

# District #2 – Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Patricia Schorr

Vice Chair: Michael Anania

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## MEETING SUMMARY

Location: Regency Branch Library

DATE: Monday, June 11, 2012

### Attendance:

#### **Organizations/Representatives**

#### **Members:**

Anania, Michael, Vice Chair

Belge, Larry, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA

Cherry, Albert, Hidden Valley Civic Assoc.

Evans, Kacy, Caroline Forest HOA

Holden, Johnny, Emerald Bay HOA

Lowe, Marcella, Alderman Park Civic Association

Ludwig, Helen, St. Johns Woods

Maxted, Edward, Bentwater Place

Parsons, Eddi, Monument Oaks HOA

Peck, David, Oak Park Neighborhood Association

Petoskey, Gerald, Old Mill Comm. Org.

Roberts, John F. The Valley at Hidden Hills

Saadeh, Mary Anne, Oak Haven Preservation Assoc.

Sanders, Patricia, Southern Grove Condo Association

Schorr, Patricia, Chair

Tucker, Benjamin, Cypress Cove Good Neighbor

Walker, Kathy, Old Arlington Inc. Group

#### **Excused:**

Blanche, James, The Woods Community Association

Bryant, Jimmy, Queens Harbor POA

Davis, Michele, Council Appointee – District 1

Dickinson, Gary, Grove Park

Hawkins, Lad, Communities of East Arlington

Mechenbier, Dan, Queens Harbour POA

**Elected Officials:** No Elected Officials Present

#### **Staff:**

Boree, Kelley; Nader, Ashanta-Barker, Terrance; Jones, Mia; Russell; Davis, Paul; Green, Jim; Logsdon, Kenny; Lancaster, Elaine; Peeples, Belinda; Wesolowski, Rosemary

#### **Guests:**

Walker, Jim

Barlow, A. Wellington

Wilkinson, Hugh

Kintz, Bill, Kernan Coalition

Shirk, Matt

#### **1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum**

Chair, Patricia Schorr called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair informed the group that she was a bit under the weather and her voice wasn't strong enough to last the meeting. The meeting was turned over to Vice Chair Anania.

#### **2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary**

The minutes were approved by the members.

### 3. Staff Reports

- JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – Lt. Russell Nader  
Lt. Nader informed the group that overall citywide crime is down 10.19% YTD and in Zone 2 crime is down 15.69% YTD. The weather has been an issue (Tropical Storm Beryl) with flooding and road closures. Due to the excess water on the road a woman drove into a retention pond and found herself submerged almost to the top of her SUV. Luckily JFRD & JSO were able to rescue the driver and her 2 dogs.
- Mayor's Liaison – Kelley Boree  
Reminded the group that Hurricane Season begins on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to develop a Hurricane action plan with their family. Mayor Brown has launched a severe weather app that is available for android and apple products; visit COJ.net for complete details. If you have yard debris from the storm that needs to be collected, please call 630-CITY and request a collection. The Fourth of July is approaching and the City of Jacksonville will host the Fireworks Spectacular at the Landing. Fireworks can be viewed on the Northbank and the Southbank.
- Duval County Public Schools – not present
- FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) – Jim Green  
FDOT and JTA will be hosting a few public meetings:  
Tuesday, June 19, MLK Parkway @ 21st Street Interchange, Open House begins at 4:30 PM  
Grace Baptist Church of East Springfield, 1553 E 21st Street, Presentation / Public Comment begins at 6:30  
  
Thursday, June 21, Butler Blvd. @ Hodges Boulevard, ramp improvements, Open House begins at 5:00 PM, Wingate by Wyndham, 4791 Windsor Commons Court (@ Hodges exit), Public Comment begins at 6:30  
  
Tuesday, June 26, SR 243 – JIA North Access Road, New Road Construction, Open House begins at 5:00 PM, Hampton Inn & Suites, 13551 Airport Court, Public Comment begins at 6:30 on June 19<sup>th</sup>  
  
FDOT has selected a bid for the Overland Bridge (I-95) project. The contractors have made a few tweaks to the project and in the near future FDOT will hold another community meeting to obtain feedback and input.
- Neighborhoods
  - Housing and Community Development Division - Rosemary Wesolowski stated that JEA is available to meet with any concerned neighborhood, business or community group in regard to the Total Water Management Plan Project that is underway. If your group is interested a presentation from JEA please contact Rosemary. There was also dialogue in regard to changing the meeting agenda back to the former format and to adding the name and contact information for the city staff and subcommittee chairs.
  - Municipal Code Compliance Division – Elaine Lancaster stressed the importance that all calls or emails in regard to concerns about code violations need to be entered into the C.A.R.E. system. You can call 630-CITY or on the COJ website enter info through C.A.R.E. By using these systems an individual can follow the progress through the tracking number and this method is also monitored. As we enter the growing season the systematic inspections will be put on hold until the fall.
- Planning & Development – Paul Davis  
Wanted to thank the CPAC for their input and support on 2 issues that went before the Planning Commission. Waiver 12-03 at 198 Century 21 Place; the Planning Department recommended denial, but the Planning Commission reviewed the CPAC letter and listened to the citizens in attendance and decided to support the community's concerns. Beacon Fisheries was the other application. There was a lot of comments on how the site plan would impact the surrounding neighborhoods. The Planning Department took this information back to the applicant and they changed their site plan to improve the layout for the community.

- Recreation & Parks – Kelley Boree deferred to the subcommittee, but did answer a question in regard to the problems at Oak Harbor boat ramp. She stated that the Oak Harbor boat ramp (just south of Mayport Village) needs major repairs to the concrete ramp. A hole developed from propeller wash. There will be a temporary fix; pouring concrete into the hole. A permanent solution will be in the works.

#### **4. Presentation**

The Honorable Mayor Alvin Brown informed the group that since he took office in July he has worked hard to build a higher quality of life for Jacksonville by focusing on education, jobs and government efficiency.

One of the first areas that the Mayor focused on was bringing quality jobs to Jacksonville. One of the programs that the Mayor has developed to help promote jobs and employment is called Business Builders. Business Builders provides entrepreneurs with expert advice to refine business plans, obtain capital and credit. At the first Business Builders program there were over 450 entrepreneurs in attendance. The Mayor has also brought the 7-11 Corporation back to Jacksonville; 7-11 is currently working on opening several stores. There has also been a lot of focus on JaxPort. As chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Metro Exports and Ports Task Force, Mayor Brown led a series of meetings in Jacksonville in February to gather input and develop a resolution calling for increased investments in port infrastructure from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and development of national freight policy to identify key cargo corridors, more actively engage policy-level stakeholders such as the Commerce Department and the Small Business Administration to encourage exporting, and reduce the environmental impacts of shipping.

Education is another key to a higher quality of life is education. To support a stronger education system and to develop the leaders of tomorrow the Mayor developed the Mayor's Mentors. At this time there are over 600 adults that have committed to mentor our young students. As well, the Mayor also developed several programs to encourage secondary education. The Learn to Earn Initiative will expose students to the possibility of going to college. This program is part of the private public partnership by working with JU and UNF. This summer young people will be staying on college campuses and exposing them to college. There are also the College Workshops that are available for students to obtain assistance with filling out their financial aid and college paperwork. There is also the Leaders in Training Program which prepares local college students in reaching their full career potential through skill-building workshops, internship work experience and mentoring from local business executives. The goal of the program is to grow and retain the regional talent pool of qualified professionals. With the Mayors launch of the Leaders in Training Programs the city has joined with CSX, the JAX Chamber, Worksource, Edward Waters College, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville University, Nova Southeastern University, the University of North Florida, Keiser University and the University of Phoenix to create this new public-private partnership for workforce development.

Jacksonville is the most military friendly city in America. The Mayor has elevated Military Affairs to a cabinet post and appointed retired Rear Admiral Victor Gillory. At this time 25% of the homeless are veterans. At this time there are approximately 60 businesses that are on board to help to help launch jobs and opportunities for veterans. The Mayor launched a new website for veterans (COJ.net, Jobs for Veterans) to help connect our veterans to these opportunities.

Having a vital and vibrant downtown is important component in our economic development. It is important to have a clear, strategic plan and vision for downtown. It is important to have the Downtown Investment Authority to focus on downtown. Currently, Economic Development Legislation is already before City Council and it is hopeful it will be complete by June. It is

important to get the community to work and live downtown. At this time Everbank is moving 1500 jobs downtown and plan to hire an additional 200 people. Blue Cross/Blue Shield will hire an additional 250 people.

The city is also faced with a \$58 million deficit and this will force government to be more efficient. The Mayor's Reform of Government Plan focuses on operational efficiencies such as fleet management, energy use and overtime. In effort to do his part, the Mayor took a 20% cut in pay and brought the city's most talented people to his administration at virtually no cost to the taxpayers through Executives On Loan.

The Mayor had a Q&A session.

*Marcella Lowe stated that the T.R.U.E. commission audit revealed that the City does not have a Comptroller or Treasurer. When will these positions be filled?*

Mayor Brown informed the group that he currently has Glen Hanson and Ronnie Belton working to cover those duties. In the near future those positions will be filled.

*Marcella also stated that her work with the T.R.U.E. Commission also has them looking at the SMG contracts. The commission met with SMG management and informed them that COJ has a problem without a RFP. Marcella stated that the T.R.U.E. commission is pleased with the RFP that the City of Jacksonville just released.*

*Helen Ludwig inquired to the representative from the city on the Florida League of Cities. Mayor Brown informed Ms. Ludwig that Mia Jones would be in contact to discuss this with her.*

*Eddi Parsons stated that she appreciated that the Mayor recognized the CPAC are important to the city and this administration. We hope that you will re-instate the quarterly meetings with the CPAC Chairs. We feel very strongly that strong neighborhoods are needed to keep a strong city government. We value assistance from the City as we work to keep our neighborhoods from tipping and declining. We want to keep working together and move forward. Also, President Obama has acknowledged that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War and he hopes that each community will recognize our veterans from this war in some way.*

Mayor Brown stated that he would take note to speak to the Admiral and his colleges in regard to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recognition. The Mayor ensured the group that he is engaged with the CPAC's and is supportive of neighborhoods; strong neighborhoods are the backbone of the city. He stated that he will figure out how frequently the Mayor can met, but he feel it is important to sit down with those that give their time for public service and volunteer to make the city a better place to live and they should be honored. The Mayor stated that he honored them with his time and hearing their ideas and concerns.

*Michael Anania stated that the CPAC's have a wealth of knowledge and many CPAC members have lived here their whole lives and can share a lot of historical knowledge. The community is able to share a lot knowledge that can help this administration prevent problems that has occurred in other are administrations.*

*Kathy Walker expressed her concerns for the traffic problems that are occurring with the Mathews Bridge during this current painting project. Ms. Walker also brought up the JEA Total Water Management Plan and the impact the project will have to commuter and businesses alike. There was a request for police assistance on the roadway at University and Cesery Blvd. when lanes are closed on the bridge.*

Mayor Brown stated that he would look into how JSO could help.

*Mary Anne Saadah* asked how the Mayor planned to balance the budget?

Mayor Brown stated that a tentative proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 has been submitted to city council. The final proposed budget goes to the Jacksonville City Council on July 16, 2012. The Mayor emphasized that he is committed to streamlining city government to make it as effective and efficient as possible. Mayor Brown pointed out that at the start of his administration in July 2011, he took a 20 percent pay cut and declined a city pension. He worked with the City Council to close a nearly \$60 million shortfall and balance the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget without increasing taxes or fees or tapping into city reserves. This initial projection shows expenses exceeding revenues by \$58 million. Projected revenue of \$912.9 million is \$44.9 million less, or a 4.7 percent decline, from Fiscal Year 2011-12 revenue. This decrease largely reflects lower revenue from real estate and sales taxes. Projected expenses of \$971 million are up 1.3 percent from the Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget. The change reflects increased costs for pensions, health insurance and worker's compensation. Anticipating these continued fiscal challenges, Mayor Brown and his team have been working to identify possible savings by streamlining city government. The tentative proposed budget identifies \$11.1 million in savings from city departments, which are continuing their savings efforts in the months before Mayor Brown presents his final budget to City Council.

*Al Cherry* stated that state retirees can only draw 48% of their salaries for a pension. What is the Mayor going to do about the pension? Mayor Brown stated that the pension and healthcare costs are 2 factors that drive the deficient. The administration is actively looking at both.

*Michael Anania* inquired to how things were progressing at the port?

Mayor Brown that they having the U.S. Conference of Mayors add its voice to the effort to make seaport competitiveness through strategic investment part of the national dialogue is significant. The mayors are sending a clear message. They each understand that no matter where in the country the city they represent is located, along the coast or in the heartland, its future economic vitality is linked to the health of our ports. A resolution was adopted during the 80th annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Orlando and now becomes a major part of the Conference's congressional agenda for the coming year. The resolution will be distributed to all members of Congress and key federal agencies that have oversight over port maintenance and modernization.

There were no more questions so the Mayor concluded his presentation.

## 5. Chair's Report – no report

## 6. Elected Officials Reports –

- City Council District 1 – Belinda Peebles was there on behalf of Councilmember Yarborough and stated that if you are having trouble getting tree debris removed, please contact the council office.

## 7. 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 made 4 motions; the CPAC voted to:

**Support application 2012-0287**, Beacon Fisheries at St. Johns Bluff Road, with the site plan dated May 29th that shows truck bays oriented to the south and away from the residentially zoned property to the north.

**Support application MM-12-07**, The Residences of Atlantic Walk PUD, of the request in that it facilitates development of the property and appears to be consistent with the surrounding neighborhoods.

**Approval of Exception E-12-034**, to allow full liquor in conjunction with a pizza restaurant at the Gazebo shopping center.

**Opposition to application 2012-0370**, Tamaya PUD (Second Amendment), due to the vast changes that would be made to the original PUD that the community approved in 2005. This application diminishes the value of the development and adversely impacts the quality of the surrounding properties and quality of life for surrounding residents.

- **Beautification/Parks/Environment** – Larry Belge  
Summer camp begins on June 25<sup>th</sup> at selected area parks. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> Summer Night Lights (SNL) will begin in 5 parks (C.T. Brown, Charles Clark, Emmett Reed, H.T. Jones and Mitchell parks) throughout the city. The SNL activities extend from 7:00 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday nights. Currently, the outdoor pools are on the preseason schedule (May 26 – June 3) with a weekend only schedule. Starting June 9 to August 17 pools will be open 7 days a week. Currently, the Blue Cypress Pool is closed; the pool needs to be replaced and JaxParks is looking for funding.
- **Membership** – Patricia Schorr  
The membership is ready to reach out to our non-active members to encourage them to return to CPAC or seek a replacement.
- **Transportation** – Ben Tucker  
No report
- **Ad-Hoc:**
- **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Marcella stated that she missed the last CPAC meeting because she was at a T.R.U.E Committee meeting that started at 4:30 PM. The commission focused on 3 issues: SMG, JEDC and Contract management. SMG has been subcontracting without the city being aware of it. SMG also failed to let procurement know what they were buying. Contract management is lacking in the city. There are numerous problems with safes that SMG uses and how money is handled. All moneys are to be deposited by the tax collector, not by the departments and all funds should be deposited the next day.

**8. Unfinished Business** - None

**9. New Business** – Dave Evans has resigned from the CPAC. The group will miss Dave and he also will leave vacant an ad hoc committee that monitored the changes at Craig Municipal Airport. The CPAC was asked if they felt that still needed that ad hoc committee and the group voiced that they do. In the near future a replacement for Dave Evans needs to be named.

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

Wellington Barlow introduced himself and informed the group that he was running for circuit judge.

Matt Shirk introduced himself and informed the group that he was running for 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

**11. Motion to Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2012 ~ 6:30 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Regency Branch Library**