

**Greater Arlington / Beaches ~ Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**

**Regency Square Mall – Community Room ~ 9501 Arlington Expressway  
6:30 p.m. Monday, August 11, 2008**

**Meeting Summary**

**Members and Alternates**

Michael Anania  
James Blache  
Larry Belge  
Albert Cherry  
Gene Crabtree  
Michele Davis  
David Evans  
Kacy Evans

Lad Hawkins  
Florence Holcomb  
Johnny Holden  
Carroll Huffines  
Marcella Lowe  
Helen Ludwig  
Dewey Marshall  
Tami Moe

Jay Olchak  
Eddi Parsons  
H. Roger Sharp  
Chester Spellman  
Ben Tucker  
Richard Witzel

**Members Excused**

**Guests**

Ronald Weigeshoge  
John Lowe  
Dan Turner  
Ann Fridl

**Staff/Resources**

Kelley Boree, Mayor's Liaison  
Jim Green, FDOT  
Ed Lukavovic, Planning and Development  
Rosemary Wesolowski, Community Development  
Selinda Keyes, Duval County Schools

**Call to Order**

Helen Ludwig called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., established that a quorum was present, the meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Prior to the motion to approve the July 2008 meeting summary it was announced that 2 changes need to be made. Carroll Huffiness would like the last sentence in his public comment to state "a lot of discussion with Mayport Residents which still adamantly oppose the cruise ship relocation and there has been some discussion about relocation to another place like Buck Island". Jay Olchak wanted to point out that his name was misspelled; an e was used instead of a. With those corrections noted the July summary was properly seconded and approved.

## Speakers

- ***Liz Peak***, *Choice Ride Transportation Administrator, Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) and **Endya Cummings**, CPA, Business Relations and Development, JTA*; informed that JTA has been actively redesigning their system and looking to the communities current and future needs. The redesign process illuminated that JTA needed to have more services for a wider variety of people with all types of needs. To meet some of these needs these various shuttle programs were introduced: Beaver Street Trolley, Bay Street Trolley, Laura & Ocean Trolley, Air – JTA, Riverside Trolley, Beaches Trolley and the new Arlington Community Shuttle. The Arlington Shuttle is a pilot program that blends the best features of all JTA transportation to meet the needs of neighborhood transportation. The Arlington Community Shuttle will board from 18 designated shuttle stops with off route trips available through previous scheduling. To view the route, fares, information on the request for off route trip deviation, hours of operation and rider information visit [www.jtafla.com](http://www.jtafla.com) or call 904-598-8724 for complete details.
- **John Peyton, Mayor, City of Jacksonville**; presented *A Statement of Priorities* to the CPAC. There are 3 areas that were recognized as having the greatest long-term benefit to the community; safeguarding the St. Johns River, enhancing economic development and ensuring public safety.

Safeguarding the St. Johns River is of prime importance to the city because it holds distinguishing characteristic to this part of the state, it is the center of downtown, supports over 19,000 jobs, annual business impact of \$2 billion and the riverfront property has more than \$1.3 billion on the tax rolls. Currently, the river is on the "10 Most Endangered Rivers" list, 54 of the 71 tributaries are unsafe, recently we have seen evidence of this with algae blooms. We are also faced with the TMDL mandate for river and tributaries. The city has made some progress by working with the River Accord, fighting water withdrawal, the proposed fertilizer / water ordinances, implementing the Stormwater Utility which dedicates funding, the septic tank phase-out program and working with state funded money to make various improvements.

It is important and difficult to enhance economic development during the current nationwide economic downturn. While costs continue to climb it is important to raise our per capita income and invest in our infrastructure. While faced with these challenges the city has experienced impressive growth (both economically and with citizens) over the past few years. Some of the growth can be attributed to an increase in military presence; this has added 2,700 jobs, Jacksonville is on track to get a nuclear carrier, five new aircraft squadrons, two new ships and regional engineering command that will bring more than 5,000 people to Jacksonville by 2009. Local film and TV production industry has had local economic impact of \$459.8 million in last 5 years. Through the revamped JEDC there has been \$2.9 billion generated in new private capital investment, such as investments in business expansions/relocations that will create over 5,700 jobs. Most recently ground was broken on a \$44 million Bridgestone Firestone distribution and logistics center at Cecil Commerce Center. There is major growth development at JAXPORT; MOL will have an annual economic benefit of \$930 million and more than 1,600 port jobs and 4,000 indirect jobs, also Hanjin will

create thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Hanjin will also triple the number of containers port handles annually. Future economic drivers that we plan to work on will be Downtown Development, Cecil Commerce Center and continued growth of JAXPORT. All of these drivers will offer positive developments with great potential, but they require continued attention and investment.

The most comprehensive public safety initiative in Jacksonville history has been put together. Jacksonville can no longer afford to be the "murder capital of Florida." Statistics show that Jacksonville has the highest murder rate in Florida; the highest percentage of violent crime in Florida and lowest in per capita police spending. Other factors that contribute to our crime are the high illiteracy rate, high truancy / dropout rates and our inability to not keep kids off streets.

The citizens of Jacksonville need to determine what kind of City do we want? The community needs to have modern infrastructure, clean environment, economically prosperous and safe communities. The Jacksonville Journey has a number of recommendations to help us reach our goals. Some of the recommendations are to put more police on the streets, improve youth programs / education and challenge the private sector to become involved. The 2009 city budget will be presented to City Council on July 14<sup>th</sup>; everyone is encouraged to review the budget that will be available on line. The involvement of the community is essential to make Jacksonville the best city in Florida. The mayor answered numerous questions and listened to many comments from those in the group. Several individuals expressed their opposition to the relocation and development of cruise terminals in Mayport Village, opposition to the expansion of Craig Airfield, concerns about crime / public safety and the positive impact of the children's literacy program.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**PARKS & RECREATION** – Chair Dewey Marshall - no report

**BEAUTIFICATION** – Chair Marcella Lowe – no report

**LAND USE & ZONING** – Chair Al Cherry – no report or motions

**MEMBERSHIP** – Co-Chairs: Jay Olchak and Eddi Parsons introduced Tami Moe, Primary member representing Valley at Hidden Hills.

**TRANSPORTATION** – Co-Chairs Roger Sharp and Richard Witzel – no report

**ENVIRONMENT** – Chair Lad Hawkins – no report

**T.R.U.E Commission** – Marcella Lowe – no report

**Craig Airport Advisory Committee** – Dave Evans – no report

**Growth Management Visioning Plan** – Mike Anania informed the group that 2030 plan is underway and that the Greater Arlington Beaches district will have workshops and charrettes where citizens can participate. The tentative dates are: October 2, 2008 –

October 4, 2008 – October 9, 2008 – October 11, 2008 and October 30, 2008. It is important that as many GAB residents participate to ensure that future growth and development reflect what is wanted. The next steering committee meeting will be held on August 26, 2008 at the University Park Library from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

### **Staff Reports**

**MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE** – Kelley Boree – no report  
**JSO** – not present

**DCSB** – Selinda Keyes informed the group that teachers returned to school today (8-11-08) and students go back to school 08-18-08.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT** – Ed Lukacovic informed the group that the Planning Department requested extension of the Growth Management Plan to ensure everyone gets the support they need; the request was granted.

**FDOT** – Jim Green updated the group that the 9A-J Turner Butler Blvd. ramps will open – the project will be completed by the end of the year. Construction at the Atlantic – Kernan intersection has begun. Wonderwood Connector 3 will be widened (between Wompi Drive and Monument Road) from two to four lanes and will include median, bike lanes and sidewalks.

**WONDERWOOD 3 PROJECT** – Tom Underwood – not present

**DCHD** – Charles Griggs – not present

**MUNICIPAL CODE** – not present

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** – Neighborhood Coordinator Rosemary Wesolowski recognized and thanked Helen Ludwig and Larry Belge for participating in the joint CPAC meeting that was held at the Ed Ball Building on July 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Latin American Grassroots Delegation Young Leaders. Our Latin American guests enjoyed learning about our grassroots/citizens involvement in local government.

### **Announcements**

- Helen Ludwig requested that a volunteer step up to chair the nominating subcommittee; in November elections for CPAC Chair and Vice-Chair will be held.
- Helen Ludwig asked the group if there were any requests for guest speakers – JSO and the river keeper were requested.
- Member Carroll Huffiness stated that JaxPort will host a community meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at the Mayport Community Center. Mr. Huffiness also requested that the CPAC support Mayport Village in their opposition to the construction of cruise terminals in Mayport Village and requested that a letter be sent from the CPAC to state their opposition. It was discussed, voted and approved that the CPAC would resubmit an opposition letter that was formerly written and sent.
- Eddi Parsons pointed out that the next JAA Board / Craig Airport Advisory Committee / Ad hoc committee meeting was scheduled for the same time as the September CPAC meeting; JAA will be contacted about the date conflict.

- Endya Cummings informed the group about the Curb to Curb service that is offered by JTA. If you have any questions please call Endya Cummings at 630-3197, operational questions 633-8535 or to learn more about the Curb to Curb program call 598-8724.
- Al Cherry announced that after working with many city council members and city employees through the years his neighborhood has finally received a guard rail curb in an area that has been plagued with cars hitting a home.

**Adjournment** - There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**The next meeting will take place on Monday, September 8, 2008, 6:30 pm at the Regency Square Mall Community Meeting Room – 9501 Arlington Expressway.**