

District #2 – Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Michael Anania

Vice Chair: Eddi Parsons

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport

DATE: Monday, January 9, 2015

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members:

Anania, Michael, Arlington Business Society
Barletta, Robert, Charter Point Community Association
Belge, Larry, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA
Blache, James, The Woods Community Association
Davis, Michele, Council Appointee – District 1
Conderman, Laurel, University Park Civic Association
George, Shirley, University Park Civic Association
Hawkins, Lad, Communities of East Arlington
Hunter-Nowak, Karen, Hawkins Cove HOA
Keeley, Tim, Kensington Association
Kline, Jeanne, Arlington East Neighborhood Association
Jackson, Mary Jane, Southern Grove Condo Association
Jarnutowski, Sherrie, Walkers Glen HOA
Litwhiler, Shelia, Beachwood Civic Association
Maxted, Ed, Bentwater Place
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
Schirado, Carol, Communities of East Arlington
Shacter, Melody, Clifton Civic Association
Tucker, Ben, Cypress Cove Good Neighbor Group

Excused:

Agnihotri, Amita, Hawkins Cove Owner Association
Evans, Kacy, Caroline Forest Homeowners Association
Henry, David, Kensington Association
Kline, Jeanne, Arlington East Neighborhood Association
Lowe, Marcella, Alderman Park Civic Association
Ludwig, Helen, St. Johns Woods HOA
Schorr, Patricia, Covington Creek HOA

Elected Officials:

Staff: Roman, Dave; Nasrallah, Karen; Lancaster, Elaine; Wesolowski, Rosemary; Davis, Paul; Hall, Robert; McNeil, Julie; Williams, Danny

Guests:

Day, Ramon – Candidate Council District 4

Hipps, Alberta – JAA

Martini, Terry

Nealis, James – Candidate Council District 3

Hanson, Sherri – UNF

Danford, Joyce – Rive St. Johns

Bowman, Aaron – Candidate Council District 3

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 November meeting summary. Pete Miller made a motion to accept the meeting summary and Lad Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – Sgt. Danny Williams** informed the CPAC that crime has fluctuated a bit due to crime statistics over the holidays. Currently, JSO does not have any crime statistics for 2015. Currently, JSO is not tracking and crime trends or patterns.
- **Mayor's Liaison – Dave Roman** stated that JaxPort, The Chamber of Commerce, the City of Jacksonville and the Riverkeeper have reached an agreement that the Riverkeeper is not going file an environmental suit in regard to the Rodman Dam. In exchange, JaxPort, The City of Jacksonville and the Chamber of Commerce are going to try to move forward with the long standing plan to remove the Rodman Dam in effort to increase the fresh water flow into the St. Johns River to offset the dredging of the St. Johns River to 47 feet. With opening the Rodman Dam, this will alleviate some of the concerns the Riverkeeper has about the dredging. The Rodman Dam was part of the Cross Florida Barge Canal and it was stopped in 1968 by President Nixon. It has been a political concern for a number of reasons. Putnam County would like to keep the dam due to the revenue that it generates in the county by bass fisherman that travel to Putnam County to fish.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – not present
- **Regulatory Compliance Department (Code Compliance)**- Elaine Lancaster
Ms. Lancaster announced that since the November meeting Code Compliance has completed 8 projects in the GAB district. 5 of the projects are related to the Operation Dolphin corridor (this is the second time around), Woodland Acres as a Urban Blight Project, Arlingwood as an Urban Blight Project and Parkridge as an Urban Blight Project. By the end of January, Code Compliance plans to start working in the Sandalwood area. Ms. Lancaster announced that that they have 4 new employees and introduced Kevin Wellman to the CPAC.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green – not present, but if you have a question, please send it to Rosemary
- **Jacksonville Aviation Authority** – Tiffany Gillem informed the CPAC that the Monument Road/St. Johns Bluff landscaping project has been awarded. Expect to see activity over the next 60 days. Ms. Gillem thanked Member Lad Hawkins for all of his work on the landscaping project. Within the next week, there will be some work completed on the control tower; they are working on the HVAC in accordance to the FAA regulations. JAXEX Golf Course is now open for more information about the golf course, please visit their website at: www.GolfBlueSky.com.
- **Operation Dolphin** – Karen Nashrallah – no report
- **Planning Department:**

Housing and Community Development – Rosemary Wesolowski informed the CPAC that the Housing and Community Development Division is looking into offering training to the community on a quarterly basis. Rosemary inquired if there are any topics that the CPAC would like to have training on? There was a request to have training on the COJ website and on how to utilize the JSO Crime Statistics online.

Planning Department – Paul Davis stated that he did not have an additional report from the LUZ Subcommittee, but he was available for questions.

- **Public Works** – Steve Long, Chief of Right of way and Stormwater Management – not present
- **JaxParks** –Robert Hall – not present

4. Presentation(s):

Chris Hand, Chief of Staff, City of Jacksonville, reviewed Pension Reform with the CPAC. Mr. Hand informed the CPAC about the various pieces of legislation that have been introduced since 2011 in effort to reform the current pension agreements. The annual pension impact was illustrated and the monumental increasing costs to fund the pensions. As an example, in FY 2001-02 funding the pension cost the city approximately \$9.9 million and in FY 2014-15 the expense has jumped to \$153 million.

In August 2013, the Jacksonville Retirement Task Force started meeting. The task force is comprised of 17 community leaders and chaired by Bill Scheu. The task force reviewed the PFPF for 7 months and tackled the unfunded liability.

The unfunded liability of the Police and Fire Pension Fund (PFPF) is \$1.65 billion, which places the PFPF at approximately 43% funded status. The \$1.65 billion unfunded liability is debt that the City already owes and will pay over the next 30 years under the proposed retirement reform agreement. The City's growing unfunded liability is a major reason that its PFPF contributions has increased from approximately \$10 million in FY 2001/02 to \$153 million today. In order to lower the unfunded liability more quickly and relieve pressure on the City budget, the Retirement Reform Task Force recommended that the City accelerate its payment of the unfunded liability by paying more than is required until the PFPF reaches a healthier funded status.

After the Jacksonville Retirement Reform Task Force issued its final recommendations in March 2014, the City and the PFPF reached a tentative agreement in which the City agreed to contribute an additional \$40 million per year for 10 years, or until the PFPF reaches an 80% funded status. As part of the agreement, the PFPF agreed to contribute \$61 million currently held in 2 reserve accounts to the City upon implementation of the agreement. In May, COJ and PFPF started public discussions with the hope of achieving a new retirement reform agreement. The final tentative agreement was achieved on June 3, 2014 and was introduced as Council bill 2014-386. On December 9, 2014, the Jacksonville City Council overwhelmingly passes the amended reform agreement. On January 5, 2-15, the PFPF accepts the majority of the Council amendments and recommends revisions to others.

By law, there are a number of pension benefits that cannot be touched. The City cannot alter the benefits of retired employees, cannot alter the pension benefits of current employees already in the DROP or eligible for retirement (have worked 20 years or more and cannot alter the benefits that current employees have earned).

There are a number of advantages to the new funding solution. This plan does not require a tax increase, a fee increase or utility rate increase. The City's acceleration of its unfunded liability

payments would be accomplishment immediately, without any uncertainty on the part of the City or the PFPF as to whether the annual \$40 million additional contributions will be made over the course of the agreement. Also, as the City addresses the pension funding concerns, the solution should be viewed favorably by the rating agencies that downgraded the City's credit rating for pension related reasons.

5. **Chair's Report** – Chair Anania – no report

6. **Elected Officials Reports** – none

7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

- **Land Use and Zoning:**

The Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee met at 5:00 p.m. The subcommittee reviewed several applications and 2 motions were made:

Conditions of exception for E-14-068 – the CPAC recommends qualified support of the request to allow an automotive service garage at 9750 Regency Square Boulevard (formerly Champions Craft Store) with the following recommendations: The specific owner has a strong record of community support and contribution, however there are concerns that the use itself might result in undesirable and blighting influence if under different management. The approval should be made personal to the owner. Residential Property is located across the street to the north. The site should be brought into compliance with the current provisions of the landscape code.

Deny rezoning 2014-0646 at 6117 Atlantic Blvd. The purpose of the rezoning is primarily to permit a larger sign than is currently permissible. The area is cluttered with an overabundance of visually obtrusive and distracting signs. The cumulative effect of the existing signage plus this request will result in further destructive visual blight.

Beautification/Parks/Environment – Larry Belge – Lad Hawkins reminded the CPAC to keep their eyes on the Rodman Dam issue.

- **Membership** – Jeanne Kline and Karen Hunter-Nowak – Subcommittee Co-Chair Hunter-Nowak introduced Laurel Condeman as the Primary Member and Shirley George as the alternate for University Park Civic Association.
- **Transportation** – Ben Tucker – Lad Hawkins reminded the group that there will be a community meeting on the proposed changes at the intersection of University Blvd. and Atlantic Blvd. on January 29, 2015. This is a project that we should keep an eye on.
- **Ad-Hoc:**
- **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** – Member Jerry Petoskey informed the CPAC that he saw former CPAC member, Johnny Holden over the holidays and Johnny mentioned to him that he would be 100 years old in September 2015. Jerry stated that the CPAC may want to get together and recognize his 100th birthday. Member Lad Hawkins stated that Johnny has always wanted to have the fishing pier at Reddie Point Park named after him, maybe as a CPAC we could pursue that endeavor.

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

Member Pete Miller informed the CPAC that Councilmember Lori Boyer introduced legislation 2014-666-E that would lower the speed limits that would let neighborhoods lower the speed limits from 30 mph to 20 or 25 mpg. It requires a petition from the Department of Public Works, a meeting with your City Councilmember & City staff, then you will need to obtain approval from 75% of the property owners. The neighborhood will be responsible to pay for 50% of the new speed limit signage.

Member Miller also informed the CPAC about NeighborhoodNextDoor.com as free neighborhood social media tool.

Member Hawkins and Member Miller stated that the old JMP railroad that ran from Arlington to the beach crossed the land that is currently used as the Jacksonville Arboretum. Hawkins stated that he would like to develop a path that incorporated the old rail lines as a future project. If anyone has any information about the location of the old train line, please contact Lad Hawkins. It was also announced that on April 16-18, 2015, the Arboretum will host the annual A Brush with Nature. This amazing and popular fundraiser and plein air painting event will feature more than 35 renowned landscape artists painting in the beautiful settings of the Arboretum. Visitors can watch and interact with the artists, view created works in the “wet tent”, and even purchase a paintings at the event and a special off-site reception. Other event activities include artists’ demonstrations, guided nature tours, live music, food trucks, and children’s art activities.

Aaron Brock introduced himself as a candidate for City Council District 3
James Nealis introduced himself as a candidate for City Council District 3
Joyce Morgan introduced herself as a candidate for City Council District 1
Ramon Day introduced himself as a candidate for City Council District 4
Melody Shacter introduced herself as a candidate for City Council District 1

Motion to Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2015 ~ 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport
855-1 Craig Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32225
For a Holiday Potluck Dinner