

Greater Arlington / Beaches ~ Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

**Regency Branch Library – 9900 Regency Square Boulevard
6:30 p.m. Monday, January 12, 2009**

Meeting Summary

Members and Alternates

Michael Anania
Larry Belge
James Blache
Albert Cherry
Maria Condaxis
Gene Crabtree
David Evans

Kacy Evans
Lad Hawkins
Sandi Hibbard
Florence Holcomb
Johnny Holden
Carroll Huffines
Dewey Marshall

Jay Olchak
Eddi Parsons
Mary Anne Saadeh
H. Roger Sharp
Chester Spellman
Richard Witzel

Members Excused

Michele Davis
Marcella Lowe
Helen Ludwig

Guests

Tamera Branam
Sally Doherty
Wayne Entsminger
Robert Sanders
Bobby Cherry

Roberta Thomas
Eunice Schaffer
John Fox

Staff/Resources

Kelley Boree, Mayor's Liaison
Lt. R.N. Amy, JSO
Ed Lukavovic, Planning and Development
Rosemary Wesolowski, Community Development
Selinda Keyes, Duval County Schools
Bruce Chauncey, Code Compliance
Debbie Verges, Mayor's Staff, Jacksonville Journey
Jim Green, FDOT

Call to Order

Dewey Marshall 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.

Chairs Report

Recognitions awards for the 2008 Subcommittee Chairs were presented to the Subcommittee Chairs that were unable to attend the December CPAC Meeting and Holiday Gathering. Dewey took the opportunity to inform the group that the District 2 CPAC letterhead should only be used in an official capacity as approved by the CPAC chair. Unauthorized use is not acceptable.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve the November 10, 2008 meeting summary was properly seconded and approved by the group.

Speakers

Wanda Forrest, Long Range Planning Manager, North Florida TPO, provided the group with an overview of the history and background of the North Florida TPO (NFTPO); formerly know as First Coast MPO. NFTPO is an independent regional transportation planning agency for Duval, Nassau, St. Johns and most of Clay counties. Their funding comes from federal grants, state grants, member municipalities and transportation agencies. The goal of the NFTPO is to meet the transportation needs of the region. To meet those needs NFTPO assists with planning, funding and coordination among multiple government agencies, stakeholder groups and the public. Some of the programs / services are: Long Range Transportation Plan (projects to be funded over 20 years), Transportation Improvement Program (provides details for projects up to 5 years), Congestion Management (develop strategies to reduce congestion), Bicycle & Pedestrian Program, Commuter Services Program, Transportation Disadvantaged Program (serving the elderly, physically & economically challenged), Freight Mobility, Intelligent Transportation Systems or ITS (electronic signs, traffic cameras, radio, TV and internet capabilities) and Clean Cities. Furthermore, NFTPO seeks citizen input and provides information through their website, public workshops, newsletters and presentations. The next community meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. at the Regency Square Library. For more information on any of the programs, short term plans, long term plans or 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan visit www.northfloridatpo.com.

Subcommittee Reports

PARKS & RECREATION – Chair Dewey Marshall – no report, but asked if anyone would be interested in becoming the subcommittee chair for this subcommittee. No one volunteered.

BEAUTIFICATION – Chair Marcella Lowe – not present

LAND USE & ZONING – Chair Al Cherry – **Opposition to the Rezoning 2208-1073 to rezone 0.925 acres from CO to PUD to allow for expansion of various uses at 6206 Atlantic Boulevard between University Boulevard and Pottsburg Creek.** GAB CPAC is in opposition to the above rezoning for the following reasons: The rezoning will allow for a larger sign therefore the sign regulations for the current zoning district should be followed. CPAC also opposes internally lit signs.

Opposition to the Sign Waiver 2008-1075 to reduce the minimum setback for a sign from ten feet to one foot in a CCG-1 zoning district at 1906 University Boulevard between University and Oliver Street. The District 2 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) is in opposition to the above sign waiver for the following reasons: Approving this sign will set a precedent for other businesses to override the City's sign ordinance.

Opposition to the Jacksonville Journey plans to re-open closed community centers in the Arlington area – Fort Caroline Club and Sunny Acres. The subcommittee does not feel that the locations are close enough to the problem areas to be a benefit to the children at risk. The subcommittee also opposes bussing at risk youths to these centers and feels the centers belong to those that live in the neighborhood. A letter will be drafted to share these concerns. Before the opposition motion was voted on a lengthy discussion on the subject took place.

Kelley Boree, Mayor Liaison, Deputy Director of Recreation and Community Services, was able to provide a lot of information in regard to the proposed community center opening, programming and management. Kelley informed the group that the centers are not being opened specifically for at risk youths. They are proposing for a partnership with a non-profit foundation to fund and operate the centers programs and to offer youth programs for children in the neighborhood. The first goal is to establish the partnerships then look at the communities and determine what the needs of the community are. The needs of the children will be met, but also the partnership will look at the total population to determine what activities are needed. There can be adult activities, senior activities, teen activities and children activities; whatever that community needs. It is not the plan to bring at risk youths into the community centers. Kelley offered to answer any questions or address any concerns and there were quite a few. The following questions were answered by Kelley.

Are the programs funded? The actual foundations will be funding the programs and the capital improvement dollars that are available through the City will be used to improve the buildings (community centers). What are capital improvements? Capital improvements can be replacing a roof, replacing flooring, new doors. Overall building improvements and the City of Jacksonville has funding for these improvements. Are the community centers in residential neighborhoods? Yes, most of the community centers are located in a residential neighborhood. They were built in residential areas so they would be available for neighbors to use them. Where is the Fort Caroline Club center located? The exact address will need to be provided, but the Fort Caroline Club Center is located next to the Lonnie Wurn Boat Ramp. There is a map that shows the hot spots in Arlington in regard to crime, murder, education and etc. If you look at the hot spots versus the centers that were chosen to open there isn't any correlation. There isn't supposed to be any correlation. The sites that were chosen were community centers that were closed. There were 8 community centers across Duval County that are closed and all closed centers are to be reopened. How are these 2 closed centers going to help the problems that Jacksonville is facing? They aren't meant to. Because of the recommendation of the Jacksonville Journey is to open all closed centers so the community can utilize the facilities for whatever that particular community needs may be. All children should have a place to go to whether it is for fun, homework assistance or any other activity. It is the desire of the Jacksonville Journey and City of Jacksonville to have the park system utilized as much as it used to be. Many adults refer back to the days when many of the youths were nicknamed "Park Rats" because they spent so much time at their neighborhood

centers and parks playing basketball, swimming, and baseball. The parents also felt that their children were safe and that is an environment that we are trying to get regain. *It is well known that the purpose of the Jacksonville Journey is to remove the root-causes of violent crime and murder in the city. So how is it that these 2 sites are falling under the Jacksonville Journey if they are not for at risk youths? What is the correlation?* The correlation is the Jacksonville Journey made a recommendation that the city open all of their closed community centers. The Journey members did not care if the centers are in the hot spots or not. They recommended the community centers be open to provide the children with a safe environment; whatever neighborhood the center is in. The capital improvement dollars that are identified as Jacksonville Journey dollars are dollars to be spent on capital improvements at community centers, that does not mean that your community center will be used for at risk youths. *Why didn't you come to the community and ask the community where they think it would be best to put at risk youths?* We are not handling any at risk youth programs. The money that is available for capital improvements is tied to the Jacksonville Journey and the capital improvements will take place regardless where the center is located. After the necessary repairs to the building are complete and if there are funds left over from the repairs the foundations can utilize the balance of the funds to make upgrades or retro fit the buildings so they can enhance the programs they will offer. Some of the community centers need more improvements and upgrades than others. None of the capital funds money can be used for center programming; all of the money must be used on the building. All of the foundations must show an itemized bill /audit on what upgrades the funds were spent on at each center. *What is the city's definition of at risk youth?* All of the children in Duval County are at risk youths due to the nature of society today. We don't have the same level of safety and security that was present in years past. *Can any child or teenager attend the programs at the community centers or are the programs for at risk youths only?* The city is not asking for any of the foundations to provide programming for at risk youths. The foundations are only being asked to provide programming for youth in the neighborhoods. *Do the people that are involved in these facilities know what is going on and what the city wants to do? Do you think you have the cart before the horse? Don't you think you should let the community know what is going on?* Community meetings were held. Granted not many individuals from the community attended the meetings. At the Sunny Acres meeting there wasn't one person from the community that attended that meeting. *Wasn't the poor turn out due to the lack of communication about the community meeting?* Unsure why there was such a low turn out. The city wants the input from the community. Today one of the community associations, Councilmember Brown and the city met to discuss the direction of the community center in their area. It is a goal of the city to have the neighboring communities work with the foundations in effort to offer the programming that best supports the community. We hope that the community centers will be used by everyone in the community. It is important to work with the foundations to tell them your community needs. Some of the communities may want to hold morning coffees, bingo, arts & crafts, community meetings as well as programs for the area children. This is a proactive approach to provide activities for all of the community. By being proactive and providing activities for the children this will be one way to prevent children from falling prey to undesirable activities. *Have the foundations been selected?* The foundations have not been selected. The request for proposal has been put out and is due back to the Procurement Office on Wednesday, January 14th. *What constitutes a foundation?* Any non-profit organization and when they submit their proposal it is required by the RFP that they indicate how they plan to

run the facilities. There are specifications that need to be met in the RFP. After the proposals are returned to the Procurement Department there is a grading system and grading committee that reviews each application and establishes how well each foundation provides / meets the specifications that will be required of them. The so-called community meetings were nothing more than a blurb in a community calendar. In going to a community meeting it was presented that the Jacksonville Journey recommended this project. The first question that was asked was what programs do we want to have in our community to be their parent and to not raise at risk children? We do not have a need for this. The next question was do we have a need for a program to help with money management so we would not be getting into debt? This is a historic 50 year club house that needs to be preserved and not be changed. The third question that we were asked was would you like to have an academic program for your children that are failing? We informed them that our children go to private school and are thriving. The fourth question – do you have a need to have a program for mentoring so your children will not be getting into trouble and becoming at risk? No that it is not needed because this is a safe neighborhood and we don't need to have these types of programs. Why is Jacksonville Journey coming in and why are you bringing in a faith based group to run the community center? We want the Parks Department to run the center as it has always run it. The Parks Department does not have a budget to operate and maintain the park; that is the problem. So then they run off to the Jacksonville Journey to get money. We are opposed because this is a park that we helped pay for and build; we cherish this park. We were informed that they would be busing children in from other areas and they would be taking over the center. When the center was open we the community was denied use of the center in the evenings and weekends because it would have meant overtime for the staff. All the community centers are rented on the weekends; that is how they finance the weekend events and staffing. Also, this is part of the Jacksonville Journey because these centers are closed community centers and it is a recommendation of the Jacksonville Journey to open all community centers to offer programming. If you were told that people would be bussed in – that information is incorrect. We are looking for a foundation to offer youth programs. You previously mentioned that there is a committee that is involved in the grading of the applications /RFP's. What is the community involvement on this committee? There isn't any community involvement on the committee. This committee follows the procurement code that is used on all RFP's. There is a point scale that is used, then the scale results are matrix out and they are scored. How many children are in the areas in question? My grandchildren live near Fort Caroline Club and they don't have many children to play with in the neighborhood. I don't know the demographics for the surrounding areas near the closed community centers. One CPAC member stated that there are a number of apartment communities near the Fort Caroline Club that have a lot of children residing in them. What is the issue with opening the centers? The community is concerned that children will be bused in from other communities. This is not true. The RFP asked for youth programming for the community and to partner with the community to offer additional programming that the community wants / needs to enhance their community. If there aren't many children in the area and they aren't going to bus children in to the center then why are we doing it? The foundations that bid on the centers and community involvement should enable the centers to enhance the neighborhood. If we don't try we won't know if we would succeed. If it is determined that it isn't working it then the lack of participation can be addressed because there are termination clauses in the contract. Should we put together a subcommittee to work with Kelley Boree to get the necessary

information to present to the CPAC? One of the CPAC members stated “No, the bids come back on Wednesday and we don’t have the time. We need to put a stop to this then re-evaluate and communicate with the citizens of Arlington to decide where the best place to put these centers and how the money is spent”. Kelley informed the group that once the RFP’s come back, they are processed and the foundations will be selected / recommended. The selections / recommendations then go to City Council. After they are approved by City Council then there will be public hearings. The next step will be to have additional work / communication with the community after the selection of the foundation. There are problems in other areas of Arlington. Why can’t we spend the money in the areas of Arlington that need the help not in the areas that aren’t having problems or just because there is a building that needs to be restored? The money can only be spent on existing community centers. The money was identified in the budget under capital improvements. Also, all of the closed community centers are in need of structural repair. If we don’t make the necessary repair now it will only become more expensive in the future.

The discussion was closed. The motion was verbally repeated; write a letter in opposition to the renovation of Fort Caroline Club and Sunny Acres to be used in the Jacksonville Journey Community Center opening. The motion was voted on and the motion was not passed due to a 9 to 8 vote.

MEMBERSHIP – Co-Chairs: Jay Olchak and Eddi Parsons – The GAB CPAC would like to introduce Tim Maciolek. Tim will be representing Caroline Cove Owners Association.

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

ENVIRONMENT – Chair Lad Hawkins – no report, but informed the group that the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens is open on weekends from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help clear a new trail; to volunteer meet at the arboretum on Monday, January 19th at 9:00 a.m. The arboretum also has a number of events planned, to learn more about then visit www.jacksonvillearboretum.org.

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

Craig Airport Advisory Committee – Dave Evans – informed the group that it is a quiet time while they wait for the FDOT to make public their letter to the JAA that states that they are in opposition to the expansion of Craig Field. Also with economic times on a down turn many businesses and professionals are not using private jets as much. This decreased demand may also impact the decision to complete the expansion.

Growth Management Visioning Plan – Mike Anania informed the group that the first meeting for 2009 on January 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the Regency Branch Library. At this meeting they will begin the assessment / grading process of the charrette. Then on February 2nd there will be meeting with the consultants, Zyscovich at the Pablo Creek Regional Library at 6:00 p.m.

Staff Reports

MAYOR’S REPRESENTATIVE – Kelley Boree, Mayor’s Representative, presented a copy of the proposed Park Rules changes. Recreation and Community Services worked with JSO to improve the rules that currently exist so the rules can be better enforced by JSO.

If anyone has any comments, concerns or suggestions please contact Ms. Boree at KBOREE@coj.net.

JSO – Lt. Robert Amy, informed the group that the Operation Safe Street funding ran out in 2008 so Sheriff Rutherford authorized overtime dollars for areas that have a high demand of service and will use a special squad of officers to work the high call areas. This special squad will move around the city to meet the demand as it is needed. Currently, the long term plans are to develop permanent squads for each zone of the city so the special squads can focus on the high demand areas of each district. Another reason why these squads are needed is because the criminals are changing. Criminals are not backing down to the police and they often have more firepower than the police. This is impacting how JSO does their job, but they are not giving up the streets and will continue to chase the bad guys.

DCSB – Selinda Keyes reminded the group that FCAT will begin in February. The budget is a major concern at this time and the school board is looking at a variety ways to make their budget work. At this time 85% of the budget is spent on personnel; so there are many extras that can be cut. There will be a public hearing on the up-coming school consolidation. There have been boundary changes too. The boundaries of Lone Star Elementary, Don Brewer (3-5) and Merrill Road Elementary have changed please visit www.duvalschools.org to learn more about the changes. The school board will also look at consolidating Finnegan Elementary and Mayport Elementary; they are 1 mile apart and each school is only half full. The school schedule, curriculum and fine arts will also go under review by the board. Some of the programs may be reduced but not eliminated.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Ed Lukacovic – pass out a schedule for the upcoming Semi-Annual Amendments' Transmittal Round. Next month there will be a workshop for upcoming Land Use Amendments. Also, next month the Planning and Development Department is planning to have a website available so everyone can go look at proposed 2030 comp plan on line. Input and comments are welcomed. In June the first draft of the F.L.U.M. will be available and that will coincide with the visioning documents. These are very big documents and you may not agree with all of it. The number of LUZ applications in the Greater Arlington Beaches District has decreased; this may be due to the change in economic times.

FDOT – Jim Green – the budget is a major challenge and many projects are taking a major hit, being delayed or being cut completely. Locally, the State Road 9B project start date has been delayed until 2015, the JTA Transportation Center (near the Convention Center) has cancelled at this time and the 9A-JTB project is almost 100% complete.

MUNICIPAL CODE – Bruce Chauncey – no report available for questions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Neighborhood Coordinator Rosemary Wesolowski informed the there will be a Public Meeting on Thursday, January 15 at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room A, City Council Offices, 117 West Duval Street, Suite 425, City Hall at St. James Building to discuss the Rogero Road roundabout.

Announcements

(Announcements and comments are limited to 2 minutes)

Carroll Huffiness shared with the group that City Council has deferred the Land Use Zoning change in Mayport and it is proposed that it will go to the January 27th meeting. It is unknown how they will vote towards the change. Also, there are rumblings from Homeland Security in regard to having a public cruise ship / terminal that close to a military base.

Adjournment - There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, February 9, 2009, 6:30 pm at the Regency Branch Library – 9900 Regency Square Blvd.

**GREATER ARLINGTON/BEACHES
Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**
 Chair: *Dewey Marshall* Vice Chair: *Eddi Parsons*



January 12, 2009

To: James F. Register, Chair, Planning Commission
 Hon. Arthur Graham, Chair, City Council Land, Use, & Zoning Committee

Re: Opposition to the Sign Waiver 2008-1075 to reduce the minimum setback for a sign from ten feet to one foot in a CCG-1 zoning district at 1906 University Boulevard between University Boulevard and Oliver Street.

The District 2 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) is in opposition to the above sign waiver for the following reasons:

- Approving this sign will set a precedent for other businesses to override the City's sign ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dewey Marshall'.

Dewey Marshall, Chair
 Greater/Arlington/Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

cc: Hon. John Peyton, Mayor
 Brad Thoburn, Director, Planning Department
 Sandy Simmons, Planning Department

City of Jacksonville HOUSING and NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT 214 N. Hogan St., 8th Floor Jacksonville, Florida 32202
 Rosemary Wasilowski District 8 Coordinator rosemary@coj.net
 (904) 255-8561 fax (904) 255-8544

GREATER ARLINGTON/BEACHES
Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
Chair: Dewey Marshall Vice Chair: Eddi Parsons



January 12, 2009

To: James F. Register, Chair, Planning Commission
 Hon. Arthur Graham, Chair, City Council Land, Use, & Zoning Committee

Re: Opposition to the Rezoning 2008-1073 to rezone 0.928 acres from CO to PUD to allow for expansion of various uses at 6206 Atlantic Boulevard between University Boulevard and Pottsburg Creek.

The District 2 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) is in opposition to the above rezoning for the following reasons:

- The rezoning will allow for a larger sign therefore the sign regulations for the current zoning district should be followed.
- CPAC also opposes internally light signs

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dewey Marshall'.

Jewey Marshall, Chair
 Greater/Arlington/Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Cc: Hon. John Peyton, Mayor
 Brad Thoburn, Director, Planning Department
 Sandy Simmons, Planning Department

City of Jacksonville HOUSING and NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT 214 N. Duval St., 8th Floor Jacksonville, Florida 32202
 Rosemary Wozniowski District 2 Coordinator rosemary@coj.net
 (904) 855-8881 fax (904) 353-8944