

# 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, June 10, 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  
Evans, Kacy, Caroline Forest Homeowners Association  
Hawkins, Lad, Communities of East Arlington  
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  
Schorr, Patricia, Covington Creek HOA  
Sprague, Scott, Old Arlington Inc.  
Tucker, Ben, Cypress Cove Good Neighbor Group

#### **Excused:**

Maxted, Ed, Bentwater Place

#### **Elected Officials:**

**Staff:** Davis, Paul; Lancaster, Elaine; Lamb, John – Assistant Chief; Roman, Dave; Nasrallah, Karen; Wesolowski, Rosemary

#### **Guests:**

Shacter, Melody  
McDonald, Mary  
Hipps, Alberta, JAA  
Chan, Michael, JAA/JAXEX

Martini, Terry  
Burt, Ann  
George, Shirley  
Danford, Joyce, Rive St. John

### 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 May meeting summary. Jeanne Kline made the motion to approve the May meeting summary; the motion was seconded by Larry Belge. The motion was approved unanimously.

### 3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – Assistant Chief Lamb** informed the group that in the past month, Zone 2 has experienced a significant increase in crime. Violent crime spiked last month to 12.5% (YTD) in Zone 2 and in the past month JSO has reduced that number to 8.3% (YTD). Assistant Chief Lamb stated that aggravated battery/domestic battery and robberies to businesses are the types of crimes that have caused the rise. Property Crimes are also up 2% YTD; these types of crimes have been typically robberies to businesses. In particular delivery person are being robbed and businesses are being hit for cigarettes. JSO is implementing actions and believe they have identified the culprits. JSO continues to lose officers due to retirement and they cannot hire enough officers fast enough to fill the void. The Sheriff will be presenting his budget soon and he will be asking to fill 40 positions and to restore the positions that were previously cut. These positions would include the Community Service Officers that were cut. The next Sheriffs Walk will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> in Sutton Lakes. The walk will begin at 6:00 pm, but it is recommended that you get there a little bit earlier. This will be less than a mile walk. Traffic fatalities are also a big problem City wide. In Zone 2 we have had 18 fatalities so far in 2014 and last year for the entire year there were 19 traffic fatalities. JSO has identified 6 corridors of concern and they will be working these areas hard to keep the speed down and enforce traffic efforts. Assistant Chief Lamb reiterated that violent crime is down in Sectors D1 and D2 areas (Justina Road area), but unfortunately, they chased the bad guys to Sector E2 or Echo2. The boundaries of Echo 2 are University Blvd. on the west, St. Johns Bluff Road on the east, Atlantic Blvd. on the north and Beach Blvd. on the south. Echo2 has experienced a 73% increase violent crime YTD. The CPR (Community Problem Response) Team which is made up of 9 officers and they have been focused on this area.

- **Mayor's Liaison – Dave Roman** informed the group that he was in a meeting last week with the Sheriff and the Sheriff pointed out that overall, crime is at a 42 year low. The Pension Bill is in front of City Council and it is expected to go through in the normal cycle. The Mayor's Senior Fish-a-Thon was rescheduled due to weather and will be held tomorrow at Hanna Park from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The City Council's new officers will be sworn in on June 27, 2014 at 4:00 pm and the Learn to Earn program will start at Jacksonville University on Sunday.

Mr. Roman answered the following questions:

*Does a balanced budget accompany the Pension Bill that is in front of City Council? How are we getting the money to pay for pensions?* The Pension Bill is separate from the budget, but a separate committee is being created that will decide each year how it will be funded. It will have to be funded every year. Today in the newspaper it has been report that there will be an additional \$16 million brought in due to the additional property

taxes over last year. As the economy continues to improve our so should our revenue sources.

*At a previous meeting a City Staff person from Public Works stated that we would see some work started on the Sandalwood Canal. We have been waiting for over 2 years and nothing has occurred. For the record there are hundreds of homes that are impacted by the Sandalwood Canal and every time it rains that are on retention ponds that have water up to their foundations. Several CPAC members joined in and stated that are tired of entering issues into the CARE system and nothing being done. Mr. Roman was unclear of the status of the project, but it was determined that Rosemary Wesolowski would email the new Public Works CPAC Liaison and request an update on the Sandalwood Canal project.*

- **Duval County Public Schools** – not present
- **Environmental Quality Division** (Code Compliance)
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green – informed the group that there are 3 emergency repair sites along the Wonderwood Expressway for pipe repairs. The repairs are temporary, using big metal plates to cover the holes. There is a planned project for the Wonderwood Expressway and the RFP will go out later this week. The planned Wonderwood Expressway project will include replacement of all fail pipes. There will also be another contract a couple of years down the road to acquire additional right of way. I-295 and Butler Blvd; work will start in September and will should be completed in 2016. The Atlantic Blvd. inter-coastal waterway bridge there will be some bridge rehab. The bridge rehab is underway and is mostly occurring under the bridge; this project should not impact traffic. The Mathews Bridge has some fender work to be completed; this is mostly at the water line and should not impact traffic. The Hart Bridge Toll Building has been torn down. There is also another project on Atlantic Blvd. from in front of Regency Square Mall and ends at Monument Road.
- **Operation Dolphin** – Karen Nashrallah informed the group that she would be brief with her report since President Cost is going to be the guest speaker. Currently, they are looking at the existing plans (NAP, Overlays, Corridor Studies, etc.) prior to starting any corridor improvements. In particular they are looking at getting the power lines along Merrill Road relocated underground and developing a 5 year plan for the various improvements to turn it into a beautiful, walkable neighborhood.
- **Planning Department:**
  - **Housing and Community Development** – Rosemary Wesolowski added that FDOT has requested contact information for all neighborhoods that are located along the Wonderwood Express. If anyone knows anyone that lives off the Wonderwood Expressway, please have them contact Rosemary so we can get their contact information so we can keep them informed about the FDOT project. FDOT is planning to have a public meeting on this major project. This is going to be a major project and it will impact their traffic greatly. Also, the Operation Urban Blight will be working in the 32277 zip code.
- **Planning & Development Department** – Paul Davis – no report, but available for questions. Mr. Davis can be reached at 255-7822.
- **Parks Department** – Robert Hall introduced himself as the new JaxParks representative to the GAB CPAC. Mr. Hall informed the group that the Ed Austin Park held the dedication of the Dog Park opening at the end of May. Arlington Lions Park boardwalk extension is in the design phase. Exchange Island will have rustic days and trip to the island. The Fort Caroline pool should be completed in July, but the Sunny Acres pool is open and available. Rondette Park is undergoing improvements to make it ADA compliant. The Sheffield Park will have field expansion and parking. Mr. Hall provided information for the

Summer Night Light program and Rec and Roll; handouts were provided. Summer camps are starting in 2 weeks.

#### 4. Presentation(s):

**Tim Cost, President, Jacksonville University** provided a brief introduction and spoke about his time as a student at Jacksonville University (JU). Mr. Cost became Jacksonville University's 12th President on Feb. 1, 2013. Mr. Cost stated that he graduated magna cum laude in 1981 from JU and was a JU athlete and four-year varsity letterman on the baseball team.

Mr. Cost stated that upon his return to Jacksonville, he was surprised at how Arlington and JU had changed and declined through the years. Due to his passion for JU and the community, Mr. Cost is committed to creating change in Arlington and at JU and confirmed that Jacksonville University is staying in the Arlington area and has no intention of relocating to the Downtown or Urban Core area.

Mr. Cost stated that he started making changes on the JU campus has started to bring back some of the former beauty and status. These changes began with the fencing and landscaping in front of the campus, but he was proud to announce some of the bigger construction projects that will be occurring on campus. President Cost announced that JU has purchased 66 acres of land adjoining to the north of the campus and 40 acres of land adjoining to the south of the campus. He was proud to announce that Jacksonville University will construct a 274-person riverfront student housing units in the land north of the campus and it is expected to be completed by fall 2015. This is what was known as the former Dolphin Reef Property at 3812 University Blvd. N. It was stated that modern living spaces are an absolute priority for any college looking to expand and improve. It was also announced that in the 40 acres of riverfront property immediately south of its campus would be used to develop new campus dining options, a new football/lacrosse stadium, improving academic spaces and research laboratories, and a \$1.5 million expansion of the River House student center. The entire campus is being remade with spaces in mind that align with current educational trends and invite social interaction. It was also mentioned that Mr. Cost has plans in the future to expand the health center, the College of Health and he would like to partner with Mayo Clinic.

President Cost stated that he was also looking to improve the surrounding community. To make community changes, President Cost expressed the need to have the City of Jacksonville, JSO, JEA involved with improving 2 major corridors in Arlington (Merrill Road & University Blvd) and to have outside financial partners to help attract new businesses to the Arlington/JU area. To meet these needs, he has created Operation Dolphin. He stressed that the JEA power lines along Merrill Road contribute largely to the visual pollution and detract from the community; President Cost would like the power lines relocated underground. President Cost asked Dr. Donnie Horner to also speak.

Dr. Donnie Horner emphasized JU's commitment to Arlington, introduced that they would like to grow their student body, expand programs in the healthcare fields, build a new College of Health, work on improving the quality and quantity of businesses in the Arlington area and to make Arlington a student friendly, walkable community. Dr. Horner reiterated the concern of visual pollution along Merrill Road and University Blvd and the need to have the power lines placed underground. Dr. Horner informed the group how closely they have started working with JSO; JSO now has a dormitory. With the JSO involvement, JU is also looking to expand the walkable community outside the gates of JU.

Mr. Cost heard a few comments from the community; he encouraged everyone to come visit the JU campus and become involved with JU.

5. **Chair's Report** – Chair Anania reiterated that we as a CPAC need to work with JU and support Operation Dolphin. Chair Anania stated that with his involvement in Operation Dolphin he has had the opportunity to work with Chief Tranquille; the Chief is over the Crime Free Multi-Family Housing unit. Their goal is to revitalize that unit (Crime Free Multi-Family Housing) and focus on the hot spots that are on or along the focus corridors of Operation Dolphin.

Chair Anania also stated that he and the 5 other CPAC Chairs have continued to follow the work on the Task Force on Consolidated Government, Subcommittee on Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, Planning, Services and the St. Johns River Subcommittee meetings. At this time he and the other CPAC Chairs have not seen the complete final draft recommendations. The portions of the recommendations that they have viewed is mostly OK, but they (CPAC Chairs) do have a few concerns about voting rights and a couple of other technicalities.

6. **Elected Officials Reports – none**

7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

The Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee met at 5:30 p.m. The subcommittee reviewed several application and 3 motions were made:

**Support for rezoning 2014-0352 Kendall PUD** but would like to add the following condition: Strike original written description dated March 31, 2014 section (v)(B)(2)(b) reference for optional access point from Lone Star Road. This connection would route extensive traffic through the residential subdivision and would increase traffic demand on Lone Star Road. Investigate relationship of units approved (250 detached homes or 475 townhomes) versus the number of lots per site plan (188). Investigate the total length of the cul de sac allowed by the Land Development Code.

**Support for Minor Modification MM-14-016 2033 Andreu Road** with the recommendation that the applicant take steps to protect the 36 inch oak at the front of the site.

**Support for rezoning T619 Galveston Ave.**

The motions were all approved unanimously by the CPAC.

- **Beautification/Parks/Environment** – Larry Belge – no report -
- **Membership** – Jeanne Kline and Karen Hunter-Nowak – Co-Chair Kline introduced new member Sheila Litwhiler from Beachwood Civic Association and welcomed her to the CPAC. Kline also mentioned that they now have a large CPAC district map and they are going to started mapping out the district.
- **Transportation** – Ben Tucker – no report

**Ad-Hoc:**

- **Craig Airport** – David Henry – asked Michael Chan (JAXEX Operation Manager) to update the group. Mr. Chan informed the group JAXEX is reviewing their hurricane policies and procedures. Mr. Chan also reminded the group that JaxEx High Achievers have graduated; 3 will take part in the ACE Program (flight academy). The next JAXEX Community meeting will be held on July 1, 2014. The old Mill Cove Golf Course improvements are continuing. The golf course will now be called Blue Sky Golf Club.
- **North Florida TPO** – Roger Sharp – not present
- **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Marcella Lowe stated that one of the former Commissioners attend the TRUE Commission meeting this past week. The Commissioner expressed their concern on JTA funds and how it is used. Ms.

Lowé stated that they did discuss this and the Better Jacksonville Plan funds and it was determined that they were used within the accordance of the law. Ms. Lowé went on to state that the audits that were discussed were the Quarterly Budget review for the quarter ending on March 31, 2014; this will be brought back up at the next meeting. The Jacksonville Sunshine Law will be brought back up also; it needs to be reviewed again. The current Chairman's term will end on June 30<sup>th</sup> and he would like to review a few things before his term ends. The topics are: 1. The re-write of the City's Procurement Code 2. The Police and Fire Pension reform 3. Review the recommendations and requests of the Mayor and City Council; determine if any actions have occurred or if they were ignored. Ms. Lowé ended by say that she her term on the TRUE Commission will end on June 30, 2014 and Commission has recognized her for 12 years of service and all that she has done for the City. She has been asked to stay on as a Parliamentarian and/or as the TRUE Commission trainer officer and she has agreed to serve as the training officer.

8. **Unfinished Business** - none

9. **New Business** –

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

Council aide and Council District 4 Candidate, Scott Wilson informed the group that today is Mike Anania's birthday; the CPAC wished Mike a Happy Birthday.

**Motion to Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: July 14, 2014 ~ 6:30 p.m.**

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