

Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

March 14, 2024

Hybrid Meeting: Lincoln Villa Senior Center, 7866 New Kings Road, Jacksonville and on ZOOM.

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Victor Coleman, CPAC Chair, Central Fairfax Community Association; Leroy Kelly, Carver International; Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association; Elaine Billups, Better Living Community Association, Inc.; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Jacqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Camika Jerido, USA Unlimited, Inc.; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association; Tom McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association; Ginny Winters, Pickettville Civic Club.

Excused: Rhonda Boyd, CPAC Vice Chair, Timber Oaks HOA; Vanessa Cullins-Hopkins, Pebo Corp; Murphy Nmezi, Royal Terrace.

Staff and Elected Officials: Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent Duval County Public Schools; Paula Renfro, Duval County Public Schools; Yuri Blackburn, Jacksonville Public Library; Ernest Murphy, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Erin Abney, Planning and Development Department; Daniel Piastuck, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Clarence Hodge, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department.

Guests: Joni Turner, Groundworks Jacksonville; Annette Chapman; Andrew Chapman; Janice Cotton; Jeanette Mitchell, Central Fairfax Community Association; Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Project - Jacksonville; Bervinda Mincey, Moncrief Springs; Yvonne Ward, Moncrief Springs; Kristopher Smith, LISC JAX; Antonia Bryant; Jaime Williams, City Rescue Mission; Carol Gamble, Moncrief Springs; Dr. Brenda Boston-Hudson, Moncrief Springs; Cynthia Brown, Robinson's Addition; Anthony Porter, USA Unlimited, Inc; SAMSUNG SM 5711U.

ZOOM: Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Henry Scott, North Riverside CDC; Anthony Porter, USA Unlimited, Inc.; Shirley Thomas, North Riverside CDC; and Samsung SM5711U.

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Victor Coleman called the March 2024 meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary: The Northwest CPAC February 2024 Meeting Summary was approved.

3. Presenters: Mr. Kristopher Smith, Community Development Officer, LISC Jacksonville and Mr. Jimmy Oarth, Executive Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper. The St. Johns Riverkeepers represent the entire watershed. The St. Johns Riverkeepers also have a grant to teach youth about the river. Resilience is their current project and some of the things they are working on are:

- creating equitable access to the waterways,
- advocating for infrastructure improvements in the community and project area,
- trying to protect, preserve, uplift the cultural heritage of the area, and
- to showcase and highlight economic and housing security concerns
- advocating for more funding to complete the Resiliency Project

The St. Johns Riverkeeper, Inc., in addition to working with schools, has been organizing boat tours of the river for community leaders. The next one is March 28, 2024, and they have room for 20 to 28 people.

CPAC Members voiced the following concerns:

- Not enough benches or places to sit along the river, inadequate lighting and a lack of safety barriers for those who fish along the side of the road off of Lem Turner, especially along Palmdale.
- The St. Johns Riverkeeper worked with the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department to install park benches in Ribault Scenic Pocket Park.
- Additional landscaping will be installed to make the area more presentable for people to enjoy.

4. Elected Officials Report: Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, gave the following updates:

- The application process opens for the Superintendent search on Friday, March 15, 2024. The semi-finalists will be selected by the end of April, and then the selection of finalists by the end of May. The new superintendent should be in place by July 1, 2024.
- The Duval County Public School Board met Tuesday, March 12, 2024, and discussed the two options for the sale of the Duval County Public School Board Building. Neither option was viable and would have resulted in the school board having no equity after a 20 year lease.
- The school board is currently reevaluating its Master Facilities Plan and reevaluating its projects to account for the additional construction costs and the additional funding that must go to charter schools. Superintendent Kriznar urged everyone to stay informed about the schools in their communities.

5. Chair's Report: Deferred to New Business.

6. Staff Reports:

JTA – Cheryl Riddick, Director Customer Experience, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, stated:

- On March 1, 2024, JTA announced it will begin a phased bus stop upgrade project to enhance 111 bus stops across Northwest Jacksonville, including 17 key stops along Soutel Drive. The upgrades will include the installation of improved bus shelters, enhanced lighting for safety, bike racks, real-time messaging and art elements that will celebrate the identity of each neighborhood. The first phase will replace 60 of the concrete bus pads, making them ADA compliant. The subsequent phases will be implemented over several years with input from the community. Ms. Riddick will share the information with the CPAC as it becomes available.
- On March 8, 2024, JTA announced the launch of a pilot project with the Twin Towers, involving bus routes 21 and 51. The project is in response to resident requests for service at their front doors on Tuesdays and Fridays at specific times. Currently, the bus stops are on the street, which presents a challenge for some residents.
- JTA is proposing two fare policy modifications:
 - 1) to allow seniors, ages 65 and up, to ride JTA by using either their State of Florida issued ID or their State Drivers license to ride JTA, no longer will they need to obtain the Senior Star Card. If passed, the fare policy modification will become effective May 1, 2024.

2) to ensure the best price when customers purchase their fares using the My JTA App. Ms. Riddick noted that the My JTA App can be used in conjunction with Cash App.

- Public hearings will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024 – 11:15 am; 12:15 pm; 5:15 pm and 6:15 pm at the JRTC – 100 LaVilla Center Drive, 3rd Floor Board Room, Jacksonville 32204
- Customers and community members can access information and submit comments at <https://publicinput.com/proposedfarepolicymodification>.
- A flier was distributed via email which provides a link to the website where you can view a video presentation explaining both proposals. If passed by the JTA Board at their April Meeting changes will go into effect May 1, 2024.

Cheryl Riddick – Criddick@JTAFLA.com or 904-632-5522

JPL - Yuri Blackburn, Highlands Regional Branch Library Manager, shared a few updates:

- Mayor Deegan's River City Readers Challenge reports 633 readers have logged in over 371,000 reading minutes. The goal is one million minutes read over the next 365 days.
- "Tenikka's Books for Kids," an annual book drive by JAX News Anchor, Tenikka Hughes, is taking place March 4 – 17, 2024. The books will be "gifted" to youth who meet their summer reading goals.
- Early voting continues through March 16 from 10 am to 6 pm – at select branch locations and Tuesday, March 19, 2024, is Primary Selection Day, with voting from 7 am to 7 pm.

Yuri Blackburn – Yjewitt@coj.net or 904-255-6407

JSO – Not Present.

Military Affairs and Veterans Department – Not Present.

JFRD - Lieutenant Clarence Hodge shared several fire safety tips and encouraged the installation and testing of smoke detectors.

- He noted that the Mayor has a free smoke detector program, citizens may call 630-CITY to request a smoke detector for their home.
- The Lieutenant also discussed the proper way to use a fire extinguisher, P.A.S.: Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle, and Sweep back and forth to extinguish the flame.
- He suggested that households should practice fire drills at least twice a year and establish a "meet up" location outside of the home as a safe place.
- Lieutenant Hodge stressed "once out, stay out." Do not reenter a burning structure.

Lieutenant Clarence Hodge - Hodge@coj.net or 904-255-3284

MCCD - Ernest Murphy, Code Enforcement Administrator, reported the following:

- Within the last 30 days, 1,400 inspections were completed, and 82 snipe signs were removed.
- 19 violations were cited along Lane Avenue, which is primarily an industrial corridor.
- Mr. Murphy reported a rise in encampments and stated that the Blight Teams try to assist by issuing "trespassing notices." The main concern is for the unsanitary conditions that are left behind.

Ernest Murphy – Emurphy@coj.net or 904-255-7096

Parks, Recreation and Community Services – Daniel Piastuck, Chief of Recreation and Community Programming, stated that:

- The City of Jacksonville is looking to hire 375 Life Guards for Summer 2024.
- The rate of pay is \$15/hour and free training is provided.
- Applicants must pass a minimum swim test.
- Mr. Piastuck distributed fliers with additional details, including training dates.

Daniel Piastuck – Dpiastuck@coj.net or 904-255-7918

Neighborhood Services Office – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator gave the following updates:

- Ms. Henry thanked everyone for their patience and understanding as the set-up and start of the LUZ subcommittee meeting was somewhat delayed due to a lack of access into the Lincoln Villa Senior Center.
- CommUniverCity begins April 2, 2024. Successful applicants will be notified March 15, 2024.
- Neighborhood Award applications will be going out soon, so start thinking about projects/activities completed in your communities over 2023 to be submitted for consideration.
- A reminder to new members to register for Ethics Trainings for Boards and Commissions, as required.

Edwina Henry – Ehenry@coj.net or 904-255-8260

7. Old Business – None.

8. New Business – Chair Coleman had several items to discuss:

- Change in Meeting Location – effective April 11, 2024, the NW CPAC will be meeting at the Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Drive, 32208. The change in location is to address concerns regarding parking, lighting and sufficient meeting space. A revised meeting schedule is in the meeting agenda packet and will be emailed with the April Hybrid Meeting Notice.
- There are three new Northwest CPAC Members: Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association – Primary Representative. Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association - Primary Representative, and Tom McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association – Alternate Representative. They were each presented with a new member's packet, including the Mayoral Appointment Letter signed by Mayor Donna Deegan.
- The next Quarterly CPAC Chairs' Meeting is in May, and Chair Coleman would like input from the membership on issues or concerns they would like for him to raise. He requested members forward items to him by the end of April.
- Lastly, Chair Coleman read to the CPAC the ZOOM Decorum policy to be followed; highlights of which are:
 - Please mute your device and turn your camera off upon joining the meeting;
 - Please use the ZOOM's "raise your hand" feature if you would like to speak and wait to be recognized by the Chair;

- Please be cognizant of your background when on camera;
- Please keep your camera in public rooms only, no restrooms or bedrooms;
- Please refrain from eating, drinking alcoholic beverages and other distracting behaviors;
- Please try to be in a quiet space without distractions, and dress appropriately;
- And to be in compliance with Florida's Government -in-the Sunshine Law, do not use the chat feature to hold conversations before or during the meetings.

9. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:

- **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs** – Leroy Kelly, Subcommittee Chair, reported that the subcommittee reviewed four applications, approved two and opposed two.
 - Opposed - AD-24-06 – 4180 Dillon Street, RE # 058736-0005 – the subcommittee did not approve the request because the changes do not benefit or enhance the community. There was a motion to accept the recommendation to oppose. Motion Carried.
 - Opposed – AD-24-13 – 733 McDuff Avenue S, RE #063934-0000 – the subcommittee did not approve the request for the following reasons: The increase of building implies additional employees and traffic, limited parking puts people on street to park as it abuts homes they are entitled to protection of their land/property values as implied with existing required buffers. There was a motion to accept the recommendation to oppose. Motion Carried.
- **T.R.U.E. Commission** – Velma Rounsville – Not Present.

10. Public Comments and Announcements:

- Camika Jerido, USA Unlimited, Inc., announced a Health and Wellness Community Event for March 30, 2024, from 11 am to 3 pm at 3051 Lenox Avenue 32254 – preregistration for free mammograms are required. For more information: www.usaunlimited.org or email: info@usaunlimited.org. Fliers were left on the table.
- Jaime Williams, Director of Social Services, City Rescue Mission (CRM), announced an Easter Banquet on Thursday, March 28, 2024, from 10:30 am to 1:30 p.m., at the 234 W. State Street City Rescue Mission. The event is free and open to the public. On Friday, April 5, 2024, City Rescue Mission will host a Life Builder's Graduation Ceremony for substance abuse program graduates at their 426 S. McDuff Campus at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information please contact jwilliams@crmjax.org or www.crmjox.org. Fliers were left on the table. CRM works with individuals who are without homes to help them find jobs, secure housing and get benefits.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 7:31 pm.

The next Northwest CPAC Meeting is Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 6 pm at the Legends Center, 5031 Soutel Drive, Jacksonville 32208 and on ZOOM.