

District # 3
Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Jim Hill

Vice Chair: Debbie Johnson

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: St. Vincent's Southside
Main Hospital, Auditorium C
4201 Belfort Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Date: Monday, January 28, 2015

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members:

Aker, Jim – Royal Lakes Civic Association
Banks, George – Secret Cove Civic Association
Becton, Daniel – Deercreek HOA
Bollinger, George – City Council Appointment – District 4
Cardell, Richard – The Lakewood Community
Dee, David – Lake Mandarin HOA
D'Onofrio, Carol – Deercreek Owners Association
Hill, James - Greater Hood Road Community Association
Howard-Murphy, Abby – Hampton Glen at Deerwood HOA
Johnson, Debbie – The Gables HOA
Kirkman, Chris – The Villages of Bartram Springs Owners Association
Laner, Eric- East Hampton HOA
Perera, Kathleen – Alumni Civic Association
Rothstein, Marj – Villa San Jose Civic
Stephens, Gloria – Saddlebrook Homeowner Association
Weise, Gary – Secret Cove Civic Association
Wolfe, Elizabeth – Pickwick Park Civic Association
Yost, Mel - Edgewater at Sunbeam

Excused:

Heesch-Gilman, Karen – Briarwood Neighborhood Association
Hodges, Ralph – Englewood Full Service School
Lyons, Gamal - Tall Cypress Cove Homeowner Association
Waddell, John – East Hampton Homeowners Association

Elected Officials:

Staff:

Crawford, Robert – Code Compliance
Glick, Aaron – Planning & Development Department
Green, Jim - FDOT
Santiago, Betzy – Mayor's Liaison
Shore, Sgt. Brian - JSO
Wesolowski, Rosemary - Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development Division

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 Eric Laner seconded the motion. The November 2015 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – Sgt. Brian Shore introduced himself and informed the CPAC that both violent and property crime is down in the SE District, but traffic fatalities and auto burglaries in the district remains high. Sgt. Shore stated that 90% of the auto burglaries are a result from an unlocked vehicle. There does seem to be a trend that many of the auto burglaries are occurring at fitness centers and day care center (while dropping off or picking up children). CPAC members were reminded to lock their cars and not to leave valuables in the vehicle.
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Betzy Santiago – informed the CPAC on a number of upcoming events. There will be a Pet Adoption Fair on February 2, 2015 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Animal Care and Control Facility located at 2020 Forest Street. Adoptions for all animals will be \$20.00, this fee includes spay/neutering, all vaccines and a microchip.

On Saturday, February 7, 2015 the historic launch of the Armada (soccer team) FC's first season with a North American Soccer League preseason game will be held.

The E3Xpo 2015; an event for local, regional, and national aspiring entrepreneurs will be held on Friday, February 20, 2015, 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM at the Jacksonville Landing. This event, sponsored by Jacksonville Small and Emerging Businesses, DverseMantle Inc, and local entrepreneurs is a realistic, functional approach to supporting the aspiring entrepreneur of North Florida. Take advantage of the first of its kind Business Triage to help you focus on the challenge areas in your business. Participate in the Banker's Dialogue to find out how banks qualify and specialize in supporting certain types of entrepreneurs. Learn about Cooperative Marketing during a Confab led by E3 National Executive Director and Founder Anthony Butler, Sr.

- **Duval County Public Schools** –not present
- **JEA** – Jay Worley – not present
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green – informed the CPAC that there will be a public hearing to discuss safety improvements to the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard (SR-10) and University Boulevard (SR-109). The proposed improvements will provide safer traffic operations through the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and University Boulevard. The recommended improvements include:
 - * An additional left turn lane from westbound Atlantic Boulevard to southbound University Blvd. (currently single left turn).
 - * Adding a right turn lane from northbound University Blvd. to eastbound Atlantic Blvd.
 - * Extending the length of the existing right turn lane from southbound University Blvd. to westbound Atlantic Blvd.
 - * Relocate existing Lawrence Place (city street) to provide a safer connection to University Blvd. (move it further north, away from University/Atlantic intersection). This will take place on Thursday, January 29, 2015 ~Open House: 4:30-6:30 PM ~ Public Comment Period: 6:30 PM at Southside Christian Church, 6755 Atlantic Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32211

Florida's Transportation Visioning Regional Forums on Wednesday February 11, 2015 at the FDOT District 2 Urban Office Training Facility, 2198 Edison Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32204 from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM. These forums provide an opportunity for Floridians to offer their thoughts about the state's transportation system at all levels - statewide, regional, and local.

I-95/Airport Road (SR 102) Interchange Area (from Airport Court to Airport Center Drive along Airport Road) on February 16, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn-Jacksonville Airport 13503 Ranch Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218. The public meeting will kick off with an open house from 4:30-6:30 pm and the comments period will begin at 6:30 pm.

There will be a public hearing on proposed safety improvements along SR 212 (US 90/Beach Boulevard) including the intersection with SR 109 (University Boulevard.) The meeting will be held Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Spring Glen United Methodist, 6007 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32216. The meeting will be an "Open House" format between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. to give you an opportunity to review exhibits and talk with Department Staff. At 6:30 p.m. public comments will be heard. The limits of this project extend from F.O.P. Way to Ryar Road (approximately one mile). Proposed improvements include widening for additional turn lanes and the installation of traffic separators at the intersection of State Road 109 (University Boulevard). This hearing is being held to give interested persons an opportunity to express their views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed improvements.

- **Planning and Development Department:**

- **Housing and Community Development Division** – Rosemary Wesolowski

- Stated that the Housing and Community Development Division is planning to offer a number of community training classes in 2015; is there any specific topics that we should offer? There was a suggestion to offer a class that would provide information for the best practices for working/enforcing association covenants and all legal issues.

- **Planning** – Aaron Glick -no report, but available for questions.

- **Environmental Quality Division (Code Compliance)** – Robert Crawford informed the CPAC that there are now 30 Code Compliance Officers citywide. Code Compliance will begin a pro-active with systematic inspections soon in the Greater Englewood Neighborhood Association (GENA).

- **Parks & Recreation** – Keith Meyerl - Not present

- **Public Works** – Bill Joyce – not present

- 4. **Presentations – Chris Hand, Chief of Staff, City of Jacksonville**, reviewed Pension Reform with the CPAC. Mr. Hand informed the CPAC about the various pieces of legislation that have been introduced since 2011 in effort to reform the current pension agreements. The annual pension impact was illustrated and the monumental increasing costs to fund the pensions. As an example, in FY 2001-02 funding the pension cost the city approximately \$9.9 million and in FY 2014-15 the expense has jumped to \$153 million.

In August 2013, the Jacksonville Retirement Task Force started meeting. The task force is comprised of 17 community leaders and chaired by Bill Scheu. The task force reviewed the PFPF for 7 months and tackled the unfunded liability.

The unfunded liability of the Police and Fire Pension Fund (PFPF) is \$1.65 billion, which

places the PFPF at approximately 43% funded status. The \$1.65 billion unfunded liability is debt that the City already owes and will pay over the next 30 years under the proposed retirement reform agreement. The City's growing unfunded liability is a major reason that its PFPF contributions has increased from approximately \$10 million in FY 2001/02 to \$153 million today. In order to lower the unfunded liability more quickly and relieve pressure on the City budget, the Retirement Reform Task Force recommended that the City accelerate its payment of the unfunded liability by paying more than is required until the PFPF reaches a healthier funded status.

After the Jacksonville Retirement Reform Task Force issued its final recommendations in March 2014, the City and the PFPF reached a tentative agreement in which the City agreed to contribute an additional \$40 million per year for 10 years, or until the PFPF reaches an 80% funded status. As part of the agreement, the PFPF agreed to contribute \$61 million currently held in 2 reserve accounts to the City upon implementation of the agreement. In May, COJ and PFPF started public discussions with the hope of achieving a new retirement reform agreement. The final tentative agreement was achieved on June 3, 2014 and was introduced as Council bill 2014-386. On December 9, 2014, the Jacksonville City Council overwhelmingly passes the amended reform agreement. On January 5, 2-15, the PFPF accepts the majority of the Council amendments and recommends revisions to others.

By law, there are a number of pension benefits that cannot be touched. The City cannot alter the benefits of retired employees, cannot alter the pension benefits of current employees already in the DROP or eligible for retirement (have worked 20 years or more and cannot alter the benefits that current employees have earned.

There are a number of advantages to the new funding solution. This plan does not require a tax increase, a fee increase or utility rate increase. The City's acceleration of its unfunded liability payments would be accomplishment immediately, without any uncertainty on the part of the City or the PFPF as to whether the annual \$40 million additional contributions will be made over the course of the agreement. Also, as the City addresses the pension funding concerns, the solution should be viewed favorably by the rating agencies that downgraded the City's credit rating for pension related reasons.

- 5. Chairs report** – Chair Hill informed the CPAC that SE CPAC Vice Chair, Debbie Johnson has agreed to fill the Membership Subcommittee Chair position. Hill reminded the CPAC that this is a very challenging subcommittee and stated that Debbie will need help from the CPAC members. If anyone is interested in working on the Membership Subcommittee, please meet with Debbie after the meeting.

Chair Hill also reported that all of the CPAC chairs had a meeting with the Mayor and his staff earlier in the month. The CPAC Chairs asked for assistance from the Mayor and his staff with getting publicity for the CPACs. Chair Hill stated that the Mayor and his staff has updated the CPAC brochures and provided a number of copies and a separate email account for each of the CPACs has been created. For the SE CPAC the email address is: CPAC3@coj.net. The CPAC Chairs are also still waiting on getting business cards.

Lastly, Chair Hill introduced long time CPAC member Danny Becton as the new City Councilman for District 11. Congratulations Danny!

- 6. Elected Officials Reports** –
No report

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports -

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

A number of applications were reviewed and there was one application for a bikini bar at 3535 St. Johns Bluff Road, 32246 that raised some concern. The Planning and Development Department plans to deny the application, but the subcommittee plans to follow this application. No action was taken at this meeting.

Beautification/Parks/Environment – Dick Cardell, Subcommittee Chair

Not present

Economic Development – Gloria Stephens, Subcommittee Chair

The 2014 Best-Performing Cities Index, recently released by the Milken Institute, ranks U.S. metropolitan areas by how well they are creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. The report is a fact-based comprehensive evaluation system with components that include job, wage and salary, and technology growth that give a good indication of the underlying structural performance of regional economics.

With an overall rank of 64 for 2014, Jacksonville had a 69 point rank change compared to its 2013 ranking of 133. Jacksonville received a better economic ranking compared to other Florida cities including Miami and Tampa, demonstrating strong job and wage growth and overall economic stability.

Silver Airways is launching nonstop service between Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) and Pensacola International Airport (PNS). The flights operate on weekdays Monday through Friday, beginning March 19, 2015.

To celebrate the new service, Silver Airways is offering introductory fares from \$69* (one way, including taxes and fees) through 11:59 pm EST on January 22, 2015, for travel between March 19, 2015 and May 22, 2015. For complete details, reservations and to receive email updates on Silver's special offers, visit silverairways.com.

Silver currently flies nonstop to Tampa and Fort Lauderdale, as well as seasonally to Marsh Harbour in the Abacos. On February 12, 2015, Silver is increasing its number of flights between Jacksonville and Fort Lauderdale to four times daily on weekdays.

Education – George Banks / John Waddell

Co-Chair Banks – No report

Government Affairs – Jim Akers

On behalf of Subcommittee Chair Akers, Councilmember Boyer informed the CPAC that there are a few bills that are pending. From the work of the Task Force on Consolidated Government there are several bills that are pending and will go to committees next week. The largest is a Referendum Charter Amendment in regard to the Office of General Council; the focus is to clarify the selection process and determining who votes when on the appointment. The current General Council Office is in favor of this. There are a number of smaller bills that have to do with better coordination/communication between the city and other government agencies (Duval County Health Department, EPA, etc.) There are 8 or 10 additional bills coming up in the near future; Councilmember Boyer stated that she would keep the CPAC informed.

Boyer also informed the CPAC that she is working with Public Works in regard to sight lines on local streets. Currently, JSO is in charge of enforcement of sight lines, but JSO state they will

not enforce this issue. So City Code is being amending and the responsibility of enforcing sight lines will be transferred to Municipal Code and Compliance.

Membership – Debbie Johnson, Subcommittee Chair informed the CPAC that she would first like to reach out to neighborhoods that are not involved in CPAC. If you are interested in helping, please meet with Debbie.

Transportation – Growth Management – Eric Lanier / George Bollinger

No report

Safety – Betty Wolfe, Subcommittee Chair

Informed the CPAC that there will be a Sheriff's Candidate Forum at the Mission Way Church, 14985 Old St. Augustine Road #101, 32258 on February 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Ad-Hoc:

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Danny Becton Thanked the CPAC and stated that he has enjoyed being a part of the CPAC and feels the CPAC was a contributing factor in his involvement in local government.

Representative Becton stated that he has enjoyed working on the T.R.U.E. Commission for the past 3 years and acknowledged that he will need to step down in June 2015. The first year and a half of his involvement the T.R.U.E. Commission they conducted a study on the City Pension and its challenges. The T.R.U.E. Commission submitted a report to City Council and it to City Council. In this report, it was documented that between 2001 and 2010 the fund remained flat or lost money on return of investment; approximately \$800 million dollars were lost. We need stay vigilant on this topic and learn from past mistakes to prevent the same problems from reoccurring.

In January meeting, the T.R.U.E Commission passed 2 resolutions. The first was the TRUE Commission chair is authorized to write a letter to Governor Scott expressing the commission's support for the investigation of the Police and Fire Pension Fund operations requested by state Rep. Janet Adkins. And the second was requesting to have some "Sunshine" to shine on all the PFPF reform and business.

Becton also mentioned that he has been involved in the JIA Agency Redevelopment Board. This is an economic development board and they have the largest CRA in the state. It is chaired by Lad Daniels. In the last 60 days they have worked on a couple of issues that will be going before City Council and the state to attract jobs and businesses in the Northwest quadrant of the city. This position will also need to be filled, please contact Mr. Becton for complete details.

8. Unfinished Business – None

9. New Business –

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

Bill Bishop introduced himself as a candidate for Mayor

Anna Brosche introduced herself as a candidate for City Council at Large Group 1

Aaron Bowman introduced himself as a candidate for City Council District 3

Kathleen Perera made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by George Banks

NEXT MEETING: February 23, 2015 ~ 6:30 p.m.

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