

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

June 14, 2021, Meeting Summary

Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225

Meeting Attendance:

Members: Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Mike Anania, Arlington Business Society; Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Mary Jane Brewer, Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association; Michael Corcoran, Kensington HOA; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Nicole Hamm, Southern Grove; Lenore Hanapel, Covington Creek HOA; Delmas Harper, POISE, Inc; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington; Harley Herndon, Cypress Cove Good Neighbor; Tim Keeley, Vice Chair, Kensington Association; Shelia Lithwhiler, Beachwood Civic Association; Will Messer, Chair, Queens Harbor POA; Pete Miller, Indian Springs Community Association; Jerry Petoskey, Old Mill Cove Community Organization; Nina Pougloklidis, Ibis Point Owners Association; John Roberts, The Valley at Hidden Hills; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA

Excused: Pamela Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; Justine Wadyko, Waterleaf HOA

Visitors: Ed Shvila, The Woods

Staff: The Honorable Joyce Morgan, City Council District 1; Cindy Pearson, Duval County School Board, District 3; Chiquita Moore, Neighborhoods Department; Steve Long, Public Works; Connie Quinto, Planning and Development Department; Jackie Spiritas, JPL; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office; Cliff Zukero, Municipal Code Compliance Division.

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Messer called the June 2021 GAB CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary – The May 2021 GAB CPAC meeting summary was approved.

Presentation(s): Dr. Diana Greene, Duval County Public Schools Superintendent provided an update on Duval County Public Schools (DCPS).

Today was the first day of summer school. It was announced that DCPS opened their summer programs with the largest enrollment to date. DCPS has over 20,000 students enrolled in various programs which include: DCPS Summer Camp program; Communities in School program with KHA, Summer-rise for third grade students, Extended Learning for ESE students and Credit Recovery programs for secondary students. Those students attending summer programs will continue to follow social distancing guidelines. All students will be seated three feet apart, masks are voluntary, temperatures will not be taken daily and students attending field trips must follow Covid-19 guidelines. At this time, students under the age of twelve cannot receive any of the Covid-19 vaccines.

DCPS will host free COVID-19 vaccination clinics at five school sites on select dates this summer, with the first clinic scheduled for Monday, June 28. The vaccination clinics are made available through a partnership between the Florida Department of Health-Duval and the school district. Vaccinations are available to anyone 12 years of age and older. Individuals under the age of 18 may be vaccinated

without a parent or guardian, but a signed consent form and photo ID are required. The Florida Department of Health, Duval County will provide a \$10 grocery vouchers to everyone that receives a COVID-19 vaccine at one of the schools. The vouchers can be used at many local grocery stores. Registration is not necessary, but individuals are encouraged to use the following link to indicate which date/location they plan to attend: https://dcps.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dmYft1iD1cetuOW

When school resumes for the Fall 2021/22 school year, Duval County Health Department will offer vaccinations the first week of school at every middle and high school in the district. There is an emphasis on students returning to brick-and-mortar schools.

There will be several changes when school resumes in the fall. Some of the changes include:

- Duval Homeroom will not be available; but can be re-opened if necessary.
- Masks are strongly encouraged for elementary school students; masks are recommended for middle and high school.
- All temperature checks will end.
- Desk shields will be used in certain elementary settings, but most will be removed. Desk shields will be discontinued in middle and high schools.
- Classroom will receive deep cleaning with microbial products on a regular schedule.
- A nurse or health clinic will be at every school full time.
- Social distancing and spacing markers will be continued to be used.

Thanks to the local sales tax referendum, progress is under way in updating most of our local schools. The existing Rutledge H. Pearson Elementary School will be replaced on-site with a new school that has a capacity between 900-1000 students. The new school will combine/replace Martin Luther King Elementary, Henry F. Kite Elementary and Rutledge H. Pearson Elementary into one school. The new Rutledge H. Pearson Elementary will serve as a prototype for local K-5 elementary schools.

Additional projects underway include safety and security improvements. All the Duval County Public Schools will have safety and security upgrades completed within three years. Biltmore Elementary School, Lake Shore Middle School, and Fletcher High School will serve as the safety and security prototypes for each school at.

To learn more about all the new projects underway and how the tax money will be spent, please visit: www.dcps.duvalschools.org/half-penny

Dr. Greene answered several questions, such as:

- At this time DCPS is looking at options to get each allowable student vaccinated? Yes, but nothing is confirmed.
- It was confirmed that prior to Dr. Greene arrival to Duval County, legislation was passed that schools can no longer named after a person living or dead. It was stated that the Duval County School Board can made changes to the policies.
- Several CPAC members expressed concern about the traffic on San Pablo Road due to Alimicani Elementary school and with the addition of the new charter school opening in the across the street. What can DCPS do to help the surrounding impacted communities? The CPAC was informed that charter schools are created when an individual, group of parents or teachers, a

business, a municipality, or a legal entity applies to the school district. The school district approves the application if all the criteria is met. Next the applicants form a governing board that negotiates a contract with the district school board; and the applicants and district school board agree upon a charter or contract. The district school board then becomes the sponsor of the charter school, but cannot control where the school is built, especially if the land is zoned to allow a school to be built there.

- It was confirmed that the Department of Education (DOE) operates the public school system and oversees charter schools in Florida through local county school boards. Any school facility is required to get a satisfactory group care environmental health inspection from the local county health department prior to opening or operating in Florida. Section 381.006 (16) (10kb PDF), Florida Statutes (FS), provide authority for Department of Health inspections. Private or non-public schools are also required to register with the DOE.
- There was an additional San Pablo Road traffic inquiry; even though the property zoning allows a school to be built, doesn't a traffic study have to be completed first? Dr. Green stated that is a complex question and she would need to consult staff that work with construction management/expertise in this area. Dr. Greene did acknowledge that DCPS did give land to the upcoming road project to build an additional turn lane to improve traffic flow near Alimicani Elementary. It was suggested that DCPS staff Randy Gallup or Paul Soares could possibly answer their questions in regard the construction and traffic studies.
- Schools that will be renamed will they have to change their school mascots, and will the new names be in place in time to take advantage of the Jaguars offer to cover the cost of new sports uniforms? It was confirmed that the schools do not have to change their mascots and it will be in time for the funding from Nike and the Jaguars.

Elected Officials Report:

Joyce Morgan, City Council District 1, Executive Council Assistant provided the following updates:

- For the first time in the City of Jacksonville both the City Council President and City Council Vice President are African Americans. Our new City Council President is Sam Newby and our City Council Vice President is Terrance Freeman.
- Council Member Morgan is now the Chair of the Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee.
- The Safer Together workshops have concluded. The information obtained is currently being compiled by the consultant; they hope to have a report by the end of this week.
- City Council is looking at ways to fund the Septic Tank Removal project.
- The Jacksonville Jaguars are hosting fourteen meetings in the next 10 days to discuss proposed downtown redevelopment projects by the team. In the GAB District the first meeting will be held at the Regency Branch Library on June 15, 2021, 5:30 to 7:00 pm; the Pablo Creek Regional Library on June 17, 2021; the Beaches Branch Library on June 21, 2021.
- The next City Council District 1 Town Hall meeting will be held at 6:00 pm, Monday, June 21, 2021, at the Celebration Church Arlington Campus located in the Regency Park Shopping Center at 9400 Atlantic Blvd. Jacksonville, Florida 32225.

Council Member Morgan – 904-630-1389 or joycemorgan@coj.net

Cindy Pearson, Duval County Public School Board, District 3, introduced herself to the CPAC and defined the boundaries for her district. It was announced that all students under the age of 18 can get free meals this summer thanks to a program called Summer BreakSpot. No application for the program is necessary, and pickup is easy at sites throughout the city. Summer BreakSpot offers balanced breakfasts, lunches, snacks, or dinners. Locations include places like parks, libraries, and churches. Grab-and-go meals and social distancing measures are in effect at Summer BreakSpot sites. To learn more about the program and location you can call 2-1-1 or text FOODFL to 877-877.

The 2021/22 school year in Duval County Public Schools will begin on August 10, 2021. On June 14 registration for those that ride the school bus will open.

Cindy Pearson – 904-390-2000

Staff Reports:

JSO – not present

JFRD – not present

FDOT – Derek Dixon - prior to the CPAC meeting, Mr. Dixon had Rosemary distribute an email to the CPAC members that provided an update on the Diverging Diamond interchange at San Pablo Road and State Road 202 (J. Turner Butler Boulevard). A diverging diamond interchange is expected to be completed in Spring 2022. This project includes sidewalks and bicycle lanes at the intersection. More information about this project is available at: <http://nflroads.com/ProjectDetails.aspx?p=5235>

There is a resurfacing project on the Southside Connector (SR 113) from Arlington Expressway to I-295. The project will include roadway and ramp improvement along 2.5 miles of the Southside Connector. Improvements along the Southside Connector include resurfacing of the roadway, shoulder treatments, drainage, new highway signage and guardrail repairs. Ramps to be resurfaced include the Southside Connector on-and off-ramps at Regency Square Boulevard North, Trednick Parkway and Merrill Road. In addition, the Merrill Road I-295 northbound ramp, the I-295 southbound flyover and the Southside Connector Service roads will also be resurfaced. Safety improvements include traffic signal, sidewalk and crosswalk upgrades at the Merrill Road interchange and adding bicycle lanes to the southbound and northbound Southside Connector Service roads. Construction will occur weekdays and weekends. No lane or ramp closures will be scheduled during peak driving times or on holidays or special events.

JPL – Jackie Spiritas informed the CPAC about updates at JPL:

- Jacksonville Public Library will host their annual Summer Reading program from June 1 to July 30, 2021. The program includes limited in-branch activities, many interactive virtual events, challenges, scavenger hunts and more. The program is free and open to everyone. For every 15 days read, youth (ages birth to 17) will earn 1 free book.
- The Jax Kids Book Club is a free early literacy summer reading program for all Duval County Pre-Kindergarteners who are preparing to enter kindergarten in the fall of each year. Jax Kids' Book Club (first formed more than 15 years ago as Mayor Peyton's Book Club) gives rising kindergarteners a set of books of their very own.
- The Free Summer Lunch Program at the Jacksonville Public Library officially kicked off on June 7th. From June 7th through August 6th, all kids up to 18-years-old can get a free meal at 12

participating library branches. At these library locations, no signup or application is necessary and any child 18 or younger can simply come during mealtimes to receive a free and healthy meal. The program is funded by the USDA and coordinated through the Kids Hope Alliance.

- Mayor Curry is inviting all Duval County residents to participate in a survey for the library system. The survey is to envision what the 21st century Urban Branch Library should have. There are five different libraries that are smaller and older library branches, and JPL would like feedback from the community on how the library space can be relevant, accessible and have all the technology needed to serve the community. The branches are Murray Hill; Brentwood Brown; Eastside; Dallas Graham and Westbrook.

Jackie Spiritas – spiritas@coj.net

Neighborhoods – Chiquita Moore, Operations Director informed the CPAC members that:

- The City of Jacksonville’s Housing and Community Development Division continues to provide mortgage relief to assist individuals and families who have been affected by COVID-19. There is \$2.25 million in federal funding still available. Individuals requesting assistance must be the owner and occupant of the property. The program will provide up to six months of delinquent mortgage payments or \$7,500, whichever is less. Payments will be made directly to the mortgage company. Federal guidelines require qualifying individuals and families to have an income that falls below 80% of the area median income. Visit: <https://www.coj.net/welcome/news/federal-funds-for-mortgage-relief-program-still-av> For complete details.
- The purpose of the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program is to facilitate a means of compliance to those who would otherwise be unable to achieve it due to disability or economic disadvantages. The Program’s objective is to provide the abatement services required at no cost to those citizens who qualify, thereby achieving compliance and beautification of the city while not unduly burdening its most vulnerable citizens. If you cannot comply the violations on your property due to a disability or economic hardship, please feel free to see if you qualify for assistance. Please visit: <https://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program>
- The Neighborhood Services Office will offer a free Roberts Rules of Order training in a Hybrid format on June 24, 2021, at 6:30 pm. Please call 255-8250 to register. There are 23 spots available currently.
- Please remember to contact the Call Center at 630-CITY (2489) to report issues/concerns such as missed trash/yard waste/recycling issues or drainage problems.
- Kitten season is here. Please visit: <https://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/animal-care---protective-services.aspx> to learn more about adoption opportunities at Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services.

Chiquita Moore – chiquitam@coj.net

Municipal Code Compliance – Cliff Zukero provided the following information to the CPAC for the month of April:

- There were 11 snipe sign citations written and 134 snipe signs were collected.
- 1358 inspections were completed.
- No systematic inspections are scheduled at this time.
- Year to date 10,194 inspections in the GAB District have been completed.

Cliff Zukero – Czukero@coj.net

Planning and Development Department – Connie Quinto did not have a report but was available for questions.

Connie Quinto – ConnieQ@coj.net

Public Works – Steve Long reminded the CPAC that Hurricane Season is here and locally we have already experienced a lot of rain. If you notice any drainage issues that last longer than a day or two, please call 630-CITY to report.

Steve Long – Slong@coj.net

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports (3-minute time limit):

LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs - Mike Anania - the LUZ subcommittee reviewed three applications and no motions or actions were taken.

Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge – no report

Environment – Lad Hawkins – no report

Membership – vacant

Transportation – The full CPAC discussed the need of a Transportation subcommittee and having a liaison on the NFTPO. It was determined the two will be combined. The Transportation Subcommittee will be removed from the agenda.

Ad Hoc Committees:

North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Member Nicole Hamm attended her first meeting and there was a discussion about the local option gas tax. There are several community meetings that will be hosted by City Council Members to open dialogue with the community.

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – John Roberts stated the commission currently has two projects they are working on. The projects are:

- Comparing Jacksonville crime and police enforcement to comparable cities.
- Overall comparison of Jacksonville to nine other peer cities that have consolidated government has all the data compiled. The analysis of all the data is underway.
- JEA has released an extensive study on septic tanks. The TRUE commission is looking forward to reviewing all the recommendations for the various communities. Mr. Roberts hopes to share a copy with the CPAC.

DCPS Sales Surtax Oversight Committee - Delmas “Dedee” Harper – no report

Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski informed the Zoom CPAC attendees that those in person was experienced a lot of feedback during the presentation. The Zoom attendees were asked if they experienced the same feedback and they confirmed that they did not hear the feedback.

Rosemary Wesolowski – 255-8261 or rosemary@coj.net

Chairs Report – Chair Messer stated that there was an interesting article in the June 12th or 13th Florida Times Union newspaper that addressed utilizing our local waterways for local transportation and /or commuting. Chair Messer informed the CPAC that Lad Hawkins mother Julia Hawkins is featured on the cover of Runner’s World magazine. Ms. Hawkins who is 105 years old holds the world record in the 100-meter dash for the 100 and over age group.

Old Business - none

New Business – Chair Messer introduced new member Mike Corcoran, Alternate for the Kensington community.

Public Comment – none

Motion to Adjourn – meeting ended at 8:17 pm

The next meeting of the District 2 CPAC will be on Monday, July 12, 2021, at

Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, 32225 at 6:30 pm.