

District 4 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Dewey Walker

Vice Chair: Kathy Budd

MEETING SUMMARY

Florida State College at Jacksonville Kent Campus

3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Room F-128

May 12, 2014

Attendance

Members:

Chair (Springtree Village) - Dewey Walker
Vice Chair (Council District 10) - Kathy Budd
Charter Member - Don Ingram
Cedar Hills Estates - Johnny Carter
Confederate Point Civic - James Nolting
Hyde Grove Terrace - Shirley Lowry
Hyde Grove Terrace - Peggy Myers
Murray Hill Preservation - Len Burroughs
Watermill Master - Thomas Martin

Excused:

Charter Member - Chuck Mann
Armstrong & Bosh Insurance - Opal Burgstiner
FSCJ Cecil North - Paul McNamara
Gleaners Dispatch - Jim Kelly
The Village Salon - Steve Shaffer
Timuquana Manor N. - Alice Turknett
Timuquana Manor N. - Polly Walker
Trinity Ministries - Bruce Tyson
Westside Area Residents - Charles Kelley
Westside Business Leaders - Jane Miller

Absent:

Crystal Springs - Marilyn Lehman
West Jax Civic - Richard Dill

Note: Three consecutive unexcused absences by the organization's representative will result in the organization's removal as a CPAC member

Elected Officials:

City Council Member District 12 - Honorable Doyle Carter
Duval County School Board Member - Honorable Becki Couch

Staff:

City of Jacksonville Parks and Recreation - Keith Meyer
City of Jacksonville Planning and Development - Mary Beth Ridderman
City of Jacksonville Planning and Development - Andy Hetzel
City of Jacksonville Regulatory - Municipal Code Compliance - Dennis Steele
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) - Karen Taulbee
Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) - Nancy Kilgo
Jacksonville Public Library - Jane Harris
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) - Lt. Jesse York
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) - Sgt. Lewis
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) - Officer Hilaman

Guests:

Patty Neal - ShAdCo
Lara Hipps - Hipps Group
Ray Morkin - ShAdCo
Geneva Whitlock
Abner Davis - Clara White Mission (membership in progress)

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Chair Dewey Walker called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Mary Beth Ridderman verified a quorum.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

- Approval of the March summary had been deferred because members had not received electronic copies of the March summary. A motion to approve the March summary was made by Tom Martin and seconded by Len Burroughs. Mr. Burroughs commended Ms. Ridderman for the detailed list of names in the March summary. Discussion was held: the March meeting head count was 225, as counted by Kathy Budd

and Bruce Tyson. The vote: all were in favor.

- A motion to approve the April summary was made by Tom Martin and seconded by Len Burroughs. The vote: all were in favor.

3. Staff Reports:

• Jacksonville Sheriff's Office – Lt. Jesse York reported:

- JSO has made recent staff changes. He introduced Sgt. Penny Lewis and Officer Doug Hilaman.
- Crime is at the lowest level for months.
- Citywide issues:
 - Back-flow valves are being stolen and sold for salvage. Vehicles involved in the theft may or may not have business names on the sides. Please call 630-0500 to report suspicious activity.
 - Business burglaries to cell phone stores.
 - Convenience store burglaries
 - Auto thefts from car dealerships. These thefts often occur in the early morning hours. Suspects break into the showroom, remove keys and steal cars.
- Lt. York commended the following JSO officers:
 - Officer Doug Hilaman, serving as a patrol officer since February, 2014, responded to a residential burglary on April 20 with no back-up. Officer Hilaman restrained two suspects. The suspects' vehicle was stolen from a car dealership on April 14. The vehicle was recovered and the suspects arrested for probable cause.
 - Officer Hewett responded to a call regarding a twelve year old child who had threatened to harm others on a school bus and suicide. Officer Hewett developed a rapport with the child and contacted the parents.
 - Members commented they would appreciate similar updates about JSO personnel.
- A concern was expressed that a few internet cafes have reopened.
- A concern was expressed about kids skateboarding or playing basketball in the streets. Lt. York explained that JSO will respond, if called. Please call 630-0500 when the activity is observed.
- For more information, call the JSO Zone 4 Office at 513-3165.
- To report suspicious activity, call 630-0500. To report a crime in progress, call 911.

• Mayor's Representative – Ms. Spears' absence was excused.

- Chair Walker announced that fliers about "Don't Trash Our City" were delivered from the Mayor's Office. (Ms. Spears prepared the fliers and Ms. Ridderman delivered them.)
- Ms. Spears may be contacted at 630-1977.

• Duval County Public Schools – The Honorable Becki Couch reported:

- She is the current Duval County Public Schools Board Chair.
- She sent Ms. Ridderman the list of public meeting dates. Kathy Budd and Mary Beth Ridderman attended the meeting at Ed White. The second public meeting is tomorrow.
- The Superintendent provided a proposal to balance the budget. The Board is going back to the table to make changes.
- The Board assures there is a 5% reserve fund, which is above the required 3% reserve. In past years, the amount was not defined in the budget.
- The majority of the budget (75%) is invested in human capital.
- The Florida Legislature approved the budget. It required local effort on the local taxpayers' level.
- The average age of Duval County schools is 50 years. DCPS needs to apply for loans to make changes, such as updates to support computers.
- The Quality Education for All (QEA) Fund is a large pool of private dollars that will be invested in programs and initiatives designed to attract and retain high-quality teachers and leaders for Duval County Public Schools. Philanthropists pledged \$50 million for pay increases to qualified teachers in the lowest performing schools. Teachers must demonstrate data/test scores to earn pay for performance. This initiative will focus on the 36 lowest performing schools.
- A question was raised about the funding for DCPS Police. Ms. Couch explained that formerly there was no bargaining unit, but recently the officers joined FOP, which bargains for them. DCPS will continue to save on retirement but other costs may increase.
- Chair Walker thanked Ms. Couch for her report and for attending the CPAC meeting.
- Ms. Couch may be contacted at couchr@duvalschools.org or 390-2373.

• Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) – Mr. McNamara's absence was excused.

• Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Karen Taulbee reported:

- The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is an extensive two year process, which plans for 25-30 years. It requires extensive public involvement in four counties.
- The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is different from the LRTP. Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in the state is required by Florida Statutes to have a TIP which, as a component of this plan, must include a listing of projects planned for the next five fiscal years. MPOs are also required to have a similar TIP for federally funded projects for the next four years. It includes FDOT, JTA, St. Johns Clay, rail, airports and all types of projects. Public comments may be made within 45 days by phone, email, in person or at public meetings.

- o She provided copies of pertinent pages from the draft TIP Program list of projects.
- o Information is available at www.northfloridatpo.org or at http://www.northfloridatpo.com/transportation_planning/transportation_improvement_program/.
- o A discussion was held regarding managed/express/toll lanes. A concern was expressed that residents voted against tolls. (Ms. Taulbee explained this is a State toll. The State did not previously receive proceeds from the tolls that were voted upon.)
- **Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA)** – Lara Hipps reported:
 - o The Cecil Airport Advisory Committee meets on June 2, 7 pm. at the Cecil Conference Center, 13561 Lake Newman St.
 - o For more information, please contact Ms. Hipps at 781-2654 or 509-2914.
- **Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA)** – Nancy Kilgo reported:
 - o She is available for questions.
 - o A concern was raised about rate increases. JEA’s goal is to have no rate increase for five years.
 - o For more information, please visit <https://www.jea.com/>.
 - o To request a presentation, please contact Ms. Kilgo at 665-6439 or kilgna@jea.com.
 - o To report an outage call (904) 665-6000.
 - o Chair Walker thanked Ms. Kilgo for her report.
- **Parks & Recreation** – Keith Meyer reported:
 - o Parks are gearing up for summer.
 - o Summer Camps begin in June. Vouchers were issued to 350 children and 160 are on the waiting list.
 - o Registration began for Waterproof JAX which provides free swimming lessons for 1500 students. The project is funded by community contributions.
 - o The Fit to Play program offers activities such as kick the can, sock races and kick ball.
 - o Ringhaver Park restrooms are being repaired.
 - o Cecil Recreation Center ball fields are being graded.
 - o Boone Park parking will increase.
 - o Please contact 630-CITY (2489) to report graffiti or other concerns.
 - o For more information, please contact Keith Meyers 255-7936.
- **Planning and Development Department:**
 - o **Planning** – Andy Hetzel provided a printed report.
 - An application was filed to place a restaurant at 7200 Normandy Blvd. near Memorial Park and Normandy.
 - A concern was raised about a proposed liquor store on the corner of Hyde Grove Avenue and Lane Avenue.
 - Contact Mr. Hetzel at ahetzel@coj.net or 255-7821.
 - o **Housing and Community Development Division** - Mary Beth Ridderman reported:
 - The speaker, North Florida Planning Transportation Organization, requested to speak and confirmed their attendance in January for the May meeting. Ms. Ridderman said she did not know why the speaker failed to show. (The following day, the speaker’s agent explained she had failed to place the item on the staff’s master calendar and asked to reschedule. The next available date is November, but that is beyond the date NFTPPO needs to present information to the public.)
 - For information about the Long Range Transportation Plan, please visit <http://pathforward2040.com/>
 - For more information, contact Mary Beth Ridderman at 255-8260 or marybeth@coj.net.
 - Kathy Budd made a motion to prepare a letter to quickly interview and hire someone to fill the vacant Neighborhood Coordinator’s position, which has been open for several months. The current staff has done well but cannot be expected to do multiple jobs for extended periods. A second was made by Tom Martin. A discussion was held. Charter Member Don Ingram expressed concern about the long hours worked in three or four days. The vote: All were in favor.
- **Regulatory Compliance**
 - o **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Dennis Steele reported:
 - He is the Zone 4 supervisor. Devron Cody was assigned to Zone 1.
 - Operation Urban Blight is now in the 32256 zip code/Mandarin area. Operation Urban Blight is part of a citywide initiative to address building and grounds maintenance.
 - A concern was expressed about vehicles abandoned on the right-of-way. Please report abandoned vehicles on the right or way to JSO at 630-0500.

4. **Presentation:** Following the meeting, the invited speaker, North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, asked to reschedule.

5. **Chair’s Report: Chair Dewey Walker reported:**

- He sent a get well card to Charles Kelley, who remains in the hospital.
- The Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee will be renamed Governmental Affairs, to allow a broader field of interest. Volunteers are needed.
- Two new member nominations were received and are being processed.

- A volunteer is needed for the TRUE Commission.
- The North CPAC expressed concerns about basketballs goals in city streets. Please contact JSO at 630-0500 if your area has similar problems. The SW CPAC may need to draft a resolution.
- He asked Sheriff Rutherford for a Police Athletic League on the Westside and Sheriff Rutherford said he will get the funding.
- The Task Force for Consolidated Government finds that the CPACs are ineffective. The Task Force's recommendation is to disband the CPAC and create Neighborhood Councils. The CPAC Chairs met at 4:30 today to address to Task Force's recommendations. Chair Walker was unable to attend because of tonight's SW CPAC meeting. CPACs need to be promoted and they need funding for postage. Chair Walker asked Ms. Ridderman to send members the Task Force's final recommendations. He said he will keep the CPAC informed.
- He will be absent in June and Kathy Budd will Chair the meeting.

6. Elected Officials' Report: Council Member Doyle Carter reported:

- A question was raised about the Task Force for Consolidated Government. Council Member Carter said the Task Force recommends dismantling CPACs and, instead, having neighborhood councils.
- The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) meets the first Thursday of each month. He said he will check with the speaker, Denise Bunnewith, to see why she was not present. If a project is not in the Long Range Plan, it is difficult to obtain funding.
- A concern was expressed about speeding on Remington Avenue. Council Member Carter said he will contact the Zone 4 Captain.
- Concerns were expressed about the proposed extended gas tax project list. Residents had no opportunity for public input. The list should be prioritized first by unfinished Better Jacksonville Plan projects. Many BJP projects in the SW remain unfunded. A brief discussion was held about the gas tax extension and funding needed for JTA and road projects. Council Member Carter explained that if the gas tax extension is not passed, it will be necessary for the City will fund JTA and roads.
- A concern was expressed about the long distance and response times to/from the nearest JFRD station from the Argyle/Oakleaf area. Council Member Carter reported the next JFRD station will be constructed at Collins and Old Middleburg Road.
- Concerns were expressed about not following the DRI and the number of open ditches.
- Chair Walker thanked Council Member Carter for attending the SW CPAC and invited him to return often. The CPAC applauded.

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- Beatification/Parks/Environment – Mr. Carter reported:
 - He has been working with Council Member Brown regarding tree installation on Firestone, South of Wilson, near the I-295 overpass.
 - He has been working with Council Member Brown to get area sidewalks repaired.
 - He has been going into the neighborhoods to address issues such as soft-sided construction bags "bagsters" or soft-sided dumpsters which are left on-site for long periods of time.
 - He is involved in several summer projects.
 - Volunteers are needed for this subcommittee.
- Transportation – Tom Martin reported the following items were discussed at the May 7, 2014 meeting of the North Florida Transportation and Planning Organization (NFTPO):
 - Approved the Unified Planning Work Program for July 1, 2014- June 30, 2016.
 - Approved the DDOT request amending the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for fiscal year 2013/14 – 2017/18. Included are safety improvements at Chaffee and Normandy.
 - Approved the JTA request amending TIP for 2013/14 – 2017/18, which includes funding to Bus Rapid Transit North and South Corridor projects.
 - Approved St. Johns County's request amending the TIP for 2013/14 – 2017/18, which allows submission of a grant request to fund St. Johns County Council on Aging.
 - Approved staff request for programming \$375,000 of Congestion Management Air Quality funds to assist Florida East Coast Railroad in the purchase of four new locomotives with liquefied natural gas kits installed and two tenders. The test route will be Jacksonville to New Smyrna.
 - Received staff presentation of the draft TIP for 2014/15-2018/19.
 - Received an updated presentation on the 20140 Long Range Transportation Plan.
 - Received an updated presentation on the North Florida Coalition Support.
 - The next meeting is June 4, at 6 p.m.
- Sheriff's Advisory Committee (ShAdCo) – Alice Turknnett's absence was excused.
 - The following are ShAdCo meeting dates:
 - ShAdCo Sector J meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Ortega United Methodist Church. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector K meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Lane Wiley Center. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector L meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Cecil Recreation Center

– Aquatic Center. Visitors and new members are welcome.

- Safety – Bruce Tyson’s absence was excused.
- Cecil Area – Bruce Tyson’s absence was excused.

8. Unfinished Business – none.

9. New Business – none.

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

- Lara Hipps announced the Westside Business Leaders (WSBLA) Barbeque on May 30. The barbeque will be held on Normandy Boulevard across from Dairy Queen. Proceeds fund the WSBLA college student scholarship program.
- Len Burroughs announced National Bike to Work Week is May 12-16. The City’s Bike to Work Day is May 15. Mr. Burroughs will ride with Mayor Brown and others to City Hall.

11. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Martin and seconded by Len Burroughs. The vote: all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 9, 2014 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Florida State College at Jacksonville, Kent Campus
3939 Roosevelt Blvd, Room E-112 F

Summary prepared by Mary Beth Ridderman, Neighborhood Coordinator