

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, May 12, 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
Evans, Kacy, Caroline Forest Homeowners Association
Hawkins, Lad, Communities of East Arlington
Henry, David, Kensington Association
Hibbard, Sandi, Harbour North Civic Association
Huffines, Carroll, Mayport Village Civic Association
Hunter-Nowak, Karen, Hawkins Cove HOA
Jarnutowski, Sherrie, Walkers Glen HOA
Kline, Jeanne, Arlington East Neighborhood Association
Lowe, Marcella, Alderman Park Civic Association
Ludwig, Helen, St. Johns Woods HOA
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
Schorr, Patricia, Covington Creek HOA
Sprague, Scott, Old Arlington Inc.
Swanner, Lamar, Covington Creek HOA
Tucker, Ben, Cypress Cove Good Neighbor Group

Excused:

Davis, Michele, Council Appointee – District 1

Elected Officials:

Staff: Davis, Paul; Lancaster, Elaine; Nader, Lt.; Roman, Dave; Simmons, Shaniqua; Nasrallah, Karen; Wesolowski, Rosemary

Guests:

Shafer, Melody
Litwhiler, Shelia, Beachwood
Gillem, Tiffany, JAA/JAXEX

Martini, Terry
Hipps, Alberta, JAA
Colbert, Daphne, COJ

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 April meeting summary. Marcella Lowe made the motion to approve the April meeting summary as amended; the motion was seconded by Larry Belge. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Staff Reports

- JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – Lt. Nader informed the group that citywide crime is down 2.32%, but in Zone 2, burglaries to businesses are up. One of the biggest problems is individuals are breaking into Walgreens, CVS's, Gate Gas Stations and stealing cigarettes. There has also been a problem with new homes under construction having their appliances and copper stolen. Some of the developers have put in security cameras and have caught a couple of individuals, but it appears to be an ongoing problem.
- Mayor's Liaison – Dave Roman informed the group that they are making great strides with pension reform. At this time it appears that are working on restructuring the pension plan for new hires. The Port Task force met today and the deepening of the St. Johns River at mile point is in the bill that needs to go to the House and Senate; we may hear something by next month. If the deepening is approved, nothing will start until 2016. Waterproof Jax will return this year to the JaxParks. The goal of Waterproof Jax is to teach all the children to swim. This year there will be a pilot program held at Woodland Acres Elementary; Attorney Wayne Hogan donated enough money to provide swimming lessons for the entire elementary school. Mr. Roman introduced Steven Long from Public Works and informed the group that Mr. Long will provide an update on the Sandalwood Canal. Mr. Long informed the group that he will start attending the CPAC meetings on a quarterly basis to talk about Public Works issues throughout the district.

In regard to Sandalwood Canal, Mr. Long stated that he and his crew recently had the opportunity to look at the canal around the Egret's Nest neighborhood (responding to a 630-City issue). The Public Works department has created a SWAT Team; this allows them to respond and address all aspects of the ditch/canal. They will work on blockage, overgrowth, litter, washed up debris and work in an entire area. They have also broken up the Zones into various subsectors and will methodically work each ditch. Sandalwood canal is scheduled for a near future clean-up. Mr. Long stated that he would provide the start date for the canal clean up at the next meeting. Mr. Long went on to say that they Sandalwood Canal is quite a challenge to work on due to the size and length of the canal; it is often hard to get the equipment into the canal.

- Duval County Public Schools – not present
- Environmental Quality Division (Code Compliance) Elaine Lancaster informed the group that she and her team are still actively working with the Urban Blight Project and there are plans to move it into the 32257 and 32258 zip codes. In the Arlington area, a systematic inspection will take place in Woodland Acres on Wednesday. Staff in Code Compliance continues to fluctuate; new officers have been hired, but there has also been a few officers retire. Code Compliance has been working a little bit behind; it is taking sometimes

7 to 10 days to get to a get to specific inspection.

- FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) – Jim Green – provided a handout from the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) and informed the CPAC that all the upcoming projects that will occur in the GAB District are hi-lighted. Mr. Green encouraged everyone to review the handout and contact him if they had any questions. Mr. Green also reported that resurfacing on Beach Blvd. will begin this summer; that roadway divides GAB and the SE districts.
- JEDC – Karen Nashrallah informed the group that they are continuing to collect data and have begun to work with JSO and JEA to look at lighting as a safety measure. Also, the project plans to address overgrown vegetation in the near future. The group was reminded by Chair Anania that the Tim Cost, the new JU President will be the guest speaker for the June CPAC meeting.
- Planning Department
Housing and Community Development – Rosemary Wesolowski confirmed that Steve Long, Acting Chief, Right of Way and Stormwater maintenance will be added to the agenda on a quarterly basis. Informed the group that the annual Senior Expo will be held at the Prime Osborn Convention Center on May 14 – 15, 2014 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm each day. The Senior Expo are parking are free. The Annual Jazzfest will be held on Memorial Day weekend; flyers are available with complete details in the lobby.
- Planning & Development Department – Paul Davis – no report, but available for questions. Mr. Davis can be reached at 255-7822.
- Parks Department – Shaniqua Simmons informed the group that they are ready for summer camp to begin. Registration will begin tomorrow. Summer Camp is available for kids 6-12 years of age. JaxParks will be offering a couple of specialty camps; please contact JaxParks for complete details. Ms. Simmons also informed the CPAC that Kelley Boree's last day with the city will be May 18, 2014; Ms. Boree working in Tallahassee in a State position.

4. Presentation(s):

Bill Gulliford, City Council President, Council District 13, gave an overview account on why we should extend the current gas tax. The gas tax was part of the Better Jacksonville Plan.

Gulliford informed the group that right now, the full six cent tax goes to JTA for various projects and is set to expire in 2016. The proposal under debate would extend the tax through 2036 and dedicate one cent of the tax directly to the city with 80% maintenance and improvement of city streets and 20% for bicycle/pedestrian safety projects. Gulliford pointed out that currently we have been taking money from the general fund or borrowing it to pay for that work. This source allows for other things to be paid by the general fund, making more of that money available for police officers, fire service, libraries and the like. Gulliford said as part of the gas tax extension, JTA would take over operation of the St. Johns River Ferry. He said that arrangement could make it easier to obtain funding from the state to help pay the daily operating costs of the ferry.

It was confirmed again that the current gas tax does not expire until 2016, and Gulliford feels that we should not wait 2 years to make the decision to extend. Gulliford stated that now is the ideal time to bond out the money for the projects and the cost of construction will only continue to rise with time. Currently, there are more than \$100 million potential road projects that could be funded and many could begin in a relatively short time. The timing couldn't be better for us to get the biggest bang for our buck. Gulliford emphasized that the city and the Jacksonville Transportation Authority recently jointly drafted a work list of road projects and they totaled \$141 million worth of projects; though the tax is only expected to finance about \$100 million of this

work. The longer list was written in case local officials find a way to stretch their dollars, such as convincing the state to chip in on some projects.

The list ranges from expensive efforts such as rebuilding the north end of Kernan Boulevard as a six-lane road with sidewalks, bike lanes and roadside ditches — that would cost \$16.7 million — to a comparatively cheap \$600,000 project at Old St. Augustine Road's intersection with Greenland Road in Mandarin.

In between are projects like completing work on a Soutel Drive transit hub with a park-and-ride facility, rebuilding and widening parts of Collins Road and building a new two-lane extension of Parramore Road connecting to Youngerman Circle.

Gulliford recognized that there are opponents to extending the gas tax. He stated that opponents claim there will be a savings on gas if the local gas tax is eliminated. In 1986 when the local option gas tax was being considered a Jacksonville gas and diesel retailer told the then-president of the City Council that he was fine with them not passing the gas tax; he would just make more money. Critics have also, to this point, not outlined any alternative way to bring that money in for the city.

Nearby counties are keeping their local option gas tax in place, so Jacksonville retailers will just raise the price of gasoline to match the regional market. Remember, every county in Florida charges a local option gas tax, with 22 of them charging twice the amount we are extending.

Gulliford also addressed the concern of decreased gasoline consumption and new types of fuels. Changes will lower the potential revenue of the gas tax. He went on to say that there was a study completed by Coggin College of Business at UNF in January of 2014 that contradicts that claim. It concluded that the fuel demand in Jacksonville will most likely remain flat or increase slightly, meaning the local option gas tax revenue will remain flat or increase over the next 17 years.

A long-term revenue analysis by the state of Florida actually projects a 1.58 percent increase in gas tax revenue in the state over the next 10 years. Furthermore the state Legislature has passed legislation to allow for taxing CNG and LNG in the future to offset revenue loss from the switching from gas/diesel to natural gas. Also, the new projection from the state, according to JTA, says increase in personal incomes, increase in fuel prices, and a growing portion of the population in the driving age will all override those concerns to show a small uptick in the gas tax collections over the next decade.

It was pointed out that there will always have to be a dedicated revenue source for improving and maintaining our roads. The gas tax is the logical and fair one because it is more like a user fee, not a tax. Thousands of people drive daily to their jobs in Jacksonville from surrounding counties. When they buy gas here and pay the local option gas tax, they help with the expansion and maintenance of our road system; the same roads they also use. Additionally, those people driving through Jacksonville and filling up will contribute. Also important, are the good number of jobs that will be created by a \$100 million plus in road work, especially for the young, adult males, a segment that still has high levels of unemployment.

To close, Gulliford stated that the bill is now back in the individual committees next week, and there are still a lot of questions that remain- including whether the list of projects to receive funding through the gas tax. The bill must be voted out of the three committees to come for a final vote in front of the full Council.

5. **Chair's Report** – Chair Anania informed the CPAC that he and the 5 other CPAC Chairs have continued to work together and attend the Task Force on Consolidated Government, Subcommittee on Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, Planning, Services and the St. Johns River Subcommittee meetings. At this time the subcommittee is in their final stages and they are preparing to make their recommendations to the full task force. Chair Anania stated that he and the other chairs have drafted a letter jointly that contained the recommendations from CPAC Chairs. Some of their recommendations were: increase the budget for administrative supplies/tasks for \$30,000 for each CPAC; more staff (at least 1 staff person per CPAC; Education for subcommittee chairs and other members on zoning and city ordinances, websites and technology for each CPAC, marketing of the CPAC's; reestablish the Neighborhoods Department to name a few. A copy of the letter was available on table in the lobby for the review.

6. **Elected Officials Reports – none**

7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

- **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs** – Michael Anania

The Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee met at 5:30 p.m. The subcommittee reviewed 7 application and 4 motions were made:

Support for rezoning 2014-0310 Dolphin Reef PUD because the CPAC recognizes the positive and significant contribution that Jacksonville University provides to the community, the CPAC supports the current JU revitalization initiative and development of the property will help strengthen the community.

Support for rezoning 2014— 0311 Lakeview North Residential Treatment Facility PUD because the site and its proposed use are consistent with the surroundings, but the CPAC would like to add one condition that the development should be required to meet all conditions are Part 12 Landscape and Tree Protection Ordinance including the provision terminal parking island with trees.

Support for rezoning 2014—0312 Amended Brumos Motor Cars PUD because the site and its proposed use are consistent with the surroundings, but the CPAC would like to add one condition that the fifteen feet of road frontage along Lee Road reserved for future development should be donated to the City of Jacksonville without reimbursement in the form of an exactment.

Denial of Exception E-14-25 due to the follow observations: it is foreseeable that the adjoining residential property owners will be disturbed by noise and the intensity of activities; the use will be a visual blight on the Arlington area when passing on the heavily trafficked Arlington Expressway; the visual blighting will set a precedent for other degrading uses in the Arlington area; the proposed site plan does not comply with the Ordinance Code with respect to the minimum landscape requirements.

The motions were all approved unanimously by the CPAC.

- **Beautification/Parks/Environment** – Larry Belge – no report - Lad Hawkins informed the CPAC that the Environmental Round Table is a group that used to meet, but for some reason stopped. The Environmental Roundtable has been reactivated and has held 2 meetings so far. Lad stated that they will inform the group of upcoming meetings.
- **Membership** – Jeanne Kline and Karen Hunter-Nowak – Co-Chair Kline informed the CPAC that she, Karen Hunter-Nowak, Patricia Schorr and Rosemary Wesolowski met to transfer information. Currently, Co-Chairs Kline & Hunter-Nowak are formulating a plan, but they hope to utilize information from ShAdCo and Sunbiz.org to reach out to new communities that are currently not participating in CPAC.
- **Transportation** – Ben Tucker – no report

Ad-Hoc:

- **Craig Airport** – David Henry – asked Tiffany Gillem (Manager of JAXEX) to update the group. Ms. Gillem stated that the JaxEx High Achievers is wrapping up for this school year. The last workshop that they will hold for them will be on May 22, 2014; a graduation ceremony will be held. Tomorrow, Visit Jacksonville in collaboration with Generations Aviations will host an event at 5:30 pm in this room to discuss tourism and aviation. The old Mill Cove Golf Course improvements are continuing. The golf course will now be called Blue Sky Golf Club. If all goes as planned, the renovation should be completed in 3 to 4 months; it is hopeful that they will have the restaurant and range open first. The next JaxEx Community meeting will be held at 9:00 am on June 3, 2014 in this room. Ms. Gillem thanked all that have been attending and reminded the group that everyone is invited to attend. As an update on the landscaping projects, the engineering department will meet with the landscaping company soon. There should be a schedule to report next month for the landscaping improvements.
- **North Florida TPO** – Roger Sharp – not present
- **TRUE** (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Marcella Lowe stated that the TRUE Commission did receive a report from the NW Trust Fund. There are still a number of open questions in this report, but overall the commission has decided to accept the report as presented. The City Council has done something different this year, in regard to the Budget Review Committee. This year they are speaking to all of the departments prior to budget submittal. This has had the auditing department very busy and tied up; this has impacted the TRUE Commission by slowing down what the TRUE Commission can review. Ms. Lowe supports this approach and she feels that this will make the budget process easier. At the end of June, the TRUE Commission will be electing their new officers.
Chair Anania thanked and recognized Ms. Lowe for her dedication and service to the TRUE Commission.

8. **Unfinished Business** - none

9. **New Business** –

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

Carroll Huffines informed the group that due to a few glitches the Mayport Festival will be rescheduled to October 4 and 5, 2014. Details will be provided as soon as they are available.

Joyce Danford informed the group that she felt this was an amazing meeting and she feels that the CPAC are an amazing, important avenue for our community to communicate with each other and the city.

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

NEXT MEETING: June 9, 2014 ~ 6:30 p.m.

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