being sent to Mr. Green concerning the big pothole on Liberty Street near the river.

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

Planning and Development – Planner Lisa Ransom informed the committee that there are two Administration Deviations being sought. Administrative Deviations are heard on Fridays: AD-14-34, 3405 Moncrief Road between 24th and 25th street. Paul Tutwiler is asking for a relaxation of the code to avoid a number of setbacks. The unusual shape of the building is on a triangle property and the contractor is building a grocery store and parking lot across the street. This is located in the Northwest corner of the Urban Core.

The Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center in Historic Springfield AD-14-32. A new building is being built and will involve demolish of a noncontributing structure. The Historic Preservation Committee allowed this by COA and that would allow for a new building. Administration Deviations are allowed when there are significant issues to the building of a site that cannot be done under the existing zoning code.

If you see an orange, blue or purple rezoning sign contact Lisa Ransom. The Brownsfield Coordinators are in the Planning and Development Department. Lisa will get with the new LUZ Subcommittee Chair to go over some of the demolition regulations. Decisions will be made on these applications within the next two weeks. Greg asked what was the department recommending and Lisa stated that the Department is recommending approval. Lisa went on to explain that the department is looking at the total package and that the project has already received CDBG funds. This is consistence with the neighborhood action plan. The commission his already approved this and so has several other agencies. Gloria stated that the LUZ subcommittee needed to get a copy of the LUZ regulation plans in case something comes up next month then the subcommittee will already have the paperwork. Lisa will email the regulation.

A motion was made by Greg Radilinski and second by Mike Holzendorf that the UC CPAC support both AD-14-32 and AD-14-34. This was approved unanimously.

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

Community Planning – Rosemary Wesolowski recommended the UC start forming a nominating subcommittee to vote for the new chair. Make an announcement in September as to who will serve on the subcommittee. The subcommittee will meet in October (find out who the candidates are) for the election in November. The new executive order has been signed by the mayor and the chair can now serve three consecutive terms. Everybody needs to start thinking who will be a good candidate.

Rosemary thanked everybody for their support during her time as the UC CPAC Coordinator.

Parks & Recreation – Mark Hartley –Park and Rec is quickly approaching the end of the summer season. The new program Rec and Roll went out this year to some of parks that did not have gymnasium. The Rec and Roll Rescue went to 10 different sites (Grunthal Park and Woodstock Park,). About 6,000 kids signed in and out this summer. It was completely funded by an outside partnership. In the parks that the Rec and Roll Rescue went to we saw about a 30% decrease in vandalism because more people were in the park. This was big because a big piece of the budget goes to repairs in the parks. Summer camp ended last week. Our swim initiate and Rec and Roll will end next week. We are extending our swim program to go into the fall at Cecil Field and the YMCA. This is being funded by a private ownership.

Helen Cooper Floyd Park will be shut down for about two years due to construction. The lease will be over 1 December. After construction we will be able to lease the park again.

The UC maintenance supervisor is no longer with us. Hopefully next month our service will be a little better with the new supervisor on board.

Ms. Swain raised the concern in regard to kids playing in a contaminated area in Lonnie Miller Park. Mark Hartley stated the kids are playing in a non-contaminated area in Lonnie Miller Park. The park planning section has another new phase that they are working on and the other part of the park will be cleaned in phases. Park and Rec does not do anything to the park until it is turned to them.

Raymond Davis Park has a playground horse that has not been fixed in over a year. The inspector came out and looked and the horse and the horse did not pass inspection. Mark stated a new horse is on order. Also, there was an inquiry about the lack of garbage cans in Raymond David Park. Mark informed the CPAC that each trash can cost \$1300 each and there is a request to put them in the park. The only garbage can that was put in the park came from another project that was donated to the city. Mark stated that funding is the issue. Ms. Swain was not satisfied with the answers she was getting from Mark and stated that the city was not supporting the parks on the Northside. Mark stated that in this next budget money has been requested to use capital improvement funds. This will help cover garbage cans, lighting and other improvements. Gloria has requested that Mark bring documentation showing where the money is being spent by the city and in what areas to the next meeting. Mark stated that DVI provided trash cans for the downtown area and a lot of private organizations do the same in their area. Some areas have more resources than others. Brian Burket (255-7919) is the POC to help organize a neighborhood clean up. You can get a Letter Of Intent (L.O.I) and they will support you as much as possible with your project.

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

Project New Ground – Bill Holmon, stated he had the same numbers as the last meeting. The only significant number that he had was for 5th and Cleveland (Myrtle Ave. area), has finished phrase 3 and are ready to start phrase 4 with the contractor. Forest Street finished phrase 2. There are a total of 4 phrases. Springfield and Lonnie Miller Park will be cleaned at the end of the program.

M&M LLC at 1504 Pairs Street and 421 6th Street both apartment buildings, have several properties at these locations. They have met all the code enforcement laws. Therefore they will start to restore the apartments.

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

Jacksonville Public Library – not present

Housing and Community Development Division – Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhoods No report – available for questions.

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

Public Works – not present

Chair's Report

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Subcommittee Reports

- **Preservation** – Chair DeVall ~ no report
- **Transportation** – no report
- **Parks** – Greg Radlinski - no report
- **TRUE Commission** – Greg Radlinski – stated that the financial committee was sticking with the current millage rate and not to increase the rate. The council auditor recommends that we increase the rate by one mil to cover shortfalls and the TRUE Commission said no lets go with what the financial committee stated. They voted that the council stay with the rate from last year. The TRUE Commission has recommended disapproval of the USS Adams at the shipyard. It looks as if that area maybe developed by Shad Khan. Everybody just got the budget bills and we are not going to go out and reinvent the wheel. The City Council just received the bill and we will follow along. As the decisions get closer that is when we will start to make decisions.

Unfinished Business:

Bill 2014-427 was motioned and voted upon *unanimously*, the motion stated: that the UCCPAC does not agree that this amendment will reduce Neighborhood Blight in the area. We concur whole heartedly with the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC); therefore we asked that the vote be delayed until further investigation is conducted into this matter and a letter will be sent to all city council members and the mayor.

Vice Chair Radlinski reintroduced 2014-427~this bill is to redefine unsafe buildings or unsafe structures for the purpose of demolition, but adding: revise the definition of "unsafe building or unsafe structure" to include non-historic structures that have been boarded up and have no active water or electric service for a time period that exceeds 24 months. Section 518.205 – Boarding of vacant buildings or dwellings – is amended to provide that non-historic buildings boarded up and without active water or electric service are declared to be unlawful and a public nuisance and shall be abated by the City in accordance with its demolition standards.

It was discussed that this will allow the city to demolish buildings that are not in need of demolition, but are just in need of occupancy and/or some repair. During the discussion a

point was also raised that there is not a definition to what is a historic building? What is a non-historic building? It was also questioned does this give the city more authority to demolish historic quality building?

New Business:

A call to order was made for Kim Pryor to address her concerns after the FDOT because she had to leave the meeting early. CPAC members would like a clear understanding of what is considered a historic house and the process for demolishing a house.

UCCPAC also motioned and voted *unanimously* to support the Administrative Deviation for 14-31 and 14-34.

The CPAC also reviewed the section on Mothballing; which states:

(d) When a structure is subject to a mothballing COA pursuant to chapter 307, the structure's owner shall secure the structure using the methods prescribed by rules adopted pursuant to section 307.305.

(e) Boarding may be for a period of three years if approved for a mothballing certificate of appropriateness, with any extensions that may be granted through a subsequent certificate of appropriateness and the process outlined under Chapter 307, Part 3. Property owners of non-emergency condemned properties that are locally designated or listed on the National Register of Historic Places shall be notified of the option to mothball their building and be given 60 days to respond. The city will hold in abeyance enforcement or corrective measures until that 60 days' time period expires.

It was questioned if a structurally sound structure that isn't mothballed correctly, will this allow them the opportunity to demolish the building. It was noted that there are a couple of Councilmembers that are not in support of this bill and many questions need to be answered.

It was also inquired what is the definition of a structurally sound building?

The CPAC also discussed the value of demolition to the neighborhood. It was pointed out that in a recent study on Building a Healthier Florida it was recommended /found that demolishing boarded up building(s) and allowing a green space in its' place is better for the community and brings more value to the community. As an example, the old Jacksonville Courthouse was referenced and recommendations are to tear it down. By leaving the courthouse standing it needs to be constantly secured from repeated attempts for break-ins, it has been documented that it harbors rats and various types of insects. It was stated that these same concerns are a major problem for homeowners that have to live next to a boarded up house for years. There was a couple of comments that stated that there has been vacant homes in their neighborhoods (some boarded up and some not) and they tend to harbor crime. It was also stated that the abandoned properties also create problems with unmaintained trees and other plant material falling on and destroying fences, etc.

This information led to a discussion that demolishing properties doesn't solve the problem; the real problem is a crime problem. It was stated that demolition is a quick fix and the problem of crime is not being addressed. The properties are not the problems, but the squatters and the drug dealers are the problems. The example used was the rush to demo the property located at 1477 Evergreen Avenue; a historic flower shop in the Eastside. The community lost this valuable piece of history and it cannot be replaced. It was recommended that this bill should be used as a catalyst to stimulate dialogue and work on the system and the crime problem.

There was a question if JSO could discuss the criteria to DART a home? Also, it was questioned if Councilmember Lee could come to a meeting to clarify some of these questions and discuss the Urban Blight Committee? Maybe we can get someone from Historic Preservation to weigh in on this bill.

There was a question about 2013-493 if everyone was aware of this bill to loosen the bill. The CPAC stated that they had weighed in on this topic in the past and it would be a good idea to review and see if any additional changes have been made.

Four new subcommittees were created: Delores Swain (EPA), Doug Vanderlaan (Transportation), Mike Holzendorf (LUZ & Government Affairs) and Greg Radlinski (Downtown Investment Authority). Gloria also wants a communication subcommittee, to put out the information to community.

Gloria stated that she wanted a face book UC CPAC page but because of the Sunshine Law she could not do it. She is looking for ways the CPAC can be more effective. Gloria wants to start a website so she can post the agenda and keep people informed of what we are doing. Websites do not cost very much. She wants everyone to start thinking about it and get more involved and start voting on all issues.

Gloria wants to know where and how the federal money (CDBG) is being spent. She wants to know who received the money, what projects the money went too and what areas of Jacksonville was funded. It is very difficult to get information on how the money is being used. Gloria stated that she made a public records request to get the information from the Planning & Development Department. She stated she has called the local HUD office to get information too. She feels it is a disservice to the UC because majority of that funding is sent to the City of Jacksonville because of the desperate needs of the people in the UC district and we have a right to know how it is being used. Gloria wants the process to change. She wants the people of Jacksonville to have some say as to where and how the funds should be spent. The information to this grant should be transparent. The Planning Department should be reporting to the CPACs to inform them of where and how the funding is being spent. Rosemary Wesolowski explained to the UCCPAC the process that CDBG goes through to issue funding to nonprofit organizations and that it is a public notice. She also stated that you have to submit a public records request. Rosemary stated that the JHCDC meets the third Wednesday of the month and this is also a public meeting to help you get answers. Greg Radlinski looked at the COJ website and stated that LaCree Carswell is the POC. Gloria wants to be able to go on a website and see where the money is being spent, this is federally mandated. But if she has to reach out to LaCree Carswell to get the information she will do that.

The CPAC requested that training be conducted on the Sunshine Laws. Rosemary explained the process for having a subcommittee. Lisa Ransom stated that she would contact The Office of General Council (Cherry Shaw) to see if she can give a presentation on the Sunshine Law. Due to the Florida Sunshine Law, all information must going through the CPAC Coordinator (Stacey Burch) to include emails. Stacey can forward or pass along the email information.

Public Comments/Announcements:

none

Adjournment

Member Doug Vanderlaan made a Motion to adjourn and member Ruth Arnold seconded the motion. All agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next Urban Core CPAC meeting is on
Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.,
at the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan Street, 1st floor Training Room