

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, April 28, 2014

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members:

Akers, Jim – Royal Lakes Civic Association
Banks, George – Secret Cove Civic Association
Becton, Daniel - Deercreek Homeowners Association
Bollinger, George – City Council Appointment – District 4
Cardell, Richard – The Lakewood Community
Corrado, Patrick, Mandarin Community Club
Dee, Dave – Lake Mandarin HOA
D'Onofrio, Carol – Deercreek Owners Association
Heesch-Gilman, Karen - Briarwood Neighborhood Association
Hill, James - Greater Hood Road Community Association
Hodges, Ralph – Englewood Full Service School
Howard-Murphy, Abby – Hampton Glen at Deerwood
Laner, Eric- East Hampton HOA
Perera, Kathleen – Alumni Civic Association
Rogers, Henry – Rose Creek Condo Association
Rothstein, Marj – Villa San Jose Civic
Shoaei, Taghie – Greater Englewood Neighborhood Association
Stephens, Gloria – Saddlebrook Homeowner Association
Weise, Gary – Secret Cove Civic Association
Wieger, Glen – San Marco Preservation Society
Yost, Mel – Edgewater at Sunbeam Condominium Association

Excused:

Lyons, Gamal - Tall Cypress Cove Homeowner Association
Waddell, John – East Hampton Homeowners Association
Wolfe, Elizabeth – Pickwick Park Civic Association

Elected Officials:

Staff:

Crawford, Robert – Code Compliance, COJ
Glick, Aaron – Planning & Development Department
Green, James – FDOT
Meyerl, Keith - JaxParks
Santiago, Betzy – Mayor's Liaison
Smith-Juarez, Ashley – DCSB Member
Wesolowski, Rosemary - Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development Division

Guests:

Clapp, Ann – G.E.N.A.

Skule, Richard

Cassidy, Robert

Armstrong, Bill

Young, Katherine

Lawson, Kathy

Rowe, Karen

Quinones, Richardo

Houpert, Hank

Quinones, Marie

Rigdon, Hailey- Wolfson High School

Wright, Corey – Principal, Engelwood High School

Worley, Jay – JEA

Arms, Stephen

Willmonte, Melanie

Allen, Bruce

Schneider, Joseph

Law, Ralph

Rowe, Jerry

Benham, Connie

Copper, Thomas

Connor, Terry – Principal, Wolfson High School

Davis, Armonda – Wolfson High School

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

- Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 6:40 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. Henry Rogers made a motion to approve the meeting summary and Carol D’Onofrio seconded the motion. The March 2014 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Staff Reports

- **JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office)** – Not Present

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

Ms. Santiago informed the group that:

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI) - Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated across the United States annually during the month of May. The goal is to highlight the significant impact Asian Americans have on the country’s cultural vibrancy and economic future. Kick-off News Conference to be held Wednesday, April 30 at 11:00 a.m. at the Mayor’s Large Conf. Room – 4th Floor. Visit www.coj.net/maaab for more details of other events.

World of Nations Celebration presented by Walmart 5/1 - 5/4

Metropolitan Park, 1410 Gator Bowl Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32202

As you travel through the World of Nations Celebration presented by Walmart, experience the cuisine, artistry and customs from lands near and far. Admission is \$5 (One Day Ticket) or \$8 (Two Day Ticket). Children ages 3 and under are free. Grab your passport and join us for a great trip!

POLICE MEMORIAL DAY – This is a JSO event, but worth mentioning...

The actual Memorial Day is Friday, May 9, 2014, but they are observing it on Thursday, May 10.

The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office will honor its fallen officers at 10:45 a.m. Thursday during its observance of Police Memorial Day. The Sheriff’s Office will hold a tribute service in front of the Police Memorial Building at 501 E. Bay St. to remember the 60 officers who have died in the line of duty since 1840. The service includes a “Missing Man” flyover by the Sheriff’s Office’s aviation unit as well as a flag ceremony and an honor guard. The event is open to the public and will be held on Bay Street, which will be closed from Liberty to

Mash street. The Clay County Sheriff's Office Pipes and Drums will play for the memorial as Sheriff John Rutherford performs the wreath retirement ceremony. Read more at Jacksonville.com: <http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2014-04-28/story/police-memorial-day-honored-thursday-jacksonville#ixzz30DMTodnd>

French Week – On May 1, 1562, Jean Ribault sailed into what we now call the St. Johns River, and named it The River of May. He met with the indigenous, Mocama-speaking Timucua Indians on the North side of the river and claimed the beautiful land for France by placing a stone onto the ground in her honor. May 1-10, Jacksonville groups will host several events including some of the ones listed below. For more information visit: <http://www.coj.net/commemorate450/events.aspx>

French Dining Week, First Wednesday Art Walk, French Music provided by Jacksonville Sister Cities Association at the May Art Walk, Jacksonville Sister Cities Association: Travel to Nantes, France, MOSH After Dark: Uncovering the Past, French in Florida Film Premier and Exhibit Reception at MOSH, Age of Discovery Summer Discovery Camp at MOSH, La Caroline Rock Opera at MOSH

Wi\$e Money Week

The Jacksonville Public Library is proud to participate in a citywide partnership for the Third Annual Wi\$e Money Week, May 11 – 17. More than 100 different programs and activities will take place during the week. Free workshops will be held at the Main Library downtown and at multiple JPL branch libraries. All workshops are free and open to the public; however, registration at wisemoneyweek.org is strongly suggested. Wi\$e Money Week was created to offer programs, classes and activities to educate consumers of all ages and income levels about ways they can be more financially stable. These educational events are carried out by financial institutions, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, libraries and community organizations. To learn more about Wi\$e Money Week, visit wisemoneyweek.org.

2014 Jacksonville Jazz Festival Preferred Pass - Sunday, May 25

Preferred seating on Sunday, May 25 only - \$70.00 in advance; \$80.00 day of show. Passes can be shipped or picked up at the below address beginning the week of March 30.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EVENTS: OFFICE HOURS: 8 A.M. - 5 P.M.
MAY 22 - 25 (FESTIVAL DAYS)

Jax Community & Family Awareness Expo

5/31/2014 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds Expo Center, 510 Fairgrounds Pl, Jacksonville, FL 32202 ~ \$5 - At Jax Community & Family Awareness Expo expect to experience a day of fun the entire family can enjoy! We will bring you all of the fun and games kids dream of from bounce houses to video games and more. As well as informative vendors/businesses that caters to both adult men/women and young audiences. This is a day we expect to see the Jacksonville populace join together to help uplift the community. This event will give attendees the ability to not only educate themselves on businesses and resources that cater to families in our community but also network, experience family friendly performances, shop, play, and have a great time with your entire family. <http://www.beaucoreevents.com/>

- **Duval County Public Schools** –Ashley Smith-Juarez, School Board Member, District 3 informed the group that the school board has begun their budget process. The school board plans to have a number of community meetings and the first draft of the budget was balanced, but Smith-Juarez stated that a number of items may be moved around.

Ms. Smith-Juarez informed the group that she has been working with George Banks, Larry Roziers, Executive Director of Special Programs DCPS and Rosemary Wesolowski in effort to get high school student involved in CPAC. Smith- Juarez stated that there are 2 High School Principals and 2 High School students in attendance; she introduced Wolfson High School Principal Terrance Connor; Englewood High School Principal Corey Wright; high school student, Hailey Rigdon, Miss Wolfson from Wolfson High School, and high school student, Armonda Davis, Wolfson High School.

- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green – stated that the resurfacing projects continue on Baymeadows Blvd., San Jose Blvd., and University Blvd. Mr. Green informed the group that a couple of businesses on University Blvd. have shared their concerns with FDOT in regard to the project inhibiting their business; FDOT is working with Councilmember Redman and Aide Scott Wilson on this issue. FDOT will conduct a public hearing for the proposed access management improvements to SR 152 (Baymeadows Road) from Freedom Commerce Pkwy to Country Day School Dr. The hearing will be held Thursday, May 22, 2014, at Embassy Suites, 9300 Baymeadows Road, Jacksonville, FL 32256. The hearing will begin as an open house at 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. with opportunities for the public to comment at 6:30 p.m. The proposed improvements involve adding capacity to multiple intersections along Baymeadows Road and Old Baymeadows Road through the addition of turn lanes. Left turn lanes from Southside Blvd onto Old Baymeadows Road and from Western Way onto Baymeadows Road will also be added. Other improvements include adding sidewalks on the south side of Baymeadows Rd, upgrading signals, minor drainage improvements, utility improvements, and ADA upgrades.
- **Neighborhoods Department:**
 - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Rosemary Wesolowski
Ms. Wesolowski reminded the group that the May CPAC meeting will be held on May 19, 2014 which is the 3rd Monday of the month. The May meeting was moved up one week due to the Memorial Day Holiday. Get well cards were circulated for CPAC members John Waddell and Betty Wolfe. John is in Life Care facility and Betty is home re-cooperating.
 - **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Robert Crawford
Mr. Crawford informed the group that Code Compliance has been busy working on the Urban Blight Project. The project is now focusing on the Mandarin area. Mr. Crawford recognized Karen Heesch-Gilman for her continued efforts to pick up snipe signs in the district. Mr. Crawford did remind the group that it is legal for anyone to remove signs from the city right of way; but he went on and confirmed that real estate sign and lawn chemical spray signs can legally be places on city right of way.
- **Planning & Development** – Aaron Glick, reminded the group that the dates of the Planning Commission has changed. The meetings have been pushed up 1 week to allow everyone more time to review the applications.

- **Parks & Recreation** – Sherry Wilson

Ms. Wilson introduced Keith Meyerl as our new District 3 Parks Supervisor. Ms. Wilson informed the group that:

- Summer Camp registration and program information is now available on jaxparks.com
- The Southside Tennis courts and Mandarin courts resurfacing project is underway; the resurfacing project of the tennis courts at Albert Field has been completed.
- Resurfacing of the basketball courts at Crabtree Park

If anyone has any questions or needs to contact Ms. Wilson, she can be reached at sherry@coj.net or 255-7917

- 4. Presentations – Rena Coughlin, Consolidated Government Task Force, Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, Planning, Services and St. Johns River Subcommittee Chair** informed the group that City Council President, Bill Gulliford, asked her to be a part of the team he was assembling to assess if consolidated government. The goal if the task force is to determine if consolidated government is still working. As a Task Force they have been meeting every Thursday night for the past 6 months. She stated that they heard a lot of testimony from the community at the meetings and sent out online surveys. From the information obtained, from the community, three subcommittees were formed. Ms. Coughlin has been assigned to be the chair of the Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, Planning, Services and St. Johns River Subcommittee.

This subcommittee was tasked with determining the importance of neighborhoods, is the community engaged/involved, has consolidated government fulfilled their needs, and what is needed in the communities. Ms. Coughlin informed the group that one of the topics that they have been addressing at the subcommittee meetings is the effectiveness of the CPAC's. It was stated that the subcommittee has reached out to the community and their research determined that the community was not aware of CPAC's or did not feel that they were effective. Ms. Coughlin shared the recommendations of the subcommittee; one of the recommendations is to eliminate CPAC's and to adopt a smaller neighborhood council format similar to Empower L.A.; Neighborhood Councils of Los Angeles, California. To view the recommendations, meetings and various documents visit: <http://www.coj.net/city-council/task-force-on-consolidation/tfcg-neighborhoods-committee.aspx>

It was acknowledged over the past couple of months that the subcommittee has heard from all 6 CPAC Chairs and recognized that the CPAC Chairs are not pleased with all of the proposed recommendations of the subcommittee to the task force. The goal of the task force is not to add another layer of government, but to empower the community.

There was a lengthy Q&A session between Ms. Coughlin and the full CPAC membership and guest in attendance. The full CPAC membership politely, but firmly expressed their extreme displeasure of most of the recommendations of the subcommittee Ms. Coughlin chairs. Some of the questions and comments that were made were expressed or asked by more than one person. Multiple attendees pointed out the funding and staffing issues are a major problem, how & where will the funds and staff come from to support this additional layer of government? Again, multiple attendees stated that meeting space availability and COJ staff availability for 30 or 40 meetings is unrealistic. Other members expressed their displeasure of being excluded from the process; several stated they did not know about the task force. They continued to state that they were not informed by City Council about the task force, nor were they requested to take part in the online survey that the community participated in. Several members stated that they felt that this was process to try and dilute the voice of the community. Several members stated that getting people/neighbors involved in their own neighborhoods is a challenge, much less to add additional layers of meetings to attend will not work. There were additional comments that stated that the recommendations were vague and ill-informed. There were several comments that we should not try to redesign the wheel and/or do not fix what is not broken. There were a couple of comments from first time attendees; that they did not see any benefits in the recommendation from what they have witnessed from the CPAC and its members.

Ms. Coughlin pleasantly reminded the group that these are their recommendations and

they are being made to try and benefit/empower the community, not to diminish power or their voice.

5. Chairs report - Chair Hill stated that he and the other chairs will remain diligent watching the actions/recommendations of the Task Force on Consolidated Government and the Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, Planning, Services and St. Johns River Subcommittee. Chair Hill informed the group that he and the other chairs also had a meeting with Mayor Brown and his staff. Hill stated that the meeting went well and as a united group, the 6 CPAC Chairs also expressed their displeasure with the Task Force on Consolidated Government to the mayor. Mayor Brown ensured the CPAC Chairs that he supports the CPACs and looks forward to working with them in the future. Lastly as a group, they worked on the CPAC executive order and they hope to have a updated and current version soon.

6. Elected Officials Reports – none

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports -

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

The group met and reviewed 20 applications; 2 applications have received strong opposition from the community. A motion was made to send a second opposition letter for application 2014-269; Edgewater at Sunbeam Condominium. Hill stated that a new first paragraph would be written, but the remainder of the letter would be the same as the previous letter. Mel Yost made a motion and George banks seconded the motion; the CPAC voted unanimously to send a letter. Application 2014-254; this application is requesting to rezone 17 acres of property that is currently zoned RR to RLD60. 24 members of the community attended the LUZ subcommittee meeting to express their opposition to this application. A motion was made by George Banks and seconded by Jim Akers to send a letter. There was some significant discussion about the application, but the CPAC voted unanimously to send an opposition letter.

Beautification/Parks/Environment – Dick Cardell, Subcommittee Chair

Encouraged the CPAC to go outside and enjoy the weather. It is a wonderful time of the year to go out and take a walk around your neighborhood.

Economic Development – Gloria Stephens, Subcommittee Chair

Ms. Stephens informed the group that Citizens Property Insurance Corp. plans to move 148 IT jobs to Jacksonville next year. The company now has close to 900 employees spread among four locations in Jacksonville, but it plans to consolidate those, along with 130 positions from Tallahassee and 18 from Tampa into one office complex here.

The PLAYERS Championship returns to The PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass May 6-11. The tournament brings world-class golf to the region and an estimated economic impact in excess of \$151 million to Northeast Florida. In 2013, approximately 174,000 fans, business executives and media from around the world attended The PLAYERS Championship. Business leaders discussed the economic benefits during a news conference at the JAX Chamber.

Jacksonville is one of America's New Brainpower Cities, according to an analysis by Forbes magazine. With the number of college graduates in the city jumping 14.3 percent between 2007 and 2012; during that period, 36,986 college graduates moved to the area. The list of brain gainers is led by New Orleans and San Antonio, each of which saw a 20.3 percent jump. Educated people are increasingly heading to these metro areas, notably in the South, where job growth has been robust and the cost of living is far lower than in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York or Los Angeles.

Education – George Banks / John Waddell

Co-Chair Banks – no report, but encouraged everyone to call or visit John Waddell.

Government Affairs – Jim Akers

Informed the group that he felt the Southbank Riverwalk project was important and timely; that is why he extended an invitation to Councilmember Crescimbeni to speak to us tonight. Akers also shared that after completing some research, it appears that the Crown Plaza may be having some financial difficulties due to poor occupancy. He stated that it has been determined that Public Works and the Riverwalk contractors have been in constant communication with Crown Plaza.

Membership – Abby Howard Murphy

Not present, but Chair Hill informed the group that Ms. Howard Murphy has a meeting on Tuesday (April 29, 2014), with the Mayor's Liaison, Betzy Santiago and Rosemary Wesolowski at City Hall. Chair also mentioned that Betzy has some great ideas for new membership recruitment.

Transportation – Growth Management – No Subcommittee Chair

George Bollinger and Eric Laner volunteered to Co-Chair the Subcommittee.

Safety – Betty Wolfe, Subcommittee Chair

Not present

Ad-Hoc:

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

No report

8. Unfinished Business – None

9. New Business –

George Bollinger reminded everyone that Saturday, May 10, 2014, is National Train Day. Events will be held at the Amtrak station on the northside.

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

Jim Akers made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by George Banks

NEXT MEETING: May 19, 2014 ~ 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Vincent's Southside

Main Hospital, Auditorium C

4201 Belfort Road

Jacksonville, FL 32216