

District #2 – Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Michael Anania

Vice Chair: Jerry Petoskey

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport

DATE: Monday, April 14, 2014

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members:

Anania, Michael, Arlington Business Society
Barletta, Robert, Charter Point Community Association
Blanche, James, The Woods Community Association
Davis, Michele, Council Appointee – District 1
Evans, Kacy, Caroline Forest Homeowners Association
Henry, David, Kensington Association
Huffines, Carroll, Mayport Village Civic Association
Hunter-Nowak, Karen, Hawkins Cove HOA
Kline, Jeanne, Arlington East Neighborhood Association
Lowe, Marcella, Alderman Park Civic Association
Ludwig, Helen, St. Johns Woods HOA
Miller, Pete, Indian Springs Community Association
Parsons, Eddi, Monument Oaks HOA
Petoskey, Jerry, Old Mill Cove Community Org
Pougiouklidis, Nina, Ibis Point Owners Association
Roberts, John, The Valley at Hidden Hills
Sanders, Patricia, Southern Grove Condo Association
Sharp, Roger, Historic Marabanong
Sprague, Scott, Old Arlington Inc.
Swanner, Lamar, Covington Creek HOA
Tucker, Ben, Cypress Cove Good Neighbor Group

Excused:

Belge, Larry, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA
Hawkins, Lad, Communities of East Arlington
Jarnutowski, Sherrie, Walkers Glen HOA
Maxted, Ed, Bentwater Place
Saadeh, Mary Anne, Oak Haven Preservation Association
Schorr, Patricia, Covington Creek HOA

Elected Officials:

Staff: Sinclair, Taurean; Davis, Paul; Lancaster, Elaine; Lamb, John Assistant Chief; Simmons, Shaniqua;
McNeil, Julie; Nasrallah, Karen; Wesolowski, Rosemary

Guests:

Jackson, Mary Jane
Litwhiler, Shelia, Beachwood

Nealis, James
Hipps, Alberta, JAA

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Chair, Michael Anania, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting began with a prayer 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 meeting summary. Marcella Lowe stated that she would like a correction to be made to the meeting summary. In the T.R.U.E. report Ms. Lowe stated that her appointed term in office as a TURE Commissioner expires as of June 30, 2014, and that she is not seeking re-election. She said that Mrs. Patricia Schorr has indicated a desire to fill the position and no applied. She therefore nominated Mrs. Schorr for the position. She therefore nominated Mrs. Schorr for the position; seconded by Larry Belge, approved unanimously.

Marcella Lowe made the motion to approve the March meeting summary as amended; the motion was seconded by Jeanne Kline. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Staff Reports

- JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – Assistant Chief Lamb informed the group that the Greater Arlington Beaches District has seen an increase in violent crime (typically aggravated battery) and an increase in burglary (both auto and residential). Lamb announced that JSO has made an arrest(s) has been made and he feels this should stop the burglaries that have been occurring in the Alderman Park and Arlingwood neighborhoods.
- Mayor's Liaison – Taurean Sinclair attended on behalf of Dave Roman. Mr. Sinclair informed the group the Tire and Sign buy back was a big success. Approximately 23,000 tires and 6000 signs were purchased from residents in the community. That equates to \$41,255.00 being paid out. Mr. Sinclair also informed the group that along with Mayor Brown and the State Attorney's Office they are working on a juvenile offender program. A Couple of the CPAC members had a couple of requests/comments for Mr. Sinclair. One CPAC member has been having problems with getting their trash collected, she and others in the neighborhood have been calling 630-CITY to report the missed pick up, but they trash collectors continue to not pick up their garbage. Another member stated that if you call 630-CITY service is ok, but if you want to submit an issue yourself online, the system is not user friendly. Lastly, the last CPAC member stated that he has continued to submit an issue to 630-CITY and the City continues to close the case without resolving the issue. When is the Sandalwood Canal going to get cleaned out?
- Duval County Public Schools – not present
- FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) – Jim Green – not present
- JEDC – Karen Nashrallah informed the group that they are currently collecting data for Operation Dolphin. They are looking at who owns the property in the designated corridors, working with JSO and their crime statistics and trying to work with the Town and Country Shopping Center. On May 1, 2014, the night club in the Town and Country Shopping Center will be closed. It was announced that President Cost will be the guest speaker at the June CPAC meeting.
- Housing and Community Development Division - Rosemary Wesolowski informed the group that National CDBG week will be April 21-25; a number of events will be held throughout the city to showcase the various CDBG projects. On April 23, 2014 is the Mayor's Senior Day

at the Jacksonville Suns and the Senior Citizen Expo will be held at the Prime Osborn Convention Center on May 14-15, 2014; the event and parking are free.

- Municipal Code Compliance Division – Elaine Lancaster informed the group that she and her team are working with Operation Dolphin. They are current looking at the same corridors. The just completed work in the first corridor and there were 230 violations. Also, the Regency Inn has been dartered. In the GAB District, there are 1265 active cases and 3 Code Compliance officers. There are new officers in training and they look forward to growing their staff.
4. Planning & Development Department – Paul Davis – stated that there were 7 LUZ applications. If there is anyone that would like to be part of the email communications contact Mr. Davis at 255-7822.
 5. Parks Department – Shaniqua Simmons stated that the Fort Caroline pool renovations are underway and should be completed by the start of summer. Information for summer camp is available online. Applications are available online. Ms. Simmons stated that they are still waiting for water to be connected at the Dog Park at Ed Austin Park.

6. Presentation(s):

Ann Burt, Old Arlington Inc., (OAI) gave an overview account of the history of Arlington with a PowerPoint presentation. The history presentation started with the Spanish land grants, Anna Kingsley Home and Plantation, Arlington as a rural farming community, the Norman Studios Silent Film Studio and the opening of the Mathews Bridge in 1953 which allowed Arlington to be developed as one of the largest suburban areas in Jacksonville. Ms. Burt also shared some of Old Arlington Inc. current achievements; such as their Mid-Century Modern Home Tours, the celebration of the Mathews Bridge 60th Anniversary, tours of Norman Studios, obtaining and maintaining historic markers, historic preservation and community forums with 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.

7. **Chair's Report** – Chair Anania introduced Karen Nasrallah from the Office of Economic Development, Manager, JEDC and asked her to inform the CPAC about Operation Dolphin. Ms. Nasrallah informed the CPAC that the new Jacksonville University (JU) President, Tim Cost, has partnered with the City of Jacksonville (various departments and divisions), JTA, JSO, FDOT and some private industry to assess and make improvements to the area around JU. President Cost has expressed a need for housing and businesses in the area to support the students. Currently, President Cost is working to identify funds for this and other CIP projects. Ms. Nasrallah stated that she will be providing monthly updates on the initiative. The area that is included in Operation Dolphin would be University Blvd, (from the Town & Country Shopping center to JU) and Merrill Road (from JU to 295). Ms. Nasrallah stated that she will be attending the CPAC on a monthly basis and providing updates.

8. Elected Officials Reports –

9. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs** – Michael Anania
The Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee met at 5:00 p.m. The subcommittee reviewed 7 application and 3 motions were made:
Support for rezoning 2014-0255 at 855 Townsend Blvd because the redevelopment of the property will be within the permitted uses serves public interest and it is a welcomed addition to Arlington.
Support for rezoning 2014—196 Arlington Toyota because the redevelopment of the property will be within the permitted uses serves public interest and it is a welcomed addition to Arlington.
Support for rezoning 2014—142 The Creekside PUD because the incorporation of a charter school into the permitted uses for the property serves the public interest and is a welcomed addition to the Arlington area. However, there is an ongoing concern with vagrants camping in the woods on the property. The CPAC recommends approval with the following condition: That the property be posted "No Trespassing" and the owner makes a written commitment to JSO that they will support prosecution of trespass violations.
- **Beautification/Parks/Environment** – Larry Belge – not present
- **Membership** – Jeanne Kline and Karen Hunter-Nowak – Chair Anania announced that Jeanne Kline and Karen Hunter-Nowak will serve as the Membership Subcommittee co-chairs.
- **Transportation** – Ben Tucker – no report

Ad-Hoc:

- **Craig Airport** – David Henry – asked Tiffany Gillem (Manager of JAXEX) to update the group. Ms. Gillem stated a community tab has been added to the JAXEX website. The website is www.flyJAXEX.com. Also on the JAA website there are opportunities for groups or schools to have tours of the four different facilities; all the contact information is on the website. The procedures on how to use the webtrack are also on the website. The landscaping plan for JAXEX is also on the website.
- **North Florida TPO** – Roger Sharp – informed the group that attended the NFTPO meeting last week and they are underway on their 2040 Vision Plan. Mr. Sharp stated that he brought a copy of the Unified Planning Work Program Fiscal years 2014/15 – 2015/16 from the NFTPO if anyone would like to look at it. He informed the group that he would leave the report with Rosemary Wesolowski to keep on file for the group.
- **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Marcella Lowe stated that they are still working on the NW Trust Fund. She was happy to announce that documentation that has been requested has finally been provided. They received the document(s) at 6:00 pm the night before the meeting; thus making it hard to digest the information that it contains. They did not have a SOP manual for the full period of time, but they do have one approved now. Previously we spoke about Shaw's Seafood. Shaw's Seafood is not a small business, but they were approved before it was document that they had to be a small business to receive funds. Shaw Seafood has paid back all of the \$500,000 that was lent to them. Beaver Street Fisheries received a \$500,000 grant to purchase the property next to their facilities. They have completed the project and they are considering paying the money back even though it is not required. The last one is HOPE Inc.; the original plans to convert an old building into a new shopping center did not pan out. The Office of General Council is looking into that and there is no comment at this time. Ms. Lowe stated that she is pleased with the report and it has been a long 5 years in getting it completed. Ms. Lowe also shared that the TRUE Commission is an asset to the City Council Auditor; the TRUE Commission has powers that some of the City Council Auditors may not even have. Lastly, Ms. Lowe stated that she will miss the TRUE Commission and she has enjoyed serving on the commission for the 12 years.

Chair Anania thanked and recognized Ms. Lowe for her dedication and service to the TRUE Commission.

10. Unfinished Business - none

11. New Business –

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

Pete Miller informed the group that the Jax Arboretum is not a COJ park, but is COJ property. Mr. Miller also extended an invitation the CPAC to attend dedication of the new pavilion on the new trail on the east end of Lake Ray. The dedication will be held April 25, 2014 2-3 pm.

Bobby Taylor introduced himself as a candidate for City Council District 2
James Nealis introduced himself as a candidate for City Council District 3
Raymond Day introduced himself as a candidate for City Council District 4

Julie McNeal, Jacksonville Public Library reminded the CPAC that computer classes are available at the public library by appointment.

Carroll Huffines extended an invitation to the CPAC to Mayport on May 10 and 11 for their annual festival. For complete details visit www.MayportVillageheritage.com

Motion to Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 12, 2014 ~ 6:30 p.m.

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