

District # 3

Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Jim Hill

Vice Chair: Danny Becton

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: St. Vincent's Southside
Main Hospital, Auditorium C
4201 Belfort Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members:

Akers, Jim – Royal Lakes Civic Association
Banks, George – Secret Cove Civic Association
Becton, Daniel - Deercreek Homeowners Association
Cardell, Richard – The Lakewood Community
Cornehl, Ernst – Deerwood Improvement Association
Corrado, Patrick, Mandarin Community Club
D'Onofrio, Carol – Deercreek Owners Association
Heesch-Gilman, Karen - Briarwood Neighborhood Association
Hill, James - Greater Hood Road Community Association
Johnson, Debbie – The Gables Homeowners Association
Perera, Kathleen – Alumni Civic Association
Ramaglia, Robert – Sweetwater HOA
Rothstein, Marj – Villa San Jose Civic
Shoaei, Taghie – Greater Englewood Neighborhood Association
Stephens, Gloria – Saddlebrook Homeowner Association
Waddell, John – East Hampton Homeowners Association
Weise, Gary – Secret Cove Civic Association
Wolfe, Elizabeth – Pickwick Park Civic Association

Excused:

Bollinger, George – City Council Appointment – District 4
Dee, Dave – Lake Mandarin HOA
Hodges, Ralph – Englewood Full Service School
Lyons, Gamal - Tall Cypress Cove Homeowner Association

Elected Officials:

Boyer, Lori – City Council, District 5
Smith-Juarez, Ashley – Duval County Public Schools Board Member

Staff:

Crawford, Robert – Code Compliance, COJ
Glick, Aaron – Planning & Development Department
Green, James – FDOT
Santiago, Betzy – Mayor's Liaison
Shellhorn, John – Mayor's Liaison
Wesolowski, Rosemary - Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development Division
Wilson, Sherry - JaxParks

Guests:

Clapp, Ann – G.E.N.A.

Worley, Jay - JEA

Gray, Reion – G.E.N.A.

Murphy, Abby Howard – Hampton Glen

Yost, Mel – Sunbeam Condominium

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

- Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

- Chair Hill inquired if everyone had the opportunity to read the meeting summary and if there were any corrections, deletions or additions; there were none. George Banks made a motion to approve the meeting summary and Henry Rogers seconded the motion. The November 2013 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) – not present**

- **Mayor's Liaison** – Betzy Santiago

Ms. Santiago report was read on her behalf:

- Free Tax Assistance at the Library offered by AARP and the United Way's RealSense.

Feb. 1 – April 12. For more details visit tax help page on the library's website

Mayor to host ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS: Thurs., March 6 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Zoo

- Mayor's Youth Initiative announced at MLK Breakfast: Expand Summer Jobs (need businesses to hire students), additional support for Teen Court and the Neighborhood Accountability Boards and establish a Young Leaders Advisory Council

- Spark in the Park: JaxPark Social Media event for Valentine's Day

- MAYOR'S COMMISSION SEEKS NOMINEES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH by Feb. 7th. A nomination form can be found online at www.coj.net/MCSW or via email at areaves@coj.net or by calling Alaina Reaves, staff liaison for the Women's Commission, at (904) 630-1618

- Library Author's visits: Series in the library.

- TU Article Jan. 24: "Mayor supports proposed to tap JEA for pension funds"

<http://jacksonville.com/opinion/premium-opinion/2014-01-24/story/guest-column-mayor-supports-proposal-tap-jea-pension-fundsr>.

- **Duval County Public Schools** – Ashley Smith-Juarez

Stated that DCPS is proud to announce that graduation rate for 2012/2013 has increase by 4.4% (or an additional 304 students); thus meaning 72.1% of DCPS seniors graduated last year. Englewood High School has partnered with Vistakon to start a manufacturing program. The Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. Academy of Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering will afford dozens of Englewood students the opportunity to earn, in addition to their high school diploma, an Associates of Science degree in Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering from Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). Widely recognized and available in several Duval County high schools, the early college program provides college coursework on high school and FSCJ campuses, resulting in credits that meet both high school and college requirements. With the expanded offerings of the Academy, students will be assigned mentors, participate in paid internships at VISTAKON during the final two summers of high school, and be offered "priority interview status" for employment opportunities at the conclusion of the four-year program. Twenty Five 9th graders will be selected each year to enter into the Academy of Manufacturing and Engineering program.

- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green – not present, but sent a reminder that FDOT will be resurfacing San Jose Blvd. soon. Mr. Green will be sending Rosemary meeting notices for upcoming FDOT public meetings.
- **Neighborhoods Department:**
 - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Rosemary Wesolowski
Ms. Wesolowski informed the group that the Housing and Community development Division will be offering free training titled “Know Your Rights and Responsibilities”. The training will be provided by South Milhausen Law Firm, P.A., Marlene Kirtland, Attorney At Law on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 in the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan St., 1ST Floor Room 110. Topics will include:
 - Condo/ Townhome or Homeowner Association Board Certification Training
 - Managing Your Association: Management Companies and Boards
 - Collections, Rents, Suspension of Rights and Foreclosures
 - Legislative Changes Affecting Associations
 - Questions and Answer

The Condo Association training will be held 1:00 – 4:30 pm and the Homeowner/Townhome Association training will be held 5:30 -9:00 pm

- **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Robert Crawford
Mr. Crawford stated that we are working on illegal signs. So far Code Compliance has collected over 3600 signs this month and you can really see the difference. Code Compliance is not only collecting the signs, but they are also working to site & fine the offenders. Each sign can receive a \$55 fine. A new ordinance has passed that allows realtor the right to place for sale signs on right of ways, so Code Compliance will not remove realtor signs.

- **Planning & Development** – Aaron Glick, informed the group that those that live in a single family home can now apply for a permit to house hens in their backyards. In the pilot programs, 300 permits will be granted. For more information, please visit the following link. http://www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/docs/applications/hen-permit-application-13_1_14.aspx. There has also a new ordinance in place that will allow single family homes that are located on the corner of a collector roadway to have up to a 6 foot fence along the collector roadway.

- **Parks & Recreation** – Sherry Wilson
The bid for the Southside tennis court will go out in early February. JaxParks is also involved with working on cleanup & improvement projects in area parks. JaxParks is also gearing up for summer camps and the Summer Night Lights (SNL) programs. There are SNL and summer camp part time employment positions posted. For more information Sherry can be reached at: SherryW@coj.net or 255-7917.

4. **Presentations – Lori Boyer, Council District 5, Consolidated Government Task Force Chair**
In August, the Jacksonville City Council passed Resolution 2013-551-A, creating the Task Force on Consolidated Government to undertake an in depth review of the history, formation and operation of the consolidated government of Jacksonville. The Task Force is chaired by Council Member Lori Boyer and they are seeking input from the public with the hope of hearing directly from residents on the effects of consolidation.

The charge of the Task Force is to: *The Task Force shall undertake an in depth review of the history, formation and operation of the consolidated government, including a full examination*

of all departments, divisions, boards, commissions, and independent authorities, and shall study the relationship between the Beaches and Baldwin and the Consolidated City of Jacksonville. The Task Force shall bring forth a final report with recommendations for reform and change through legislative action, local referenda and if necessary, suggested state legislative action, by April 30, 2014. During its work the Task Force shall be governed by the provision of Florida's "Government in the Sunshine" requirements.

In the mid-60's the city was faced a crisis — 15 high schools were discredited and 11 public officials were indicted on 142 counts of bribery and larceny. To address these issues a consolidation referendum was held in 1967, and voters overwhelmingly voted for a centralized government as a way to cut duplication, increase efficiency and restore confidence. On October 1, 1968, the governments merged to create the consolidated City of Jacksonville. The consolidation basically eliminated most Duval County duties/jobs, except for a few (Duval County Health Department, Extension Services). To conform to the traditional organization of Florida state government, Jacksonville retained the offices of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections and Clerk of the Circuit Court. The three Beaches communities, and Baldwin opt out, remain "urban service districts."

Many changes in government, population, growth and technology have occurred since 1968 when the City of Jacksonville started operating under the consolidated structure. Again, the task force is looking at how this structure is still working. Starting in August 2013 the Task Force has met weekly. After a few months of monthly meetings the Task Force started reaching out to the community; they held five public meetings around Jacksonville have heard comments from the public. To date, from the public meetings, the task force has discovered that there are four primary areas of concern.

1. Loss of continuity and institutional knowledge hampers our success. With the advent of term limits, and significant numbers of appointed employees who change with administrations, we lose forward momentum on a regular basis.
2. Neighborhoods feel distant and underserved by our consolidated government that is large, hard to navigate, and offers one-size fits all approaches to very diverse and distinct communities. This is the only clear downside that has been articulated consistently across the City and we are missing out if we don't take this opportunity to improve and engage our residents.
3. Centralization of certain services such as IT, Human Resources, Procurement and similar areas was promoted as a cost saving opportunity of consolidation. It is inconsistently implemented and appears to not have achieved the promised cost savings while often being the source of conflict among departments and independent authorities. There is work to be done here.
4. The absence of an integrated strategic plan that crosses jurisdictional boundaries between the Independent Authorities of the City, the City government itself, and affiliated agencies and entities holds us back from achieving our full potential. Each may perform its own mission well, but they are not integrated to achieve a broader set of goals for the City. At worst, we see conflicting efforts at cross-purposes. There should be a mechanism and structure to establish the common goals, buy-in from all sides, and directed effort to assist each other in getting there.

Additionally, the Task Force announced the publication of a Public Input Survey designed to capture public input related to the charge of the Task Force. Members of the public are asked to provide feedback through the survey on the effects of consolidation of the City of Jacksonville and Duval county, as well as, how well city services have been provided, among other things. The survey may be found on Survey Monkey.com and may be completed anonymously.

As the Task Force work has progressed, 3 subcommittees were formed, they are:

1. Committee on Governance & Mission
2. Committee on Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, Planning, Services and the St. Johns River
3. Committee on Organization, Operations, Personnel, Budget, Borrowing, Risk and Economy

At the Committee on Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, Planning, Services and the St. Johns River meetings CPAC's are starting to come into focus and there has been a lot of discussion about their role. The Subcommittees are questioning if the CPAC's should be smaller, does one size fits all? What are the roles and functions of the CPAC's? Are they still relevant? These are questions are being discussed. If you are interested in participating in the remainder of the subcommittee meetings, or more information on the Task Force, or for a complete list of Task Force members, please contact: Damian Cook, Executive Administrator to the Task Force on Consolidated Government, at 904-630-1775 or DamianC@coj.net.

5. **Chairs report** - Chair Hill announced that long CPAC member and former Safety Subcommittee Chair, Roger Inman passed away. Chair Hill informed the group that Betty Wolfe attended his visitation/funeral. Ms. Wolf shared with the group that over 200 individuals were in attendance. In Roger's memory each attendee was given a small tree sapling to plant in his honor; in life was dedicated to and replanted many trees. After a brief discussion the CPAC suggested that Betty have the sapling planted in the park named after her; the Elizabeth Wolfe Park. Chair Hill presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Subcommittee Chairs. Chair Hill also informed the group that the 6 CPAC chairs have a training meeting scheduled with Councilmember Boyer on January 30, 2014, in regard to the changes in the Planning Commission. Hill will share the results of the meeting with the Chairs/Councilmember Boyer at the February meeting. Lastly, Chair Hill informed the group that on January 7, 2014, he attended the CPAC Chair & Vice Chair training. At this meeting one of the topics discussed was the Sunshine Law and how it applies to CPAC/membership. Since it has been a while since the full CPAC has had Sunshine Laws or Ethics training, Chair Hill reminded the group that to be in compliance 2 or more CPAC members are not supposed to discuss any CPAC issues that can or will be voted on. This inspired discussion and it was requested by the CPAC to have a representative from COJ come and speak on Ethics and the Sunshine Laws. Chair Hill also stated that we is planning to add a Government Affairs Subcommittee. The task of the Government Affairs Subcommittee would be to look at legislation that is non-LUZ/Zoning in nature. This would mean things like the Hen Ordinance or the Billboard Ordinance. This subcommittee would look at the various issues and inform the CPAC of this legislation. Hill asked for a volunteer to chair this subcommittee, but there were none.

6. **Elected Officials Reports** – none

7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports** -

LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs- Jim Hill, Subcommittee Chair
The group met and discussed a couple of issues. There was a concern about E-14-01, an application for a liquor store to be opened in a strip mall at the corner of Baymeadows Road and Old Kings Road. The Briarwood CPAC representatives presented the concerns of their community to the LUZ Subcommittee. The LUZ Subcommittee voted to send a letter to support Briarwood in their opposition to this application. Jim Hill made a motion to the full CPAC to send an opposition letter and George Banks seconded the motion. The full CPAC voted unanimously to send the opposition letter.

Beautification/Parks/Environment – Dick Cardell, Subcommittee Chair

Reminded the CPAC that the cold weather has caused a lot of damage to our plants. This freeze damage can look unsightly, but Cardell suggested that we wait to prune any of the damaged area. If we trim too soon, this can further damage or kill the plants.

Economic Development – Gloria Stephens, Subcommittee Chair

*The JaxPort board on Friday awarded a \$23.5 million construction contract to Jacksonville-based Dana B. Kenyon Company for the design and construction of the yard, which is called an intermodal container transfer facility.

*The Jacksonville Landing will be experiencing some changes too. The new vision for the Jacksonville Landing includes a boutique hotel, a residential tower, ground-floor restaurants and a courtyard for events. The redeveloped Landing would feature two five-story buildings, with ground-floor restaurants and retail, and floors two through five could be residential or office space. On the east side of the Landing, there would be a 20-story residential tower, possibly workforce housing. On the west side would be a 10-story boutique hotel. Structured parking would be built on the Downtown side of the redevelopment, on floors two through five, hidden within in the structure. The question now is how much the project will cost, and how it will be financed. DIA board members were supportive of the new design, but several expressed a desire to see market feasibility reports before signing off on the density of the project, including the number of units and hotel rooms.

*A new grocery concept is coming to Jacksonville, near the intersection of Beach and Hodges Boulevard. Michigan-based Gordon Food Service has acquired several parcels of land totaling about 2.5 acres at 13427 Beach Boulevard. The property will be used for one of its retail stores, GFS Marketplace, according to Rick Morgan, one of the company's real estate managers, who confirmed the acquisition and the plans. GFS paid \$2 million for the land. Similar to bulk clubs like Costco and Sam's Club, GFS Marketplace sells produce, dairy, grocery, frozen and paper goods in larger quantities. GFS Marketplace, however, doesn't have membership fees. GFS Marketplace has been expanding in Florida for several years, with 20 locations statewide, including one under construction in the Orlando area, reports the Orlando Business Journal, a sister publication. The closest location to Jacksonville is in Daytona Beach.

Education – George Banks / John Waddell

No report

Membership – No Subcommittee Chair

Transportation – Growth Management -Danny Becton, Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Becton announced that this will be his last meeting as Transportation Subcommittee Chair. Also, Mr. Becton stated there was an FDOT workshop on JTB – I-95 interchange. There are problems and improvements are needed. Mr. Becton stated that he wrote a full article and it can be found on the Southside Newsline.

Safety – Betty Wolfe and Roger Inman, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

At the last ShAdCo meeting the attendees were asked to reach out to the surrounding neighborhoods to try and get them involved in ShAdCo. At this time participation in ShAdCo is down and JSO wants to get more neighborhoods involved.

Ad-Hoc:

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Danny Becton

Mr. Becton stated that the T.R.U.E. Commission chair asked the representatives to ask their CPAC if there are any issues that you think the T.R.U.E. should investigate, please let him know.

Right now, they are looking at the COJ end of year numbers, and the City came up about \$26 million short. This shortage will come out of a special contingency fund.

8. Unfinished Business – None

9. New Business –

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

George Banks made a motion to adjourn and Danny Becton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 24, 2014 ~ 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Vincent's Southside
Main Hospital, Auditorium C
4201 Belfort Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216