

# SOUTHEAST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEETING SUMMARY May 24, 2004

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### Members and Alternates

Angie Vannatter, Chair	Lanny Felder	Karen McCarthy
Charles McBurney, Vice-Chair	Lowell Griffith	Jim McKenney
Ray Aleksic	Jack Hale	Victoria Pennington
Marian Beaman	Jim Hill	Paul Riel
Vickie Breedlove	Ralph Hodges	Ralph Saffy
Richard Cardell	David Jaffee	Mari Terbrueggen
Robert Chadwick	Bill Kintz	Gary Ulrich
Ken Charron	Mike Lawson	Nancy Van Pelt
Patrick Corrado	Marlene Tege MacMillin	Elizabeth Wolfe
Art Costa	Charles Magee	

### City Staff/Ex-Officio/Guests

Neil Armingeon, Riverkeeper	Blane Land
Kris Barnes, DCSB	Mary Lawlor, UNF
Melanie Belveal, UNF	Elaine Mann, DCSB
John Crofts, Mayor's Liaison	Frank Matthews, Goodman Group
Michael Dickey, Consumer Affairs	Marilyn Miller, Heaven Trees
Victoria Feist, UNF	Michelle O'Rourke, Spring Park
Odice Gracey	Sarah Owen, FL Wildlife Fund
Art Graham, CC District 13	Guy Parola, Planning & Development
Jim Green, FDOT	Sarah Paul, UNF
Benjamin Harris, Boy Scouts	Dan Scanlan, Times-Union
Brandon Harris, Boy Scouts	Art Shad, CC District 5
Jeremy Harris, Boy Scouts	Erin Stansell, Village Green
Stan Johnson, Art Graham's Aide	Kathleen Stansell, Village Green
Sean Kelly, Planning & Development	George Tawes, Property Safety
Dick Kravitz, State Representative	Dawn Wood, Neighborhood Services

### Excused

Joni Cusic	Mark MacLean	Madelyn Rubin
Chris Fuchs	Mark Roesser	Kim Whigham
Gamal Lyons	Henry Rogers	

### Call to Order

Angie Vannatter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## Speakers

State Representative Dick Kravitz gave an update on recent legislative issues. One of the greatest benefits to Jacksonville is a budgetary change to increase education funds by 4.89% in northeast Florida for the next school year. Also, the Bright Futures program is fully funded. Other highlights included:

- Every public school classroom is now required to have an American Flag properly displayed
- It is illegal to accept a student back into a school when he has been convicted of rape
- Convicted child predators can not live within 1000 feet of a school bus stop

A question and answer period followed.

Angie recognized councilmen Art Graham and Art Shad and Duval County School Board member Kris Barnes.

## Freedom Commerce Center

Mr. Frank Matthews, attorney for The Goodman Group, developers of the Freedom Commerce Center, gave an overview of the proposed development and changes that have been made in its design since inception. The property encompasses 687 acres, 265 of which will be developed. Out of the 687 acres, 520 acres are wetlands. Of these wetlands, 381 acres will be permanently preserved. The number of acres to be mitigated will be 2075. Of the 2075 mitigated acres, 380 will be in Duval County. There will be two entrances into the site. One will be at Phillips Highway and one at Baymeadows Road. The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) will review permitting for the development in July.

A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Neil Armingeon, Riverkeeper, gave an overview of their opposition to the development. This land holds the headwaters of both Julington and Pottsburg creeks. He stated that the Fish and Wildlife Commission has deemed these wetlands as “wetlands of regional significance” and that they are “mature, forested wetlands.” He argued that the Freedom Commerce development will have water quality impacts to both Julington and Pottsburg creeks. He stated that the proposed mitigation will not improve the quality of these creeks. He encouraged everyone to contact the Board of Governors for the SJRWMD.

A question and answer period followed.

Angie reminded everyone in attendance that only CPAC members in good standing may vote on this issue. There is one vote per association if both primary and alternate members are present.

*Ralph Hodges made a motion that the Southeast CPAC oppose the proposed development. Art Costa seconded the motion.*

Art Graham and Art Shad were both asked to comment on the development. They both agreed that the City Council’s involvement ended with the last Council who voted for the development.

Ken Charron reminded the members that the law provides for development at this site and that any motion should be specific as to why the CPAC opposes this particular development.

The motion was amended to read:

*The Southeast CPAC opposes the proposed Freedom Commerce development because of the development of 140 acres of wetlands of regional environmental impact.*

Paul Riel recommended the CPAC table the issue for more discussion and more information. A subcommittee should be created to research this issue more and report back to the CPAC with a recommendation and draft of a letter.

*Ray Aleksic made a motion to table the motion as is until next month when the assigned subcommittee reports back to the CPAC.*

The motion passed 20 votes to 7. Angie will form the subcommittee.

### **Chair's Report**

- The minutes were unanimously approved with a minor change.
- The North/Southeast Transportation Corridor study group adopted their final corridor plan. The route is essentially I-95 north to Bowden Road proceeding north on Phillips Highway until it meets again with I-95 north. There will be feeders along JTA to mass transit. The form will be a dedicated bus lane.
- BJP – The group discussed the courthouse and the southside generating station. There will be a meeting on June 8 to review what the Haskell group has done and plan to do on the property.
- Children's Commission New Ways grants – the application that was received on the last day mentioned at the last meeting was actually a program that will benefit children on the Westside. The application was sent back to that CPAC.
- Sean Kelly and Guy Parola are representing the Planning Department instead of Doug McDowell for this meeting.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

No reports due to time constraints.

### **Staff Reports**

- John Crofts, Mayor's Liaison, reported that two Jessie Smith scholarships were recently awarded by the Planning Department in honor of Mr. Smith. Both students are in Masters programs at UNF.
- Jim Green, FDOT, reported that the First Coast MPO is now holding public meetings for the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. The next meeting is June 1 at Twin Lakes Academy auditorium. The FDOT will be holding a public meeting Thursday, June 24 on the Matthews Bridge plans. The meeting will be held at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds, open house 5-7.
- Elaine Mann, DCSB, reported that the School Board members are happy about state funds being given back to Duval County for the next school year. Graduations all went well this year.
- Art Shad, City Council District 5, reported that the LUZ subcommittee of the City Council meets June 15. A PUD planned next to Mandarin High School is a possible agenda item.
- Dawn Wood, Neighborhood Services Division, reported that the last Matching Grant workshop is Thursday, May 27. This year applicants are required to attend the workshop in order to apply for

- Michael Dickey, Consumer Affairs, reported that consumer education classes are still ongoing.
- Art Graham, City Council District 13, reported that there are committees that need community involvement and they are now accepting resumes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 28, 2004 at Twin Lakes Academy Middle School media center, 8050 Point Meadows Drive.**

**Directions (from the Southeast Branch library): Take Butler Blvd. EAST to St. Johns Bluff Road/9A SOUTH (right). Exit Baymeadows Road WEST (right). At approximately one-third of a mile, turn NORTH (right) on Point Meadows Drive. One-third of a mile down is the school – 8050 Point Meadows Drive. Follow signs for “Buses and Faculty” (the road just BEFORE the school on your left) and park in the back. Facing the open breezeway, the media center is the right-most building.**