

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, July 14, 2014

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members:

Agnihotri, Amita, Hawkins Cove Owners Association
Anania, Michael, Arlington Business Society
Barletta, Robert, Charter Point Community Association
Belge, Larry, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA
Blanche, James, The Woods Community Association
Davis, Michele, Council Appointee – District 1
Dickinson, Gary, Grove Park
Evans, Kacy, Caroline Forest Homeowners Association
Henry, David, Kensington Association
Hunter-Nowak, Karen, Hawkins Cove HOA
Jarnutowski, Sherrie, Walkers Glen HOA
Kline, Jeanne, Arlington East Neighborhood Association
Litwhiler, Sheila, Beachwood Civic Assoc.
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
Tucker, Ben, Cypress Cove Good Neighbor Group

Excused:

Hawkins, Lad, Communities of East Arlington
Maxted, Ed, Bentwater Place
Schorr, Patricia, Covington Creek HOA

Elected Officials:

Councilmember Bill Bishop, District 2

Staff: Lancaster, Elaine; Lamb, Lt. Nader; Roman, Dave; Wesolowski, Rosemary; Lewis, Bruce; Libero, Jim; McNeil, Jim; Long, Steve; Green, Jim

Guests:

Shacter, Melody
Martini, Terry
Hipps, Alberta, JAA

Gibbs, Craig
Crawford, Gloria
Colbert, Daphne, Regulatory Compliance

Gillem, Tiffany, JAA/JAXEX
Farhat, Jay, Candidate for Sheriff
Danford, Joyce, Candidate for City Council D-1

Danford, Joyce, Rive St. John
Brooks, Brooks, UNF

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

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – Lt. Nader** informed the group that in the past month, Zone 2 has experienced increase in crime this month, but not as significant as last month. Violent crime is up 2.35 (YTD) in Zone 2. Lt. Nader also reminded the group auto burglaries are also up; keep your cars locked and your valuables out of sight.
- **Mayor's Liaison – Dave Roman**
- **Duval County Public Schools** – not present
- **Regulatory Compliance Department (Code Compliance)**- Elaine Lancaster
Ms. Lancaster confirmed that the name of her department is Regulatory Compliance and that Environmental Quality is a different division within department. Ms. Lancaster also informed the group that there are 1256 active cases in Zone 2. They will move the focus of the Project Urban Blight to zip code 32277; that actually started working in that zip code last week and should be done working in 32277 by the end of July. Ms. Lancaster introduced Mr. Jim Libro to the CPAC. There were a couple of questions:

Do you know what zip code will be next after 32277? No, not at this time.

It was inquired if they could look into large commercial vehicles parking in residential areas? Ms. Lancaster stated that they are working on this; Code Compliance often has to work in the evening and on at least 2 Saturdays each month to try and catch these types of violations. They recently just caught a couple of violators. It was encouraged that everyone registers their concerns on the 630-CITY system.

- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) – Jim Green** – informed the group he has no report, all projects are continuing.
- **Operation Dolphin** – Karen Nashrallah
Not present
- **Planning Department:**
Housing and Community Development – Rosemary Wesolowski reminded the group that on August 18, 2014, school will resume for Duval County Public Schools. The Human Society, No More Homeless Pets and the COJ Animal Care and Control shelters are full and they need families to foster pets. These same groups will be holding a Mega Pet Adoption Event on July 18-20 at the Jacksonville Fair Grounds. Pets are up for adoption for \$25.00 per pets; the adoption fee includes spay/neutering, all shots and an ID micro-chip. The Housing and Community Development Division is currently conducting interviews to fill the position of the 3rd Neighborhoods Coordinator; we hope to have a new staff member in place soon.

- **Planning Department** – Bruce Lewis – stated that he was filling in for Paul Davis tonight; Paul is on vacation with his wife and they are visiting family out of town. Mr. Lewis did not have an official report, but was available for questions.
- **Public Works** – Steve Long, Chief of Right of way and Stormwater Management stated that he did have an update on the Sandalwood Canal. Activity will begin before the end of the quarter (before September 30, 2014). At this time Public Works is planning to begin work on the Sandalwood Canal just west of Hodges Blvd. There are weirs along the canal that have collected trash and large debris; first they will clear out the wiers to enable better water flow. A recent walk of the canal identified that there are shopping carts, tires, trees and branches blocking the weirs. This will all be cleaned as best as it can by hand. Once that is completed, the plan is to bring machinery to aid in the clean out. They will begin working with the machinery around Kernan Road and work their way east. It will be a challenge getting fuel to the machinery and equipment. They hope to have this completed by the end of the year. There is a stormwater action teams that will focus on this site (Sandalwood Canal); this is a major project and it will be a challenge.

Mr. Long shared with the CPAC that there is a new division within the Public Works Department. It was stated that the new division that started on March 1, 2014 and their focus will be on mowing and landscaping of right of ways. They have developed a maintenance circuit and will mow everything on a regular basis. He also stated that the Solid Waste Division has also been active in picking up illegal dumping around the city as an extension of Operation Urban blight.

There was a question in regard to the scheduling for cleaning the neighborhood drainage ditches? She stated that she lives in the Brookview Road/Debutante Road area and they are having a lot of problems with flooding due to growth and illegal dumping in their ditches. When will the city be out to clean these ditches? Mr. Long stated that they completed a tire clean out in that area 3 or 4 weeks ago and they removed many tires, but he will check the schedule and inform her when they will be back.

It was also stated that there seems to be a lot of flooding on Lee Road, what is the problem? Mr. Long stated that Lee Road is one of the older roads and it is graded flat with little drainage; flooding tends to be a problem in this area, but due to the manner it was constructed there isn't much else they can do and it tends to drain quickly.

There was a question inquiring what is the future plan for the Sandalwood Canal? The Stormwater team has developed a new process and they plan to work on the city as a whole; they will work and complete one entire area then that will establish a work loop so they can go back and maintain all areas every 2-3 years without any falling through the cracks.

If there are any questions, Mr. Long can be reached at SLong@coj.net

- **JaxParks** – not present

4. Presentation(s):

Brian Taylor, JaxPort, CEO shared his background and educated the CPAC on the growth and evolution of the shipping industry and of JaxPort. Mr. Taylor stated that he has been with JaxPort for 1 year, but he was worked in the maritime transport industry for 30 years; mostly with ocean

carrier side.

Mr. Taylor stressed to the CPAC that JaxPort needs to deepen the harbor; thus giving the city the opportunity increased employment (in many different fields), shipping and economic opportunity. 10 years ago, 85% of JaxPort business was due to trade with the Caribbean Islands (mostly Puerto Rico) and the remainder was primarily automobiles. Initially, we only had 1 Asian/Pacific container trade carrier entering JaxPort. Today, we have 12 of the 18 international trade carrier that provide service in the Asian/Pacific trade. Today we have grown to a port that serves many trade lanes globally.

Some of the customers that have helped grow our port are: Rooms to Go; they moved to JaxPort from Tampa Bay and Savannah Ga. Beaver Street Fisheries (a globally shipping Jacksonville Florida Company) used to move all their freight through Charleston SC, but now they use JaxPort exclusively.

Besides containers, also handles other types of cargo. JaxPort also handles large quantities of bulk shipping. Bulk would include (granite, all types of aggregate, limestone), bulk is used primarily for construction.

JaxPort ranks 3rd in handling incoming automobiles on the east coast and is the largest exporter of automobiles going to other countries.

Break bulk is the last type of cargo that JaxPort handles. Break bulk is typically frozen seafood, frozen chicken, food items. This type of cargo has grown steadily, but is not a big growth driver, but it is important globally.

Mr. Taylor emphasized that deepening our harbor is critical for the future growth of JaxPort. He stated that global marine container volumes are expected to triple in number by 2030 and the harbor has to be deeper to compete with other ports. Once the Suez Canal is operational, ships will even be larger and the amount of containers transported will increase greatly. It was also mentioned that the Panama Canal expansion will be completed in 2016; this too will increase container shipping. Mr. Taylor pointed out that if our port is unable handle the larger ships, they will by-pass Jacksonville and take their business to Savannah Georgia or Charleston South Carolina.

Mr. Taylor stated that it has been determined that deepening the harbor will not impact the environment. According to the Army Corps of Engineers study, the dredging will cause no harm. At this time JaxPort is working through all the paperwork and permitting needed to start dredging, but they do not have an expected start date. It is estimated that there will be 18 million cubic yards of sand that will be dredged. All of the sand that is dredged will be taken 8 miles off shore to an EPA approved site and deposit the sand there. It was stated that JaxPort would investigate if any of the local beaches needed re-nourishing before they took the sand off shore.

Mr. Taylor also touched on the need for additional infrastructure improvements at the port, to our roads and to local rails to handle the additional freight/cargo that will need to be distributed. JaxPort is working with FDOT to address the road and rails.

Mr. Taylor took questions from the CPAC:

It was requested that the CPAC have an opportunity to review the environmental report from the Army Corp of Engineers. It was stated that the report can be found on Army Corp of Engineers

website and it will be on the JaxPort website too.

What effect will the increase of ship traffic have on Mayport? It was stated that they do not expect any impact to Mayport in any manner. It was recognized that JaxPort does own land in Mayport, but there are no plans at this time to use the land in Mayport.

Is JaxPort planning to build a cruise terminal in Mayport? No, JaxPort does not have any plans to build a cruise terminal in Mayport. Mr. Taylor stated that there is not a market or demand to bring the larger cruise ships to Jacksonville. At this time they will continue to operate the cruise ships out of their current location.

5. **Chair's Report** – Chair Anania stated that he is continues to work with Karen Nasrallah and the Operation Dolphin team. Chair Anania has also attended a newly formed committee that will be addressing abandoned homes. It is proposed that we use federal dollars to purchase abandoned homes, foreclosed and condemned homes; turn them around and put them on the market for resale. Hope of American is a program that they would like to use as a model for the new committee.

6. **Elected Officials Reports** – Councilmember Bishop informed the group that the Mayor presented the budget to City Council today. Upon the initial review, Councilmember Bishop stated that it appears that there may be a number of items that the City council may have issues with. At this time we can note that there will be an additional \$28 million in revenue coming into the budget; \$19 million is from additional property taxes (increase in property values) and \$9 million projected from state/revenue taxes. This is the first time increase revenue since 2007 or 2008. The additional revenue has already been spent on pensions and employee healthcare costs. The budget also asked for additional funds to increase JSO staff and CIP Public Works Plans; completion of the Landing is very important for downtown Jacksonville. It was also stated that it is proposed that \$187 million be borrowed from the COJ Banking Fund. City Council feels that we have worked very to pay down our debt over the past couple of years and that it is not fiscally prudent to use this money. Councilmember Bishop encouraged everyone to read the budget and ask questions.

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- **Land Use and Zoning**

The Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee met at 5:30 p.m. The subcommittee reviewed several application and no motions were made.

- **Beautification/Parks/Environment** – Larry Belge – Hanna Park will offer \$1.00 entry on August 8, 2014. Hanna Park has a lot to offer from the beach, to a lake, picnic pavilions, 20 miles of nature and bike trails, camping and other activities. If you have never been there, please go check it out.
- **Membership** – Jeanne Kline and Karen Hunter-Nowak – no report
- **Transportation** – Ben Tucker – no report

Ad-Hoc:

- **Craig Airport** – David Henry – asked Tiffany Gillem (JAXEX Airport Manager) to update the group. Ms. Gillem informed the group JAXEX will be hosting the Florida Airports Council. This is the 45th Anniversary of the Conference. The Conference will be held on August 3-6, 2014 and they are expecting 300-500 aviation professional from around the region. The host hotel is the Hyatt regency downtown. The next JAXEX Community meeting will be held on August 5, 2014 at 9:00 am in this room. The Blue Sky Golf Club (formerly old Mill Cove Golf Course) has hired a new general manager and the golf course is undergoing a

lot of improvements. JAXEX is talking with the new general manager and trying to arrange a time that the CPAC can go over and tour the golf course prior to a CPAC meeting. Ms. Gillem did announce that they are having a security problem. Security checking the grounds has found a number of locks and fencing cut; mostly behind the dealerships, off Kernan and near Waterleaf. They have noticed that there are a number of off road vehicles entering the area illegally. Security and JSO are aware of the problem. There was a meeting held last week with engineering department, the project went out to bid, but it needs to go back out to bid.

- **North Florida TPO** – Roger Sharp – not present
- **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Patricia Schorr – not present

8. **Unfinished Business** - none

9. **New Business** – none

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

Melody Shacter introduced herself and announced that she is running for City Council District 1

James Nealis introduced himself and announced that he is running for City Council District 3

Jay Farhat introduced himself and announced that his is running for Sheriff

Joyce Morgan introduced herself and announced that she is running for City Council District 1

Bill Bishop introduced himself and announced that he is running for Mayor

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

NEXT MEETING: August 11, 2014 ~ 6:30 p.m.

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