

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 1, 2021 Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting:

Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan Street, First Floor Training Room, Jacksonville, FL 32202 and on Zoom

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Kim Pryor, Chair; Glen VanVorst, Vice Chair; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts; Becca Dingler, 2nd Mile Ministries; Bill Hoff, SPAR Council; Tia Keitt, Historic Eastside CDC; Celia Miller, Good Neighbor M.A.N.I.A.; Greg Radlinski, Parks at the Cathedral; John Shermataro, SAMBA; Cindy Watson. JASMYN

Excused: Juanita Senior, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association

Visitors: Charles Garrison; Kelly Rich, SPAR

Staff and Elected Officials: Marshelle Berry, JPL; Bradley Clayton, Municipal Code Compliance; Brian Naples, Municipal Code Compliance; Connor Corrigan, Planning & Development Department; Dana Kriznar, DCPD; Cheryl Reddick, Jacksonville Transportation Authority; Nicole Evans, At-Large, Group 2; Warren Jones, Duval County School Board Chair; Will Williams, Public Works; Chiquita Moore, Neighborhoods Department; Lisa Ransom, Neighborhood Services Office; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office; Jessica Denson, Neighborhood Services Office

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** CPAC Chair Kim Pryor called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Staff confirmed a quorum.
- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Summary:** The January meeting summary was approved by the CPAC.

Presentation: Lori N. Boyer, CEO, Downtown Investment Authority spoke about 32 capital projects in the Urban Core District that are in various stages of design and construction.

Some of the highlights of the presentation include:

- The restoration of two-way streets at Forsyth Street and Adams Street, currently both one-way streets. The boundary of the project is Jefferson Street to Liberty Street. Ocean and Main Streets, Jefferson and Broad Streets, State and Union Streets will all remain one-way. The idea is to make streets more pedestrian friendly with the improvements. As a result, retail businesses will thrive. The project will be funded by the DIA using tax dollars. The contractor has been awarded the bid; the project should begin in 2022.
- Riverfront Plaza (formally known as the Jacksonville Landing)- The DIA presently has proposals for the lot in the bid process. DIA's concept of selecting the project is to get the best design for the space and to give the public, stakeholders and residents, an opportunity to voice their opinions. In phase one of the project, DIA will designate the three best design teams. On January 29, 2021, DIA hosted a pre bid via zoom with over one hundred participants. Due to high demand, a second meeting will be scheduled. In phase two, teams will make their presentation at a public workshop scheduled for June 2021. This will allow the public to make comments about the designs. In phase three, the DIA will select the best design. After the approval of the budget, DIA will bid the project out for construction in 2022.
- The District (formally known as The Riverfront Plaza) was purchased by a private developer for over \$20,000,000 and was then given to the City of Jacksonville at no charge. DIA is going to fund construction for four parks. Construction will begin during the first half of the year.

- Walter Hood, who completed the design on the Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park, made a design for the three "shot gun" houses on Jefferson Street. Public works will provide an estimate for roofing, exterior siding, flooring, foundation repairs and new windows. DIA would like to include the project in next year's budget.

The downtown capital improvements will not only make downtown more livable for residents, but also improve the overall quality of life, and enhance economical value at adjacent development sites.

A copy of the presentation was emailed to the CPAC members. For more information go to DIA.coj.net or Investdtjax.com

3. Public Comment: None

4. Elected Official's Report:

- **Duval County School Board-** Warren Jones, District 5, announced that the School Choice Expo for 2021 is ongoing until the end of February. The expo will allow parents to virtually access 157 schools. On January 27, 2021, Duval County Schools honored the fifteen semifinalists for the Teacher of the Year at the Eddy Awards. It was announced that Jim Schmitt of Mandarin High School was selected as Teacher of The Year. Dr. Diana Greene, Duval County School Board Superintendent, was selected as Superintendent of The Year for the State of Florida. Duval County Schools is currently in the process of changing the names of nine area schools. Each site committee will host virtual public hearings to get input from the community. For information go to www.duvalschools.org Board Member Warren A. Jones may be reached at Jonesw2@duvalschools.org or 904-390-2372
- **Duval County School Board-** Darryl Willie, District 4, thanked everyone for supporting the half cent sales tax. The Citizen Oversight Committee will host a public meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. A future meeting will be hosted at various hours to accommodate all citizens. Duval County Schools will partner with the City of Jacksonville to allow 300 teachers to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. For more information, contact Vice Chairmen, District 4, Daryl Willie at willied@duvalschools.org or 904-390-2374.
- **City Council At-Large, Group 2-** Nicole Evans, Executive Council Assistant to Councilman Ron Salem, shared two new programs. The Teen Anti-Vaping Campaign launched in January 2021. The group will screen ads through Instagram and Facebook to promote the campaign. The Mental Health Offender Pilot Program launched in January 2021. This program will help keep offenders with mental health issues out of jail and help transition them into the society. Councilman Salem and a few other City Council members have introduced an ordinance to rename the field at J.P. Small Park (1701 Myrtle Ave N,32209) after Hank Aaron. They are looking for a private partnership to assist with field renovations. For more information, contact Nicole Evans at nevans@coj.net or (904)255-5146.

5. Chairs Report – Chair Pryor asked the CPAC members to bring one important action item to the next month's meeting. She would also like for Urban Core CPAC members to look back and reflect on what they have accomplished in the Urban Core district.

6. Old Business – Chair Pryor informed CPAC members that the road condition at the 95-exit ramp on MLK Expressway is in the process of being repaired.

7. New Business – Member Greg Radlinski expressed his concerns on CPAC members not being included on projects like the Downtown Jacksonville capital improvements. He wants to know if the City of Jacksonville expects CPACs to provide their opinion on such projects or to just inform the communities in the Urban Core district about the improvements.

Member Celia Miller shared her frustrations concerning the lack of services that were promised during the time of government consolidation. There is lack of understanding about the tax

base system and she would like to know when sewer and water will be added to underserved neighborhoods. After a brief discussion, it was recommended to have a representative from the Tax Collectors Office present at a future meeting and to add a request to Public Work to the action items list for an update on sewer and water projects in the Urban Core District.

Member Bill Hoff stated he would like for a representative from Riverfront Park Now to be invited to a future meeting to present on update on the department.

8. Subcommittees:

- **Code Enforcement and Blight** – Vice Chair Van Vorst- no report
- **Homelessness:** Cindy Watson – no report
- **North Florida TPO CAC:** Celia Miller – stated the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) will have their next meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. Ms. Miller distributed TPO Statewide and MPO Transportation Planning Products handout. NFTPO information can be found on the NFTPO website: <http://northfloridatpo.com/>
- **Governmental Affairs:** Tia Keitt informed the CPAC that the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee reviewed one Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) application. The subcommittee voted to support application 2021-0014 for a multi-family dwelling consisting of 12 Units located at 134 4th Street West. The CPAC members made a motion to support the application.
Tia Keitt announced she will no longer be the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Chair. During the Subcommittee meeting, the members nominated Bill Hoff to be Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Chair. Chair Pryor appointed Bill Hoff as Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Chair and Bill Hoff accepted.

9. Staff Reports

- **Duval County Public Schools (DCPS)** - Dr. Dana Kriznar thanked DCPS board members for always giving a good report. To date there has been no emergency or legislative order regarding testing. All students are required to take state assessment. Third grade students will have to pass the FSA test in order to be promoted to the next grade level. The end of course exams will count as 30% of the student's final grade. High school students will have to pass the graduation requirements to graduate. All graduations will be held outside with social distancing guidelines in place.
- **Municipal Code Compliance:** Brian Naples, Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD), Supervisor introduced himself as the new point of contact for the Urban Core district. In January, MCCD completed 1,182 (221 were initial visits to new properties) inspections in the Urban Core District. The inspections ranged from violations such as grass, trash, and unsafe structures. MCCD will conduct a systematic inspection starting in the Longbranch area on Monday, February 8, 2021. MCCD will provide a monthly report complied with violations (Nuisance, Unsafe Structure, etc.) in the Urban Core District. MCCD offers the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program (JAR) which prevents liens from being placed on the property. Please visit the Municipal Code Compliance Department website for more information: www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program. Brian Naples can be reach at bnaples@coj.net or (904)-255-7083
- **JPL-** Marshelle Berry announced Jacksonville Main Library will provide customers with the opportunity to preserve their priceless memories with digitized photos, VHS tapes, audio cassette tapes, or vinyl records at the Digitization Station in Special Collections. Make an appointment at www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/services/digitization-station or (904)255-2665.

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is offering free tax preparation services at some library locations by appointment only. To schedule an appointment visit www.aarpfoundation.org/tax-aide or call (904)513-8627.

JPL offers a safe social distancing outdoor interactive activity for kids called A Storywalk, located at Henry J. Klutho Park, 204 W 3rd St., Jacksonville, FL, 32206. The Storywalk is a series of signs featuring pictures from children's books. Pages are spread throughout the park. The featured children's book is "Tap the Magic Tree "by Christie Matheson.

Branches in Operations in UC CPAC District:

- All branches are open except for Westbrook and Brown Eastside. Some branches are providing curbside pickup.
 - Currently all library branches are closed on Sundays.
 - Dallas Graham Branch reopened on February 1, 2021
- **NSO**-Rosemary Wesolowski thanked the Urban Core members for working with her since July 2020 and introduced UC new Neighborhoods Coordinator Jessica Denson.

Jessica Denson gave a brief description of her background with the City of Jacksonville and informed the CPAC member of the CBCR Community Clean-Up for Saturday, February 13, 2021 from 9am- 11am. Volunteers can meet at Edwards Waters College Campus, 1658 Kings Rd (32209) or J.P. Small Memorial Park, 1701 Myrtle Ave N (32209). Please contact Jessica Denson at jcdenson@coj.net or (904)255-8260.

- **Public Works**-Will Williams stated that he did not have any updates, but answered UC CPAC member's concerns:

Member Tia Keitt inquired about contaminated groundwork projects completed by Golder Associates Inc. on 8th and Florida Avenue, 1000 Florida Avenue (32206) and which department completed the project. Chief Williams will research the project and update the CPAC.

Member Celia Miller expressed her concerns with neglected yard waste in her neighborhood and requested a regular waste schedule. She stated that the reasoning was due to a shortage of staff and budget. Chief Williams stated that his Public Works budget and staff are sufficient and will speak with staff about her concerns.

Vice Chair Van Vorst inquired about funding allocated to improve the dips or low spots located on both sides of S. Liberty at the intersection of Courthouse Drive; this has been an ongoing issue since 2014. Chief Williams will research and update.

Vice Chair Van Vorst voiced concerns about a stop sign being needed at the north bound and southbound direction of S. Liberty Street. Chief Williams will forward the concerns to the appropriate staff.

- **JTA**- Cheryl Reddick informed CPAC that JTA is providing free transportation services for Seniors, healthcare and EMS workers, to COVID-19 vaccination sites. Riders must provide identification. For more information go to health.jtafla.com or call (904)630-3100
- **Public Comments - None**

10. Adjourn: There was a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ed Ball Building, First Floor Training Room via Zoom.

A copy of the audio recording of this Urban Core CPAC meeting is available through a Public Information Request by calling 630-CITY. Details about Public Records can be found on the City's Website: [Public Records](#).