

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

January 4, 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: Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch

Visitors: Richard Lewis; Kelly Rich, SPAR;

Staff and Elected Officials Marshelle Berry, JPL; Bradley Clayton, Municipal Code Compliance; Connor Corrigan, Planning & Development Department; Dana Kriznar, DCPD; Chiquita Moore, Neighborhoods Department; The Honorable Samuel Newby, City Council; Assistant Chief Pendley, JSO; Lisa Ransom, Neighborhood Services Office; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** CPAC Chair Kim Pryor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Staff confirmed a quorum.
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Summary:** The October and November meeting summaries were approved by the CPAC.
3. **Presentation:** No presentation, but Chair Pryor inquired if anyone had any suggestions for presentation(s) in the future. Please share your suggestions.
4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Elected Official's Report:** City Council Vice President Samuel Newby shared his experience with being diagnosed with Covid-19 in 2020. Thankfully, he has fully recovered and has no apparent side effects.

In May of each year, Jacksonville City Council members elect a President and Vice President to serve one-year terms beginning the first of July. In May 2020, the Council elected The Honorable Tommy Hazouri to serve as President and The Honorable Samuel Newby to serve as Vice President.

Council Vice President Newby introduced Dr. Nicoa Garrett to the UC CPAC. Dr. Garrett is the new administrator for the Safety and Crime Reduction Commission. The Safety and Crime Reduction Commission is a citizen-led group whose purpose is to undertake an in-depth review of the various programs within the city. The Commission will investigate the efficacy of these programs and make recommendations for how the City can spend existing resources and expand and/or implement successful programs to create an anti-crime initiative, which includes components of public safety, education, mental health, literacy, positive youth development, physical health, neighborhood stability, crime deterrence, workforce training, and intervention and rehabilitation. This Commission may recommend funding for programs to assist with the program goals and will evaluate annually the effectiveness of funds spent on these programs.

Additionally, Council Vice President Newby had a lengthy discussion about the proposed Lot J project with the CPAC membership.

6. **Chairs Report** – Chair Pryor inquired if the CPAC membership had any recommendations for new subcommittees for 2021.
7. **Old Business** – None

- 8. New Business** – Member Celia Miller expressed her concern that the citizens and CPAC members are not having their voice heard. Ms. Miller stated that a Master Plan for the Downtown area needs to be completed and presented before we can support Lot J.

Vice Chair Van Vorst stated that a stop sign needs to be added on the north bound direction of S. Liberty Street. The south bound lanes have a stop sign in place.

Vice Chair Van Vorst stated there are dips or low spots located on both sides of S. Liberty at the intersection of Courthouse Drive. Rainwater collects and sit stagnant in the dip and has the potential to breed mosquitos. Mr. Van Vorst stated this has been reported through MyJax numerous times.

Member Celia Miller shared that she had concerns about the City Council re-districting that will occur once the 2020 Census data is available; will it be fair and equitable? Council Vice Chair Newby stated that a City Council redistricting committee will be formed in the near future and citizens concerns/questions will be addressed. Member Keitt requested a presentation from this committee once it has formed.

9. Subcommittees:

- **Code Enforcement and Blight** – no report
- **Homelessness:** Cindy Watson – no report, but the CPAC members had some discussion to the homeless populations that appears to be growing in the Urban Core District.
- **North Florida TPO CAC:** Celia Miller – shared that the NFTPO does not have a meeting in January. Ms. Miller stated all the NFTPO information can be found on the NFTPO website: <http://northfloridatpo.com/>
The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the independent regional transportation planning agency for Duval, Clay, Nassau and St. Johns counties. This area encompasses over 3,000 square miles and a population of nearly 1.4 million.

Council Vice President Newby shared that he is serving as the Chairman of the North Florida TPO Board this year. The North Florida TPO Board is comprised of elected officials and transportation agency representatives.

- **Governmental Affairs:** Tia Keitt informed the CPAC that the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee did not have the Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) applications early enough to review prior to the CPAC meeting. Conor Corrigan, Planner lead the discussion of the eight LUZ applications with the CPAC. The CPAC members made motions on seven applications. The motions were:
 - Denial of 2020-0720 1836 25th Street North to rezone property from RLD-60 to CN.
 - Denial of E-20-71/V-20-69/AD 20-69 all for a daycare center at 113 17th Street West
 - Support of E-20-78 for a restaurant at with beer and wine at 1602 Walnut Street
 - Support of 202-0747 for a PUD rezoning to allow 50 family units at 330 9th Street West
 - Support of AD-20-80 to reduce landscape buffer at 1010 15th Street East

10. Staff Reports

- **Neighborhoods** – Chiquita Moore, Operations Director shared New Year wishes and provided an update on the CARES Act Funding. To date CARES dollars have been used to provide \$1,000 prepaid cards to 40,000 Duval County residents who suffered economically because of the pandemic and needed help with mortgage, rent and utility costs. The city also used CARE dollars for grants in varying amounts to aide and assist businesses and non-profit organizations. The city set aside funds to cover rent, loan, lease, parking and fee payments that the city would otherwise be receiving from organizations. In partnership with VyStar, funds were put into a program for small business loans. Ms. Moore sent a special thank you to all that fostered a pet from ACPS over the holidays. A number of the foster homes did adopt the pets that they fostered.
- **JSO – Assistant Chief Pendley** – was in attendance, but was called away before his presentation.
James.Pendly@JaxSheriff.org

- **Duval County Public Schools** - Dr. Dana Kriznar thanked everyone that supported and voted for the half cent sales tax referendum in November. The citizens oversight committee has been appointed and the 2021 CPAC representative is from the Greater Arlington Beaches District this year. The upcoming School Choice Expo 2021 will be held on January 9, 2021 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you have questions about the application process you can:
 1. Visit this page on their website <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/Page/19168>.
 2. Or send an email to: school_choice@duvalschools.org
 3. Or make an appointment and visit us. 4037 Boulevard Center Drive, Suite 100 (1st Floor), Jacksonville, FL 32207

- **JPL- Marshelle Berry** was in attendance, but had to leave prior to sharing her report. Ms. Berry provided the following written report:

Library Safety:

In accordance with our safety protocols, all library employees and customers are all required submit to touchless temperature checks, respond to a Covid-19 screening questionnaire and wear face coverings. Social distancing, enhanced cleaning activities and other measures are all in place at the library. Library materials are being quarantined for 72 hours to allow any potential traces of COVID 10 to expire.

A huge thank you goes to the Duval County Health Department, which through a grant from the Department of Health gave 50,000 face masks to the library. Jacksonville Public Library is giving away these free, cloth face masks to library cardholders. Masks are available at all library locations during open hours, while supplies last.

The Board of Library Trustees extended the overdue fine free period. All current overdue fines have been waived and no new overdue fines will be applied through April 30, 2021. Borrowed materials will still have due dates and renewal limits as always to keep items circulating. Materials will be considered lost after the final due date. The library will use a recovery processes to retrieve lost materials or their replacement cost, which may include fees associated with the recovery.

Branch Operations:

- Currently all library locations are open with the exception of Westbrook, Brown Eastside, and Maxville Branches. Some branches are providing curbside pickup.

Branches in Operations in UC CPAC District:

- Main Library - currently open with exception of 3rd floor. Special Collections department by appointment only.
- Dallas Graham Branch is open regular library hours and staff are able to deliver materials to cars if customer do not wish to come into the buildings.
- Brown Eastside – Temporarily Closed due to COVID
- Brentwood Branch is open regular library hours and staff are able to deliver materials to cars if customer do not wish to come into the buildings.
- Dallas Graham Branch is going to close for carpet replacement 1/11 through approximately 1/31. The book drop will also be closed to the public at that time.

- **Municipal Code Compliance: Bradley Clayton** informed the CPAC that MCCD completed two systematic inspections in December 2020. The Hogan's Creek systematic generated 109 violations and the Springfield community generated 48 violations. Mr. Clayton shared information about the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program. 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. Please feel free to visit:

<https://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program>

Mr. Clayton informed the CPAC that he has been reassigned to the Greater Arlington Beaches area and he does not know who will replace him in the Urban Core area.

Member Radlinski informed Mr. Clayton there are several broken windows at the Old Stanton High school. It was noted that Member Radlinski has observed people illegally going in and out of the school through the broken windows. Member Radlinski stated that he has reported this concern to MyJax and to JSO, but the repairs are still needed. Mr. Clayton stated he would investigate the property.

Member Miller expressed concern about the property at 1436 N. Myrtle Avenue; this is an abandon house with a detached garage that needs to be boarded up. A variety of illegal activities are occurring in the house and garage. Ms. Miller states that she and neighbors have reported the property to MyJax and JSO. JSO has responded to a number of calls there for illegal activity, but the property still needs to be boarded up.

- **Neighborhood Services Office – Lisa Ransom** thanked all that submitted applications and attended the Neighborhood Services Award Program. Ms. Ransom encouraged everyone to submit an application this year for their community.
- **Public Comments - None**

11. Adjourn: There was a motion to adjourn and a second and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is Monday, February 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ed Ball Building, First Floor Training Room and on 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](#).