

North District Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Bobby Taylor

Vice Chair: Rex Neidlinger

MEETING SUMMARY

Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus

4501 Capper Rd. Building C-136

June 11, 2014

Attendance:

Members:

Chair – Bobby Taylor
Vice Chair – Rex Neidlinger
Charter Member – Richard Berry
Amelia View – Gay Septon
Ashford Wood - Evelyn "Kathy" Myers
Betz Realty, Inc. - William Baker
Blue Grass Northwood – Sharon Bivins
Copper Hill - Bessie Williams
Council Appointee District 11 – Tommy Ruffin
Duval County PTS/PTA – Vicki Drake
Copper Hill – Joseph Tate
Edwards Creek – Danny Ferreira
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Fran Beach
Northlake Homeowners Association – Josephine Fiveash Porter
National Park Service – Shauna Allen

Excused:

Charter Member - David Spruill
Charter Member – Dot Mathias
Black Hammock Island Civic Association - Mary Thompson
Blue Grass Northwood – Pastor Mark Bivins
Eagle Bend – Mike Getchell
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Gerie Leigh
Highlands- Jack Stuart
Johnson Community Civic Association – James Shronce
Northside Lions – Harry Wagner
San Mateo – Roland Biederer
ShAdCo Q – Jenny Bray
Tasti D'Lite – Nancy Burnett
The Cape Association – Delores Spruill

Absent:

Three consecutive unexcused absences will result in removal from CPAC membership.

Please contact Mary Beth Ridderman at 255-8260 or marybeth@coj.net if members will be absent.

Elected Officials:

Florida House of Representatives - Lake Ray

Staff:

Florida Department of Transportation – James Bennett
Florida Department of Transportation – Jim Green
Jacksonville Electric Authority – Wanyonyi Kendrick
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office – Assistant Chief T.C. Davis
Planning & Development, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman
Planning & Development, Planning – Marvin Echols
Public Libraries – Ann Fridl
Public Works – Dave McDaniel
Regulatory Compliance, Municipal Code Compliance – Bruce Chauncey

Staff Excused:

Mayor's Liaison – Mike Sweat
Mayor's Representative – David DeCamp
Jacksonville Transportation Authority – Cheryl Riddick

Guests:

Chernelle Benjamin
Janice Johnson – Pine Lakes
Planning & Development, Housing and Community Development - Daphne Colbert
Barbara Combs – Eagle Bend Island

Barbara Kicklighter – Hidden Lakes
Donnie Kicklighter – Hidden Lakes
Donald Drake – JEA retired

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Chair Bobby Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum was verified by Neighborhood Coordinator Mary Beth Ridderman. Chair Taylor reminded everyone to silence cell phones and sign-in.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the May summary was made by Richard Berry and seconded by Fran Beach. The vote: All in favor.

3. Staff Reports

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)** – Assistant Chief T.C. Davis reported:
 - Zone 6 crime is down. Violent crime is down 37.3%. Property crime is down 1/9%.
 - Business break-ins are occurring at Dollar Stores and pharmacies.
 - Residential burglaries are occurring at Black Hammock Island. Two brothers were arrested and the burglaries stopped.
 - Consider joining the Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo).
 - Call 911 to report emergency situations.
 - Call 630-0500, the non-emergency line, for other concerns.
 - Chair Taylor thanked Chief Davis for attending the CPAC and for his report.
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Agriculture Extension Office Director, Mike Sweat's absence was excused.
 - For information about Extension Office classes, please call the Extension Office at 255-7450.
- **Mayor's Representative** – David De Camp's absence was excused
- **Duval County Public Schools** – no representative.
- **Planning & Development (formerly Neighborhoods)**
 - **Planning** – Marvin Echols was present at the CPAC meeting to answer residents' questions. Please contact Mr. Echols at 255-7823 or MEchols@coj.net.
 - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Mary Beth Ridderman reported:
 - The neighborhood coordinator's position remains vacant. An ad was posted but there were only 7 applicants and no one was interviewed. The position will be re-advertised.
- **Regulatory Compliance ((formerly Neighborhoods)**
 - **Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Bruce Chauncey reported:
 - Operation Urban Blight is going strong. Officers worked in Brooklyn today.
 - A new officer was hired, but he has not started yet. Another person was hired, but declined to accept the position. They are very short-staffed.
 - Two part time staff members are working weekdays and weekends to address temporary signage.
 - Chair Taylor presented a 2013 Certificate of Appreciation and expressed the CPACs thanks for his hard work in Zone 6.
 - A concern was raised about the name Operation Urban Blight, which sounds like it is only for the downtown area. Officer Chauncey explained it is for the entire city and officers have worked in Mandarin and other non-urban areas.
 - Please call 630-CITY (2489) to report and track CARE concerns.
- **Parks & Recreation** – Amy Ver Beek Brown reported:
 - Bethesda Park – major upgrades are planned for the next fiscal year.
 - Garden City or Ray Greene – tennis courts are being reviewed for condition, if funding is available, both courts will be resurfaced.
 - Burt Maxwell – new picnic tables, grills and a pavilion are being installed.
 - Oceanway – tennis courts and other improvements were completed. More improvements are planned.
 - Jim King – design is in progress for two separate projects: lighting improvements and dock improvements. When designs are completed, requests for bids will be made.
 - Summer Night Lights starts in June.
 - Rec and Roll starts in June.
 - A concern was expressed that an update on the kiosk at Huguenot Park has not been received. (On 6/12/14, Ms. Brown provided an update to Chair Bobby Taylor. A purchase order has been issued for the work at Huguenot. Construction should begin in the next few weeks. Chair Taylor requested more detailed information, which will be reported at the next meeting.)
 - For information about the city's parks, please visit www.jaxparks.com.

- **National Park Service** – Shauna Allen reported:
 - Ms. Ridderman forwarded information about Chikungunya Fever, which is spread by mosquitoes. Please take precautions – use mosquito repellent.
 - For information about National Parks, visit <http://www.nps.gov/state/fl/index.htm?program=all>
- **Jacksonville Electric Authority** – Wanyonyi Kendrick reported:
 - JEA customers will receive a \$35 rebate in July.
 - Hurricane season is here. JEA is well-prepared. Each person needs to be prepared with an individual plan.
 - JEA offers services to assist with managing utility bills: E-Billing, Budget Billing and Pre-paid Billing.
 - For more information, please visit the JEA website <https://www.jea.com/> or contact Ms. Kendrick at kendwj@jea.com or 665-7217.
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – FDOT provided a presentation (see below). Jim Green was available for questions. Mr. Green provided information during the Transportation Subcommittee's report.
 - Accident and related Florida Highway Patrol information: www.fhp.state.fl.us
 - Regional traffic information: www.northfloridaroads.com
 - 511 websites: www.jax511.com and www.fl511.com
- **Public Works** - Dave McDaniel was available for questions. He is the Chief of the Mowing and Landscaping Division. He addressed earlier questions and facilitated a discussion about mowing and landscaping city-owned properties.
 - Signs on fences are illegal. Schools are exempt from this rule.
 - His division mows rights-of-way, city-owned properties and properties cited by Code.
 - A resident commended Public Works for cleaning and cutting city roadways.

4. Presentation: FDOT Heckscher Drive & I-295 Port Access Project by James Bennett

- FDOT's focus is moving people and goods. All products are shipped. Florida is the only DOT that has developed a freight program of this extent. FDOT is hiring a district freight coordinator.
- FDOT's capacity projects include new lanes, sidewalks, public transportation, ports, airports, seaports and railroads. The current JAXPORT project is \$157 million. All existing highway lanes will continue to be toll-free. Only new lanes will be constructed as express/toll lanes. Express lanes will allow more reliable routes.
- Mr. Bennett provided an explanation of construction, interchange design and traffic flow. He displayed project maps and drawings. An intermodal facility will provide a rail yard for containers which will be unloaded from ships directly onto railcars, relieving part of the truck traffic on Heckscher Drive and other area roadways. Trucks will be redirected south and will go straight across the intersection. The off ramp will allow trucks to exit. On the return trip, trucks are currently planned to cross Heckscher Drive, but a Cost Saving Initiative may change the original plan. Time was allowed for questions and answers.
- For more information, please visit <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/>. Mr. Bennett may be contacted at 904-360-5646 or james.bennett@dot.state.fl.us.

5. Chair's Report – Chair Bobby Taylor reported:

- The current meeting time may be negatively affecting membership, since the meeting occurs during normal business hours. Some CPAC leaders have had to make a choice between CPAC and their jobs. Some others take leave time to attend each meeting. The North CPAC is the only CPAC that meets this early. Most CPACS meet at 5:30, 6 or 7 p.m. The current meeting room is available from 5:30 – 7:30 or 6 – 8 p.m. The issue will be raised again for further discussion. (See New Business.)

6. Elected Officials Reports –

- Florida House of Representatives Lake Ray was warmly welcomed to the CPAC. Representative Ray announced:
 - He is not the elected representative for this area, but he remains interested in the North CAPC area and residents.
 - He commended CPAC members for their work - the connection between government and residents is so important.
 - In Tallahassee, he feels disconnected from the community. It is more difficult for local issues to be heard unless people are really engaged in the process.

- o Florida will have a balanced budget this year with no tax increases. There will actually be decreases in taxes, the tag fee will be reduced and there will be more sales tax holidays.
- o The focus in Tallahassee jobs. The State is looking for cleaner, greener sustainable manufacturing.
- o Florida is experiencing a rebound in the economy. Florida is in a good position at this time.
- o Representative Ray expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the community. He will be available after the meeting.

7. Subcommittee Reports

- **Governmental Affairs –**

The following items were discussed or voted upon:

2014-0307	Approve	ORD-MC Amend Sec 656.407 (Lot to have access), Chapt 656 (Zoning Code), Ordinance Code, to Add a new Subsection (e) to Require a Statement of how Public Safety & Municipal Services Vehicles will access property
2014-0332	Approve	ORD-Q Rezoning 6765 Dunn Ave (25.74± Acres) - PUD to CN
2014-0333	Approve	RESO Urging Admin to Coordinate with Office of Gen Counsel to Amend Jax Zoning Code to Delete Ability of a Retail Store with Sales & Svc of Alcoholic Beverages for Off-Premises Consumption (Including Liquor, Beer & Wine) to Locate in a Zoning District as a Permissible Use by Exception.
EB 14-32	Deny	Administration Deviation on Pulaski Road to reduce acreage from required minimum 4.0 acres to 3.72 acres for a Baptist church building and parking area on Pulaski Road

The next Governmental Affairs meeting is July 3, 4 p.m. at FSCJ North Campus, Room C-136.

- **Membership** – Reverend Bivins’ absence was excused. Mrs. Bivins reported:
 - o She is glad to hear the CPAC is considering a time change because a later meeting time may help in recruiting new members.
- **Transportation** – Richard Berry reported:
 - o Ms. Ridderman forwards FDOT reports via email.
 - o I-95 from Airport Road to the Nassau County line- resurfacing in progress. Expect nighttime southbound lane closures from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.
 - o I-295 West at Dunn Avenue – interchange reconstruction. Expect lane closures in the area.
 - o Heckscher Drive at the Sisters Creek Bridge - bridge replacement project. Daytime northbound shoulder closures from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - o Pecan Park Road beneath I-95- resurfacing and widening. Expect lane closures. Plans are in progress to build an access road - Pecan Park to Airport Road. Jim Green, FDOT, announced FDOT is finalizing the route selection and waiting for funding. This is not a state road. COJ has no money available at this time.
 - o Chair Taylor announced the entrance to Kingsley Plantation is in the design process and is scheduled for 2015-2016 construction. The road will provide direct access to Kingsley Plantation. Jim Green announced the project includes wetland mitigation and bike trails. A public hearing will be scheduled for later this summer. Shauna Allen, from National Parks, said the road will improve accessibility and safety, especially during high tides. A brief discussion was held.

8. Unfinished Business: none

9. New Business:

- A lengthy discussion was held regarding the possibility of changing the CPAC meeting time. Concerns were expressed about the by-laws and the availability of staff members at a later meeting time. A straw poll indicated a positive interest in changing the meeting time to 5:30 p.m. Tommy Ruffin made a motion to investigate the time change and report at the July meeting. Danny Ferreira seconded the motion. All were in favor. The July meeting will occur at 4 p.m., as usual, to allow members who were not present an opportunity to speak and to vote. Chair Taylor will investigate the availability of staff members and check with JAXPORT to see if the scheduled August speaker is available at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Berry will review the Executive Order and By-Laws.

10. Public Comments:

- Danny Ferreira announced the Planning Commission will hear the billboards issue again soon. Marvin Echols said he will provide notification of the meeting date, time and location.
- A guest from Pine Lakes announced she enjoyed being at the CPAC meeting and found it very interesting. She expressed appreciation for the CPAC's work. Members encouraged her to become a member and Mary Beth Ridderman provided a CPAC nomination form.
- Daphne Colbert announced she is with the City of Jacksonville Boards and Commissions. There are openings on the board in At Large Group One.

11. Motion to Adjourn – Danny Ferreira made a motion to adjourn. Richard Berry seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2014 at 4 p.m.

Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus
4501 Capper Rd. Building C – 136 Conference Room
The next Governmental Affairs Meeting is July 3, 2014, 4 p.m.
FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd., Building C-136 Conference Room

Summary prepared by Mary Beth Ridderman, Coordinator, Planning and Development Department, 904-255-8260, marybeth@coj.net.