

## District # 3

### Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Jim Hill

Vice Chair: Debbie Johnson

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#### MEETING SUMMARY

Location: St. Vincent's Southside  
Main Hospital, Auditorium C  
4201 Belfort Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
Date: Monday, August 25, 2014

#### Attendance:

##### **Organizations/Representatives**

##### **Members:**

Banks, George – Secret Cove Civic Association  
Bollinger, George – City Council Appointment – District 4  
Cardell, Richard – The Lakewood Community  
Cornehl, Ernst – Deerwood Improvement Association  
Dee, David – Lake Mandarin HOA  
D'Onofrio, Carol – Deercreek Owners Association  
Heesch-Gilman, Karen – Brierwood Neighborhood Association  
Hill, James - Greater Hood Road Community Association  
Hodges, Ralph – Englewood Full Service School  
Howard-Murphy, Abby – Hampton Glen at Deerwood  
Johnson, Debbie – The Gables HOA  
Perera, Kathleen – Alumni Civic Association  
Ramaglia, Robert – Sweetwater HOA  
Rothstein, Marj – Villa San Jose Civic  
Stephens, Gloria – Saddlebrook Homeowner Association  
Weise, Gary – Secret Cove Civic Association  
Wieger, Glen – San Marco Preservation Society

##### **Excused:**

Akers, Jim – Royal Lakes Civic Association  
Becton, Daniel – Deercreek HOA  
Laner, Eric- East Hampton HOA  
Lyons, Gamal - Tall Cypress Cove Homeowner Association  
Waddell, John – East Hampton Homeowners Association  
Wolfe, Elizabeth – Pickwick Park Civic Association

##### **Elected Officials:**

Lori Boyer, Council District 5

##### **Staff:**

Glick, Aaron – Planning & Development Department  
Green, James – FDOT  
Meyerl, Keith - JaxParks  
Wesolowski, Rosemary - Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development Division  
Wilson, Scott – Aide, Council District 4

##### **Guests:**

### 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 Glen Wieger seconded the motion. The July 2014 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### 3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – not present
  - **Mayor's Liaison** – Betzy Santiago – not present
  - **Duval County Public Schools** – not present
  - **JEA** – Jay Worley – not present
  - **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green – informed the CPAC that the work on University Blvd. between Beach Blvd. and I-95 will be finished soon. The concrete rehab project on I-95 from JTB to Greenland Road is underway and should be completed by Spring 2015. There are a several projects that are completed: Baymeadows Road (Bayberry to San Jose); San Jose Blvd. (Sunbeam Road to Purnell) and Hendricks Avenue. The 9B State Road project is underway and should be completed by summer 2016. There are a number of projects that will be starting soon: I-95 at JTB; 2 of the express lanes projects along 295 – Phase 1 (Buckman Bridge to I-95) will begin soon and in June 2015 bids will go out for Phase 2 of the express lanes (JTB to 9B). A resurfacing project is about to start on Beach Blvd.; the project will begin at Ridgewood and end at Parental Home Road. Philips Highway will also be resurfaced; this project will begin University Blvd and move north until it reaches the I-95 (Overland Bridge project). FDOT will be hosting 3 public meetings. The first meeting will be held this Thursday, August 28, 2014 at the Cummer Museum. The meeting will discuss the I-95 / I-10 operational improvements; this will be the second community meeting on this project. FDOT has incorporated a number of the suggestions that were made at the first public meeting from the community. The second meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 2014 at 4:30 pm, the Courtyards at the Marriott on Old St. Augustine Road; this meeting will focus on S.R. 9B extension into St. Johns County. The last meeting will be held on September 25, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown at 4:30 pm to discuss the closure of the southbound on-ramp of the Main Street Bridge from Independent Drive.
  - **Planning and Development Department:**
    - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Rosemary Wesolowski  
Ms. Wesolowski announced that a new Neighborhood Coordinator has been hired and started. Mr. Stacey Burch will now be the coordinator for the Urban Core and Northwest Districts. There was also a re-alignment in the reporting structure in the Housing and Community Development Division. Rosemary Wesolowski now reports to Darrell Griffin. The SE CPAC needs to form the Nomination Sub-committee. The Nomination Subcommittee is a temporary subcommittee; their purpose is to put together a slate of officers for the 2015 CPAC Chair and Vice Chair position. The subcommittee will disband in November after the CPAC election.
    - **Planning** – Aaron Glick

Shared updates on a few applications that are under review: Starling of Mandarin Community ~this is for an adult living facility on San Jose Blvd. (north of Beauclerc Rd and South of Baymeadows Road); they have revised the site plan. Bartram Park ~ single family home development; they have requested to have the front yard set-back changed from 20 feet to 15 feet. There are also 2 large parcels off Baymeadows Road (around the old golf course) that will go before the Planning Commission on September 4, 2014.

- **Environmental Quality Division (Code Compliance)** – Robert Crawford  
Not present

- **Parks & Recreation** – Keith Meyerl

Mr. Meyerl informed the CPAC that the removal of court asphalt is underway at the Southside Tennis facility; subsurface and replacement surface is on schedule. There was a community meeting to discuss the County Dock in Mandarin. The feedback from the community provided mixed reviews and their suggestions/requests will be taken into consideration. The trails at Losco Park have been cut; workers are filling in the ruts from the machinery.

- **Public Works** – not present

4. **Presentations – Brian Taylor, JaxPort, CEO** shared his background and educated the CPAC on the growth and evolution of the shipping industry and of JaxPort. Mr. Taylor stated that he has been with JaxPort for 1 year, but he was worked in the maritime transport industry for 30 years; mostly with ocean carrier side.

Mr. Taylor stressed to the CPAC that JaxPort needs to deepen the harbor; thus giving the city the opportunity increased employment (in many different fields), shipping and economic opportunity. 10 years ago, 85% of JaxPort business was due to trade with the Caribbean Islands (mostly Puerto Rico) and the remainder was primarily automobiles. Initially, we only had 1 Asian/Pacific container trade carrier entering JaxPort. Today, we have 12 of the 18 international trade carrier that provide service in the Asian/Pacific trade. Today we have grown to a port that serves many trade lanes globally.

Some of the customers that have helped grow our port are: Rooms to Go; they moved to JaxPort from Tampa Bay and Savannah Ga. Beaver Street Fisheries (a globally shipping Jacksonville Florida Company) used to move all their freight through Charleston SC, but now they use JaxPort exclusively.

Besides containers, also handles other types of cargo. JaxPort also handles large quantities of bulk shipping. Bulk would include (granite, all types of aggregate, limestone), bulk is used primarily for construction.

JaxPort ranks 3rd in handling incoming/imported automobiles on the East Coast and is the largest exporter of automobiles going to other countries.

Break bulk is the last type of cargo that JaxPort handles. Break bulk is typically frozen seafood, frozen chicken, food items. This type of cargo has grown steadily, but is not a big growth driver, but it is important globally.

Mr. Taylor emphasized that deepening our harbor is critical for the future growth of JaxPort. He stated that global marine container volumes are expected to triple in number by 2030 and the harbor has to be deeper to compete with other ports. Once the Suez Canal is

operational, ships will even be larger and the amount of containers transported will increase greatly. It was also mentioned that the Panama Canal expansion will be completed in 2016; this too will increase container shipping. Mr. Taylor pointed out that if our port is unable to handle the larger ships, they will by-pass Jacksonville and take their business to Savannah Georgia or Charleston South Carolina.

Mr. Taylor stated that it has been determined that deepening the harbor will not impact the environment. According to the Army Corps of Engineers study, the dredging will cause no harm. At this time JaxPort is working through all the paperwork and permitting needed to start dredging, but they do not have an expected start date. It is estimated that there will be 18 million cubic yards of sand that will be dredged. All of the sand that is dredged will be taken 8 miles off shore to an EPA approved site and deposit the sand there. It was stated that JaxPort would investigate if any of the local beaches needed re-nourishing before they took the sand off shore.

Mr. Taylor also touched on the need for additional infrastructure improvements at the port, to our roads and to local rails to handle the additional freight/cargo that will need to be distributed. JaxPort is working with FDOT to address the road and rails.

Mr. Taylor took questions from the CPAC:

*It was asked where are we with obtaining funding for this project?* With large scale projects like deepening of the harbor they tend to take time to secure all the funds. The project has been included in the Water Resource Development Act Bill; thus making the project approved by the Federal Government. Just because the project was approved, it doesn't mean it will be funded. It has been determined that funding from the Federal Government will be approximately \$312 million and they are still working aggressively to obtain this money. Also, JaxPort will also have to work with State and City for financial contributions.

*It is obvious that Charleston S.C. and Savannah Ga. are our direct competitors, how do we compare to them?* The south Atlantic is served by Charleston, Savannah and Jacksonville, not Miami. Due to population growth in Florida and some of the Southeast, there will be more volume than each of these ports can handle.

*Is the transfer on land; is it mostly to trains or trucks for further distribution?* Local cargo moved by truck; if going to Atlanta or the Midwest it will go by rail. We do not have the capability to load the containers directly onto rail at this time.

*What is the future of the Tallyrand terminal?* This will be a big factor, but it will work with the smaller vessels.

*What is the impact on the environment if we deepen the canal?* The Army Corp of Engineers completed a study on salinity over 5 year period. Their study showed that there will only be a small amount of increase in salinity; this study went through and was peer reviewed by a multitude of experts.

*How much money would be required from the City of Jacksonville?* \$180 million

*How will the City get this money?* It depends; it could come from a bond or other sources of funding.

*The St. Johns Riverkeepers states that there were some problems with this model and it appears that there is a significant conflict of interest with one of the people that created*

*the model.* Mr. Taylor stated that JaxPort has asked repeatedly if there is another model for that model to be run and it appears that there isn't another model.

*Where will the spoil be put?* The EPA will need to issue a permit for the spoil to be deposited. It is planned to deposit the spoil 8 miles off the coast using an underwater system. If anyone is in need of beach re-nourishment, the spoil could be used for that too.

*Will the foreign ships comply with US regulations in regard to the environment?* There are some very stringent laws and all ships must comply with our regulations.

*How will improved intermodal transportation help to expand the Asian container market?* The potential would be 126,000 TEU; this is a conservative estimate. Most of this increase would be a result as Suez Canal opening thus, moving shipping from the west coast to the east coast.

*With the bigger ships (containers stacked higher) will there be a problem with the ships getting under the Dames Point Bridge?* No, the majority of the ship will not have a problem.

Mr. Taylor provided his email for the CPAC for any additional questions:  
Brian.Taylor@JaxPort.com

5. **Chairs report** – Chair Hill informed the CPAC that he did not have a report, but he is working on organizing another meeting with the other CPAC Chairs.

#### 6. **Elected Officials Reports** –

**Lori Boyer, City Council District 5** – informed the CPAC that she did not have an official report, but stated that she has been busy working on the budget. City Council has found a number of issues with the budget as it the budget was submitted to them. City Council has taken the position to not raise taxes and to make the budget work with the funds that we have available. So far City Council has cut \$16 or 17 million out of the budget and they are still looking at 30+million deficit. City Council does not want to use the Reserves to help balance the budget. City Council wants to keep the number of City employees static and restrict new hiring. There is also an issue and some confusion about Trust Funds; it is a bit unclear as to what funds are in Trust Fund accounts and what funds are in the Reserve. City Council also feels that there is a problem on the borrowing side of things too. The numbers presented in the budget contain a lot of errors; there are conflicting amounts within a single project. It was stated that most of the CIP will need to be cut in order for City Council to balance the budget.

#### 7. **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports** -

**LUZ** (Land Use and Zoning) - Jim Hill, Subcommittee Chair

A number of applications were reviewed. One application did raise some concern; it was the Dailey's that is proposed to go into the San Marco area. It appears that San Marco Preservation Society is in discussion with Daily's.

**Beautification/Parks/Environment** – Dick Cardell, Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Cardell informed the group that he had an opportunity to visit the Republic Recycling facility and he was very impressed. The facility is state of art, automated system. Magnets are used to remove the metals, there are blowers to move the paper and there are staff members working along the line to assist with the sorting. It was stated that it is very expensive to recycle and they are hoping to break even or make a small profit this year. This recycling facility not

only serves Jacksonville, but it also serves Volusia County, Savannah Georgia and Hilton Head South Carolina.

**Economic Development** – Gloria Stephens, Subcommittee Chair

There is a large article in the paper that discussed the new vision Tony Sleiman has for the Jacksonville Landing. The plan is to demolish the current building and build from scratch. The new structure would have up to 300 apartments, up to 60,000 square for restaurant/retail space and 950 parking spaces. There would also be a high end boutique hotel on the property.

Earth Fare is a new organic grocery store that has come to Jacksonville. The new store is located at 11901 Atlantic Blvd. Suite 250, Jacksonville, FL 32225. This is located at Kernan Blvd and Atlantic Blvd. There hours are Monday - Saturday: 8am - 9pm and Sunday: 9am - 9pm. There headquarter is located in Ashville North Carolina.

Baptist Medical Centers Jacksonville was one of 35 hospitals that will be part clinical trials on the World's smallest pacemaker. The new pacemakers are the size of a bullet, the weight of a quarter and they hook the pacemaker to the heart muscle through a catheter; this makes the procedure much less invasive. Baptist Medical Center has already completed 6 of the surgery's locally.

AT&T is installing high speed fiber optic network in Jacksonville. This will be very beneficial to both residential and businesses.

Mayport will also be getting an economic boost. They have 2 new amphibious ships stationed there. They arrived last week; this is thousands of new individuals coming to Jacksonville. Six Littoral Combat Ships will be home-ported at Naval Station Mayport beginning in 2016, the Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced Thursday. The six Freedom-variant ships will be the Little Rock (LCS 9), Sioux City (LCS 11), Wichita (LCS 13), Billings (LCS 15), Indianapolis (LCS 17), and LCS 19, whose name is pending. Littoral Combat Ships are described by the Navy as "fast, agile and mission-focused" and operate near coastlines. The Navy says home-porting will eventually bring an estimated 900 Sailors and their families to the Mayport area.

**Education** – George Banks / John Waddell

Co-Chair Banks – Banks shared that classes just started and no problems at this time.

**Government Affairs** – Jim Akers

Not present

**Membership** – Vacant

**Transportation – Growth Management** – Eric Lanier / George Bollinger

No report

**Safety** – Betty Wolfe, Subcommittee Chair

Not present

**Ad-Hoc:**

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

Not present

**8. Unfinished Business** – None

9. New Business –

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

George Banks made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Glen Wieger

**NEXT MEETING: September 22, 2014 ~ 6:30 p.m.**

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