

Greater Arlington / Beaches ~ Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

**Regency Square Mall – Community Room ~ 9501 Arlington Expressway
6:30 p.m. Monday, October 13, 2008**

Meeting Summary

Members and Alternates

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

Kacy Evans
William Figueroa
Sandi Hibbard
Johnny Holden
Laura Langton
Helen Ludwig

Dewey Marshall
H. Roger Sharp
Chester Spellman
Ben Tucker
Sandra Tuttle
Richard Witzel

Members Excused

James Blache
Lad Hawkins
Florence Holcomb
Carroll Huffines
Marcella Lowe
Jill Nelms
Eddi Parsons

Guests

Lou Gena Smith
John Fox
Janice Strickland
William Strickland
Sally Doherty
Lake Ray
Gary Crumley

Staff/Resources

Kelley Boree, Mayor's Liaison
Lt. Joseph Janaski, JSO
Jim Green, FDOT
Ed Lukavovic, Planning and Development
Rosemary Wesolowski, Community Development
Selinda Keyes, Duval County Schools
Bruce Chauncey, Code Compliance

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.

Approval of the Minutes

Speakers

- **David Kaufman, Senior Director, Planning, Properties & Environmental Compliance, Jacksonville Port Authority**, provided the group with the history of Jacksonville entering the cruise ship business and how the first terminal was developed. Relocation for the cruise ship terminal has been under review for years and in 2008 the concept to build in Mayport took form after several private citizens approached JAXPORT in regard to selling their land. In April of 2008, JAXPORT's Board of directors approved the purchase of several parcels of Mayport property. Combined with the former City of Jacksonville properties associated with operation the St. Johns River ferry, these properties (about 8 acres in total) preserve JAXPORT's options to construct a terminal for cruise ships. Currently, JAXPORT is working on the concept and permitting for such an option, but JAXPORT's board of Directors has not given final approval for construction; no timetable for a decision has been set. The project under review would require one ship's berth, a terminal building and a multi-story parking garage, all of which would fit within 8 acres or 10% of Mayport's total 80 acres. Besides the area occupied by the terminal and ship's berth, there is no intention to restrict public access to the waterfront, unless security issues must be addressed while the ship is actually docked at the terminal. There is a possibility that adjacent development attracted by a potential terminal would actually increase public access to the river by offering public docks or boardwalks. On days when no cruise ship is in berth, JAXPORT planners hope to offer public access to the cruise terminal waterfront and potentially the terminal building. JAXPORT also feels that the community of Mayport could benefit from having a cruise terminal nearby and serve as a focal point of rejuvenation and development of shops, restaurants and various hospitality-related businesses. JAXPORT also feels that Mayport's shrimpers and fisherman also stand to benefit greatly from the additional visitors attracted to the region as they create a new market for the local fishing industry. Increased traffic flow has been a great concern for many in Mayport, but the cruise passengers will be driving opposite of the normal flow of traffic. Generally, cruise passengers get off the ship mid-morning and get on between lunchtime and early afternoon. In addition, cruise passengers traveling to or from would be urged to use both the Wonderwood Expressway and the St. Johns River Ferry. JAXPORT also feels that the possible increase in rider ship would greatly improve the ferry's financial health. JAXPORT and Florida Department of Transportation will work together to study road usage and traffic flow. Safety for the citizens and cruise passengers is a concern for JAXPORT. A cruise terminal at Mayport would require 24 hour security which would be heightened while a ship is in port. However, local residents would not be required to pass through any security checkpoints during the regular course of their day.

After the presentation there was a 15 minutes Q&A session; the following topics were covered.

There was concern about the Marine Science Education Center and if it would be impacted. JAXPORT stated that they had no plans to use lands occupied by the Center or to interfere with its operations in anyway. They also stated that a potential Mayport Cruise Terminal could offer partnership opportunities between the Center and JAXPORT.

There was concern in regard to the cruise ship affecting river traffic. JAXPORT stated that cruise terminal operations would not affect normal river traffic. The U.S. Coast Guard provides escort for all cruise vessels. Each cruise ship will need some time to turn as it arrives at the berth. This usually occurs in the early morning and normally takes about 10 minutes.

Concerns in regard to the environment and sewage were expressed. JAXPORT informed the group that there will be no discharge of sewage or other waste into Florida waters following a long standing agreement between the state and the cruise industry. Also, JAXPORT is investigating all environmental questions as part of their initial study.

A couple of individuals expressed concern that the cruise ship(s), terminal and parking garage will dominate the area and change the look and feel of Mayport Village. JAXPORT stated that if the Mayport Cruise Terminal is determined to be a viable option, the architecture of any JAXPORT structure will reflect the flavor and history of the area.

Questions were raised to the financial benefits the city would receive from the cruise ship industry vs. the shrimping/fishing industry. JAXPORT states that with just one vessel sailing from Jacksonville an estimated 400 new jobs and more than \$40 million in new annual economic impact for Northeast Florida. More than 60 percent of economic impact from cruise ships comes from passengers, many of whom stay in Jacksonville before or after their cruise. They spend money as tourist at hotels, restaurants, rental cars, taxis, car shuttles services, gas stations, shopping centers, golf courses and similar attractions. The city directly benefits from the taxes that are generated from these activities. One of the Mayport Community members stated the current shrimping and fishing industry has a \$160 million dollar impact on the community and provides more money and jobs to the city and state than the cruise industry can.

Subcommittee Reports

PARKS & RECREATION – Chair Dewey Marshall – provided an update on the park projects in district 2:

Reddie Point Pier – completed

Arboretum and Gardens - grand opening set for November 15th 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Arlington Height Elementary – new playground equipment will be installed by the middle of December.

Castaway Island Dredge – will receive FIND grant and the project will begin in January.

Ed Austin Skate Park – completed and open.

Ivey Road Park – design is almost complete.

Abess Park – restrooms under construction.

BEAUTIFICATION – Chair Marcella Lowe – not present

LAND USE & ZONING – Chair Al Cherry – no motions were made. A community leader attended the meeting to discuss E-08-68 with the subcommittee. At this time the subcommittee decided to defer until more information can be presented.

MEMBERSHIP – Co-Chairs: Jay Olchak and Eddi Parsons – not present

TRANSPORTATION – Co-Chairs Roger Sharp and Richard Witzel –encouraged all of the CPAC members to bring their transportation concerns, questions and information to the subcommittee for discussion.

ENVIRONMENT – Chair Lad Hawkins – Helen Ludwig read the report that Lad emailed. The Riverkeeper, The COJ and St. Johns County are still in trial opposing the SJRWMD and their proposed withdrawal of water from the river. The trial continues on this Wednesday and will be completed this Friday. The Riverkeeper feels things are going well, but it will be up to the Judge in the end.

T.R.U.E Commission – Marcella Lowe – not present

Craig Airport Advisory Committee – Dave Evans – JAA held a town meeting on 9/15/08, approximately 170 individuals attended. One speaker was in favor of the extension. A former Boeing engineer who was on the design team for the 737 explained that it was designed to land and take off on less runway space than the 5600 feet proposed for the Craig runway expansion. Legislation is being introduced at City Council tomorrow to put some controls on JAA.

Growth Management Visioning Plan – Mike Anania informed the group that 2 charrettes for District 2 have been completed; 1 at FCCJ South Campus and 1 at the University Park Library. At the charrettes it is important that information be captured on the all types of topics, big and small to most accurately impact the future of the district. Please participate in one of the upcoming charrettes. Mr. Anania also recognized the Planning Department; District 2 is the only district that had an ad placed in the newspaper in regard to the visioning plan and the various charrettes and the only district to have food provided at the charrettes. The next charrette will be held on October 25th at Ed Austin Park. To obtain more information please visit www.coj.net website.

Staff Reports

MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE – Kelley Boree stated that budget has been passed by council. Even though there were a number of cuts due to the lack of state funding there were also a number of the recommendations from the Jacksonville Journey that were funded. The Children's Commission will receive a lot of the grant dollars and the Parks will move forward with a lot of the inter-mural programs. On October 29th there will be a pre-ceremony for the Arboretum from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. There will also be a charrette on October 25th in regard to the Metropolitan Park redevelopment at the Main Library from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

JSO – Lt. Joseph Janaski, confirmed that the budget has passed and that JSO will be able to increase the number of officers, programs and services available to the

community. One of the programs is Operation Safe Streets (OSS). OSS has a significant and measurable impact on communities. With the funding OSS will be able to remain in place for a consecutive 12 months and you will see the difference.

DCSB – Selinda Keyes reminded the group that the ACE Committee was still actively involved with their various work groups. As ACE committee continues to look at school boundaries and the possible consolidation of schools. If additional feedback or input is needed from the community the school board will reach out to the community again to engage their participation. Also the school has just received accreditation from Advanced Ed this is the largest accreditation agency in the world. This year the accreditation was done a bit differently where they looked at the district as a whole instead of looking at the individual schools. After the accreditation a report was provided to DCSB that discussed the districts strengths and weakness. To obtain more information about any of the Duval County Schools please visit: www.duvalschools.org.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Ed Lukacovic – no report.

FDOT – Jim Green informed the group that FDOT continues to have budget concerns. Funding for FDOT comes from the sales tax of gasoline. Even though gas prices are up the actual gallon amount sold is down. Their funding is based on the volume of gas sold. There will be additional meetings and they are expecting legislature to be looking very close at the budget. The legislature is expecting a significant deficit from the decrease in taxes collected. If the situation stays as dire as it appears, some of the large projects that are in the 5 year work programs may disappear or be pushed out.

WONDERWOOD 3 PROJECT – Tom Underwood – not present

DCHD – Charles Griggs – not present

MUNICIPAL CODE – Bruce Chauncey – no report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Neighborhood Coordinator Rosemary Wesolowski informed the of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Hearings. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 21st – 6:00 p.m. at the Beaver Street Enterprise Center and Thursday, October 23rd – 6:00 p.m. at the Small Business Center on Norwood. Also, Assistant Chief Connor, JSO will be the guest speaker at the November CPAC meeting.

CHAIRS REPORT

*Helen asked all the subcommittee chairs to submit a copy of their report to Rosemary. The report can be handed over at the CPAC meeting or the report can be emailed.

* Reminded the group that the CPAC chair nominating committee has been formed. If anyone would like to nominate anyone for the chair or vice chair position please contact one of the following individuals before the November CPAC meeting. The subcommittee members are: Dave Evans, Kacy Evans, Sandi Hibbard, Ben Tucker, and Florence Holcomb.

* Asked the group for a vote on how the group would like to conduct the December CPAC meeting. The choices were: no meeting – 1 yes vote ~ to have a pot luck meal together – 14 yes votes ~ meet at a restaurant – 1 yes vote. 10 members did not vote. The December meeting will be held at the same location and time with those attending to bring a dish with them. A sign up sheet will be available at the November

meeting and encouraged everyone to bring finger foods. The paper goods and utensils will be provided.

Announcements

(Announcements and comments are limited to 2 minutes)

John Fox announced that Councilmember Bill Bishop will host a community meeting on October 20th, 6:30 p.m. at the Police Athletic League Cafeteria (Ed Austin Regional Park) to discuss moving Gate Gas Station, 10946 Ft. Caroline Road to the south side of McCormick Road.

Guest Comments

Janice Singleton stated that JAXPORT is moving with the cruise terminal at torpedo speed and the community of Mayport is greatly concerned. The citizens of Mayport Village feel that JAXPORT doesn't care about the citizens or history of the village. Ms. Singleton encouraged everyone to visit Mayport now because once the cruise terminal is built the village will be lost forever.

Mikki Baldwin stated that Mayor Peyton agreed to have a special session to address the Mayport Cruise Terminal. There has been a number of calls to the Mayor and to date he has not responded. There is a transportation issue that is being dealt with within the village. There is a 3rd lane that is going down the middle of the village. There is also 3.5 miles of A1A that is not being talked about that is a 2 lane road with protected wetlands on both sides of the road. The members of Mayport Village have contacted all sorts of media types but they concerns do not get any press. The only press that they have gotten is from the Beaches Leader and the reports that the people of Mayport are working with the Port Authority. The fact is the community of Mayport is under court mandated mediation, required by the courts due to the law suit that Mayport Village filed.

Sandra Tuttle informed the group that before she left to come to the meeting 1 shrimp boat came in with their catch which amounted to 402-100 pound boxes. Over the last 5-6 days this boat only has earned \$86 thousand dollars from their catch of shrimp. The smaller boats can catch 600 – 1000 pounds a shrimp per day. Boats are a part of life in Mayport and when the JAXPORT bought the land from the Roland family, Mr. Roland was not in good health due to Alzheimer's and didn't realize what he had done. Mr. Roland believed that the fishing docks and boats were to stay in place, but they have not. The community of Mayport does not believe anything JAXPORT tells them. The community stands against the cruise terminal.

Helen Ludwig reminded the group that in the back of the room there are Florida Voter hand-outs that provide the pro's and con's of the political issues and candidates. Please remember to vote on November 4th.

Adjournment - There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 10, 2008, 6:30 pm at the Regency Square Mall Community Meeting Room – 9501 Arlington Expressway.