

**North District
Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
Chair: Rex Neidlinger**

MEETING SUMMARY

Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus
4501 Capper Rd. Building C-136
May 13, 2015

Attendance:

Members:

Chair – Rex Neidlinger
Vice Chair – Joseph Tate
Charter Member – Richard Berry
Charter Member – Dot Mathias
Charter Member - David Spruill
Blue Grass Northwood – Sharon Bivins
Blue Grass Northwood – Pastor Mark Bivins
Council Appointee District 11 – Tommy Ruffin
Copper Hill - Bessie Williams
Duval County PTS/PTA – Vicki Drake
Edwards Creek – Danny Ferreira
Florida Open Beaches – Bobby Taylor
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Fran Beach
Johnson Community Civic Association – James Shronce
The Cape Association – Delores Spruill

Excused:

Amelia View – Gay Septon
Ashford Wood - Evelyn "Kathy" Myers
Betz Realty, Inc. - William Baker
Black Hammock Island Civic Association - Mary Thompson
Eagle Bend – Mike Getchell
Heckscher Drive Community Club – Gerie Leigh
Highlands- Jack Stuart
Main Street Farms Civic Association - Tom Byrnes
National Park Service – Shauna Allen
Northlake Homeowners Association – Josephine Fiveash Porter
Northside Lions – Harry Wagner
San Mateo – Roland Biederer

Absent: Pending Removal

Turtle Creek Village – Arthur Sullivan

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: none

Staff:

Mayor's Liaison – Mike Sweat
Mayor's Representative – David DeCamp
Florida Department of Transportation – Jim Green
JTA – Cheryl Riddick
JTA – Robert Franques
Parks and Recreation – Joshua Rhodes
Planning & Development, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman
Planning & Development, Planning – Marvin Echols
Regulatory Compliance, Municipal Code Compliance – Timothy Myers

Guests:

Matt Stone- Marshwinds (membership pending)
Donald Drake
Mike Woznak – Lydia Estates HOA
Shelley Woznak – Lydia Estates HOA
Terrence Rembert – Angel Lakes Estates HOA

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Chair Rex Neidlinger called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Mary Beth Ridderman verified a quorum. Chair Neidlinger welcomed guests Michael and Shelley Woznak from Lydia Estates. He announced Council Member Boyer will provide a presentation on the Capital Improvements Program Subcommittee.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the April summary was made by Dick Berry and seconded by Joseph Tate. The vote: All were in favor.

3. Staff Reports

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)** – No report
- **Mayor's Liaison** – Agriculture Extension Office Director Mike Sweat reported:
 - The Extension Connection monthly newsletters are forwarded to CPAC members.
 - Jacksonville has 35 community gardens. Community gardens were featured in Times Union and FL Horticulture and Family Magazine.
 - The 4-H Junior Master Gardening Program in 8 local schools is funded by Stormwater Assessment donations and 4-H. The program teaches water preservation and it reduces the cost of stormwater fees. Fees provide education 440 students each week. This week, they had classes about gardening in raised beds.
 - Peterson Academy and Mayport Middle Schools have FFA Programs to promote horticulture and agriculture to school children.
 - For more information, please call 255-7450
- **Mayor's Representative** – David De Camp reported:
 - UF Health (Shands) Hospital may close on July 1, 2015 due to lack of funding. If it closes, a number of residents will not have health care and a health care crisis will occur. Over 5500 employees will be affected. The City of Jacksonville is responsible for indigent care and has recently increased its contributions to Shands. COJ is working on an employee incentive to use Shands for employees' health care. Mayor Brown sent a letter to support Shands to keep it running. A brief discussion was held and the following concerns were expressed:
 - UF Health (Shands) is the only Level One Trauma Center in Jacksonville.
 - If Shands closes, other hospitals as well as JFRD Emergency Rescue Service will take longer for service and response times due to providing services to persons who are currently seen at Shands.
 - A new incentive policy targets work and jobs. Council Member Crescimbeni is heading the subcommittee, which meets tomorrow.
 - Youth programs have expanded into 7 parks in Operation Cease Fire zones. A donation from Steve Pajcic will allow the youth program expansion into a total of 18 parks.
 - A question was raised about portable basketball goals used in or near the city right of way. A discussion was held and a suggestion was made to raise the issue in the Blight Committee.
- **Planning & Development**
 - **Planning** – Marvin Echols had previously shared information with the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee.
 - Mr. Echols may be contacted at 255-7823 or MEchols@coj.net.
 - **Housing and Community Development Division** – Mary Beth Ridderman frequently sends information electronically.
- **Parks, Recreation and Community Services** - Joshua Rhodes reported:
 - The Urban Initiatives program is expanding. An announcement will be made at J. Gardner Nip Sams Memorial Park. 7000 Richardson Road, Jacksonville, FL 32209 May 14 at 10 a.m.
 - The Rec and Roll program is expanding.
 - Summer Night Light Programs are available for youth summer activities.
 - The Summer Parks Guide was provided.
- **Regulatory Compliance - Municipal Code Compliance Division** – Tim Myers reported:
 - Zone 6 officers completed 2020 inspections this month. City wide, officers conducted 12,800 inspections.

- The Urban Blight work is continuing. A systematic inspection by 5 officers in Riverview resulted in 150 new cases.
- A discussion was held about the criteria for condemning houses.
- Municipal Code Officers were thanked for their work in stopping trucks from parking at the former 5th Third Bank parking lot.
Please call 630-CITY (2489) to report and track CARE concerns.
- **National Park Service** – Shauna Allen's absence was excused.
 - For information about National Parks, visit <http://www.nps.gov/state/fl/index.htm?program=all>
- **FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)** – Jim Green reported:
 - The Transportation Improvement Plan 2016-2020 list of projects will be emailed to Ms. Ridderman to forward to the CPAC members.
 - Heckscher Drive construction will be completed 2019-2020. The Myrtle Creek Bridge and Simpson Creek Bridge will be replaced. Heckscher Drive will be resurfaced to the ferry parking lot.
 - I-95 and Access Road improvements on Airport Road from the shopping center to Ranch Road will be funded in 2017-2018. The project will include improvements at the Duval road intersection.
 - I-95 and I-295 interchange construction starts Summer, 2016 and will be finished in about 4 years. The interchange will be constructed on 4 levels. Left hand exits will be removed.
 - Studies are continuing on the right of way purchase for the National Cemetery access road.
 - The JIA access road is currently under construction. Additional improvements are planned to extend the road North to intersect with Pecan Park Road. Next year Pecan Park Road will be widened to Airport Road.
 - The following concerns were expressed:
 - The previously-reported pothole on Pecan Park Road near Main Street has not been repaired.
 - Pecan Park Road near Love's Truck Stop has not been widened – truck traffic will increase when Love's opens.
 - Regional traffic information: www.northfloridaroads.com
 - 511 websites: www.jax511.com and www.fl511.com
- **JTA – Cheryl Riddick reported:**
 - The Route Optimization Initiative, effective December, 2014, is successful. Currently, changes are being made, based riders' input. Additional input is requested.
 - Outreach teams are visiting senior centers to provide education on bus ridership. To obtain more information, please call customer service (630-3100).
 - She will report each month on roadways and mobility corridors. JTA requests to be added to the CPAC staff reports each month.
 - JTA fliers are available.
 - Robert Franques was introduced.
 - The First Coast Flyer is a premium service system offering transportation from downtown to Lem Turner, I-295 and past Shands. Station construction will begin in about 2 months. Service is scheduled to start next year. JTA purchased the Jacksonville Motor Sports site to build a Park and Ride. A brief discussion was held regarding revenue from Park and Ride facilities and bus stop billboards.
 - More work is planned to bus stops to increase ADA accessibility to bus stops, shelters, and sidewalks near the bus stops.
 - The following concerns were expressed:
 - ❖ Bus Lanes are needed on Lem Turner Avenue. Mr. Franques reported the project has been approved. FDOT is working to stripe exclusive bus lanes.
 - ❖ Park and Ride lots are needed in North Jacksonville to accommodate Nassau County and from Georgia Jaguar game day traffic. Ms. Riddick said she will follow-up with Charter Member Berry.
 - ❖ Yellowbluff Road needs to be widened to accommodate truck traffic from the port to Main Street.
 - ❖ Road improvements are needed in the North District. Only persons who regularly travel the roads fully recognize the congestion and the increased truck and rail traffic.

- ❖ Residents cannot ride the bus to Hemming Plaza – they must get off at the State Street hub. Mr. Franques explained residents can ride the Skyway at no cost from the hub to Hemming Plaza.
- Chair Neidlinger thanked Ms. Riddick and Mr. Franques for their reports. He announced JTA will be added to the monthly agendas.

4. Presentation: The Honorable Lori Boyer presented information about the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

- She asked residents to support two charter amendments listed on the ballot. The amendments result from recommendations of the Task Force on Consolidated Government.
- She referenced a book created by the Task Force on Consolidated Government, Blue Print for Improvement II. The book is available on line and recommends that CPACs make yearly recommendations to the CIP (<http://www.coj.net/city-council/docs/reports/consolidation-task-force/task-force-final-report.aspx>). Each year, the CPACs could campaign to Public Works to advocate for the districts' needs.
- CIP looked at operating budgets/salaries; capital budgets/roads, ponds, permanent structures and improvements. Half of COJ revenue is from real estate taxes. Without raising taxes, the budget is currently short \$50 million. Raising 1 mil would raise \$50 million in revenue. The City has numerous needs for funding. However, increasing debt increases the debt service (costs).
- CIP also looked at all existing COJ projects. Some go back 20 years. Some projects had not been closed out, for example, Black Hammock Island Park account had a balance of 4 cents.
- Ordinance 2015-308 Reconciles accounts and performs general financial clean-up of accounting errors.
- \$50 million was identified for next year's CIP budget, without borrowing. Funds were returned to accounts of origin. 1,205 projects were closed with legislation. Existing cash was transferred to finished projects that had borrowing authority, reducing borrowing authority. \$25 million was identified, transferred or re-appropriated. \$10 million in road programs from gas tax and \$1.5 million in stormwater utility fees were used for Yellow Water Road resurfacing and other road projects.
- Looked at Better Jacksonville Plan projects and closed 385 completed projects. Other completed projects with funds leftover were transferred to City Council reserves for future projects.
- Appropriated funding for a new IT accounting system.
- Moved from numbers to policy, for example, \$6 million and 15% stormwater CIP projects; no new debt on stormwater fees. Stormwater fees go into the stormwater utility, personnel and equipment; debt service is paid out of the fund.
- Next week CIP will look at debt affordability/ratios. The debt ratio criteria has been waived in the past 3-4 years.
- A lengthy discussion followed.
- She provided handouts: Analysis of Debt Service Requirements; Ballot Summaries of the General Counsel Amendment and Proposed Chief Executive Officer/Chief Financial Officer Amendment.
- A concern was expressed that interest from COJ interest-bearing accounts is moved to other accounts.
- The CPAC commended City Council for their hard work on the CIP Project. Chair Neidlinger thanked Council Member Boyer for her presentation and issued an open invitation to return often.

5. Chair's Report – Chair Rex Neidlinger reported:

- Council Member Crescimbeni followed up via email: no ordinance exists to control the stackable height of shipping cargo containers. One existing ordinance addresses set-back and landscaping requirements. Call 630-CITY to report. A concern was expressed regarding the safe height of stacked shipping containers and a recent incident was discussed. A lengthy discussion was held. Marvin Echols said Planning and Development Department verifies zoning. He said he will follow up on the property used to store shipping cargo containers near Junior's Restaurant.

6. Subcommittee Reports

- **Governmental Affairs** – Joseph Tate and Tommy Ruffin co-chaired the Governmental Affairs portion of the meeting. The following items were discussed or voted upon:

2015-0249	Approve	The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 665 – Concurrency and Mobility Management System – to provide that concurrency annual reservation and extension fees are to be deposited into the fair share sector funds for the geographic area where the fee for the transportation project generating the fee is located
2015-0253	Deny	The bill repeals Ordinance Code Section 116.910 – Residence within City preferred – and creates a new Section 116.910 – Residence within City required, in order to require that all persons employed by the City on or after January 1, 2016 must be residents of the city.
2015-0254	Deny	This bill: 1) appropriates \$3,367,780.72 to a new design, permitting and Phase I of a construction project called Imeson Park Blvd – Busch to Heckscher, all in Fair Share Sector Area 6.1, North Planning District; amending Part 5, Chapter 111, Ordinance Code; 2) amends Section 111.535 to eliminate the Duval Station Office Park account; 3) amends the Sunset provisions to allow for transfer of funds from project not commenced; 4) provides for carryover to 2015-2016 budget year; 4) provides oversight by the Public Works Department; and 5) amends the 2015-2019 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program to add the project entitled “Imeson Park Blvd. – Busch to Heckscher” and decrease funding for projects entitled “Yellow Bluff Road Improvements”, “Main St. Improvements” and “Duval Station Office Park Improvements”.
2015-0258	No action	The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 121 – Police and Firefighters Pension – to create a new set of pension benefits for “Group II” police and firefighters hired by the City on or after October 1, 2015. The new benefits mirror the benefit package recently negotiated between the City administration and the Police and Fire Pension Fund for new employees, and considered and defeated by the City Council by a 9-9 vote on Ordinance 2015-54. Employees hired by the City prior to October 1, 2015 would continue to be covered by the existing pension plan benefits.
2015-0266	Approve	The bill re-appropriates \$250,000 from the Liberty Street/Berkman Bridge Repair project to a Liberty Street/Demolition and Debris Removal project to provide funding to drop the concrete bridge deck left in unstable condition from the second Liberty Street collapse into the river. The bill amends the 2015-19 CIP to reduce the funding amount for the Liberty Street/Berkman Bridge project and to create a new Liberty Street/Demolition and Debris Removal project and makes a finding that delaying the amendment would be a detriment to public safety due to the need to resolve the collapsed structure. The Department of Public Works is designated as the City’s oversight agency for the project.
2015-0279	Approve	An ordinance rezoning approximately 6.45± acres located in Council District 8 at 0 Dunn Avenue between V. C. Johnson Road and Simmons Road (r.e. no(s) 004258-0690), as described herein owned by Charles E. Lovelady and Alice E. Lovelady, from Planned Unit Development (PUD) district to Planned Unit Development (PUD) district, as defined and classified under the zoning code, to permit an assisted living facility and commercial office district type uses as described in the approved written description and site plan for the a.l.f. Dunn Avenue PUD; providing a disclaimer that the rezoning granted herein shall <u>not</u> be construed as an exemption from any other applicable laws.
2015-0281	Approve	An ordinance rezoning approximately 29 acres located in Council District 11 along Shark Road West, between Shark Road and Flounder Road (32 separate r.e. numbers and various owners listed below), from Planned Unit Development (PUD) District (R-88-11) to Rural Residential - acre (RR-acre) District, as defined and classified under the zoning code.
2015-0294	No Action	An ordinance amending ordinance 2013-820-E to replace the JTA project list attached to the Interlocal Agreement approved by ordinance 2013-820-E with a revised JTA project list; providing Council approval for project cost changes in excess of 20% of the cost estimated in the original cost allocation of the project list, thus requiring council approval
2015-0248	Discussion	The bill de-authorizes \$47,473,445.66 in Better Jacksonville Plan road project budgetary authority (none of which have any current funding) from the BJP project list to recognize the transfer of the budget authority for such projects to a BJP Council Reserve because the Jacksonville Transportation Authority has previously assumed responsibility for construction of these projects pursuant to an Interlocal agreement using the proceeds of the recently extended local option gas tax.
2015-0275	Discussion	An ordinance appropriating \$3,787,435.55 from Downtown Historic Preservation Revitalization (\$2,321,350 from interest earnings on Downtown Historic Preservation; \$1,050,000 from the Laura Street trio; and \$400,000 from the Kimmik Corp) to Downtown Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund.

2015-0276:	Discussion	An ordinance closing out completed District Capital Projects and returning the \$9,167,911.14 budget authorization and or funds to the account of origin; amending the 2015-2019 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program approved by ordinance 2014-467-E to decrease the budget authorization for the designated projects; acknowledging no waiver of the provision of section 8.2 of the 2014-2015 budget ordinance, 2014-466-E, is required due to council action
2015-0303	Discussion	An ordinance appropriating \$1,729,565.59 (\$143,066.54 Treaty Oak Park Master Plan and Treaty Oak Improvements Parks and rec to Downtown Investment Authority Treaty Oak Area Improvements; \$419,568.21 from Bay Street Town Center Phase I and II Public Works to Downtown Investment Authority Bay Street Area Improvements; \$421,051.11 from LaVilla redevelopment and LaVilla Project Public Works to Downtown Investment Authority LaVilla; \$500,000 from Urban Core Retail and Housing Development Public Works to Downtown Investment Authority Retail Enhancement and Housing Enhancement Programs; \$67,900.00 Countywide Economic Development – II to Downtown Investment Authority Downtown Economic Development Fund; and \$177,979.73 Countywide Greening/Hardscape To Downtown Investment Authority Downtown Economic Development Fund).

The next Governmental Affairs meeting is June 4, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at FSCJ North Campus, C-136.

- **Membership** – Pastor Bivins and Sharon Bivins reported:
 - Terrence Rembert, a guest from Angel Lakes, was introduced.
 - Michael and Shelly Woznak, guests from Lydia Estates, were introduced.
 - Guests were welcomed with applause.
- **Transportation** – Richard Berry reported:
 - *FDOT reports are forwarded as they are received.*
- **TRUE** – Danny Ferreira reported:
 - An audit was completed on the COJ and JTA payrolls. COJ payroll system weaknesses were identified. The last COJ payroll audit was 2006 and many of the same problems and weaknesses were identified at that time. A large percentage of the COJ payroll represented by its largest departments and numerous independent authorities has never been audited. Audits have begun on the Sheriff's Office, Fire and Rescue Department and Supervisor of Elections (poll worker) payrolls. The payroll should be audited more often to review compliance with the audit's recommendations.
 - As part of the audit, TRUE reviewed JTA employment contract issues, deferred compensation and severance packages.
 - Chair Neidlinger thanked Mr. Ferreira for his service as the CPAC's TRUE representative.

7. Unfinished Business: none.

8. New Business: none.

9. Public Comments:

- Dot Mathias announced the NCA May 18 meeting has been cancelled. NCA is recessed for the summer months. The next meeting is in September.

10. Motion to Adjourn – Tommy Ruffin made a motion to adjourn. Dick Berry seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

The North CPAC will meet on June 10, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. –
FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd. Building C-136.

The Governmental Affairs Subcommittee will meet on June 10, 5:30 p.m.
FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd. Building C-136.

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