

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

March 4, 2019 Meeting Summary

Ed Ball Building, 214 W. Adams St.



Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members:

Chair: Michelle Tappouni
Vice Chair: Kim Pryor
Churchwell Lofts: Dimitri Demopoulos
Eastside Community Coalition: Tia Keitt
Grand Boulevard Crime Watch: Deloris Swain
JASMYN: Cindy Watson
Parks at the Cathedral: Greg Radlinski
Planet Watch Neighborhood: Juanita Senior
Planet Watch: Terry Canty
The Plaza: Glen VanVorst

Staff and Elected Officials:

Duval County Public School Board: Warren Jones
JSO: Lt. James Ricks
JFRD: Mike Allen
Parks, Recreation and Community Services: Keith Meyerl
Municipal Code Compliance: Timothy Myers
Municipal Code Compliance: Robert Bautochka
Jacksonville Public Library: Sara Roberts
Jacksonville Public Library: Marshelle Berry
JTA: Cheryl Riddick
Duval County Public Schools: Wayne Green
Neighborhood Services Office: Amy Holliman

Visitors:

Richard Lewis: The Plaza	Brenda Boydston: Fresh Ministries
Aisha Alami: The Plaza	Cathy Reed: Parks at the Cathedral
Darcel Fisher Harris: Crime Task Force	Shanell Davis-Bryant

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum: CPAC Chair Michelle Tappouni called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. After members introduced themselves, staff confirmed a quorum.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Summary: Dimitri Demopoulos motioned to approve the February 4, 2019 CPAC meeting summary. Glen VanVorst seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with one change to the summary.

3. Chair Report: Michelle Tappouni shared a letter from Teresa Eichner from the City's Budget Office requesting input to the 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Amy Holliman will email the 2019-2023 capital improvement requests submitted in 2018. Time will be set aside during the April 1, 2019 meeting to discuss Urban Core additions to the 2020-2024 CIP.

4. Presentation: Melissa Long, Chief of The Environmental Quality Division (EQD), gave a presentation on the health of three tributaries within the Urban Core. McCoy Creek (Mixon Town), Hogan Creek (downtown), and Deer Creek (Eastside) are monitored for bacteria, dissolved oxygen (DO), sewerage and other contaminants. Although all monitored sites are showing improvement, additional inspection is required to bring Jacksonville's tributaries into compliance with healthy environmental standards. McCoy Creek is in the first stages of a major natural restoration through a partnership with Groundwork Jacksonville. EQD will continue to monitor McCoy Creek throughout the restoration process to measure the before, during and after levels of contaminants.

5. Public Official Report: Warren Jones, Duval County Public School Board Member District 5 (jonesw2@duvalschools.org; 390-2372), reported that the follow up from the Facilities Condition Index study presented earlier this year will be presented by the consultant group Cooperative Strategies will present potential scenarios for improving Duval's aging school buildings in each separate district. The District 5 (Jones) meeting will be held March 25 at 6 p.m. at Raines High School. Additional meeting dates and locations are listed at dcps.duvalschools.org.

6. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports

- Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Chair Tia Keitt reviewed the following items from the subcommittee meeting:
 - **E-19-12 and V-19-01** – An exception and a variance for 3550 Westlake Ave. More information is needed.
 - **2019-134** - The bill authorizes the borrowing and appropriation of \$18 million for the purpose of funding a legal settlement between the City and Jacksonville Landing Investments, LLC (JLI), for the termination of JLI's lease of the Jacksonville Landing, for the termination of subleases and the relocation of current Landing tenants, and for the demolition of the Landing buildings and site clearance. The Governmental Affairs Subcommittee recommended that the Urban Core CPAC support the bill. Greg Radlinski motioned that the Urban Core CPAC write a letter

of support of this bill. Glen VanVorst seconded the motion. The motion was approved seven for and one against.

- o **2019-143** - The "City of Jacksonville Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan." establishes guidelines for evaluation and prioritization of bicycle and pedestrian improvements throughout the City. The Master Plan identifies four statement projects that have been included in the City's adopted Capital Improvement (CIP) Plan. The projects include: the Soutel Drive Road Diet; the Phoenix neighborhood Systematic Neighborhood Action Plan for Pedestrians; the accelerated installation of the prioritized list of RRFB's (signalized pedestrian crossings); water trail development, specifically a waterfront trail loop on the Southbank to connect to the terminus of the Fuller Warren Multi-use Bridge as well as enhancement of the Northbank Riverwalk connection. Dimitri Demopoulos motioned that the Urban Core CPAC write a letter of support of this bill. Greg Radlinski seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- o **2019-144** - The resolution which adopts the Emerald Trail Plan, which includes the Branding and Design Standards and the designated corridors and routes. Dimitri Demopoulos motioned that the Urban Core CPAC write a letter of support of this bill. Glen VanVorst seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- o **2019-151** - The bill authorizes the execution of a Redevelopment Agreement, Riverwalk Improvements Cost Disbursement Agreement, Restrictive Covenants and Parking Rights Agreement, a quitclaim deed and related documents among the City, the Downtown Investment Authority and 500 East Bay LLC (the Developer) to facilitate the completion of the construction of Berkman II building on Bay Street as a 340-room hotel and the development of an adjacent family entertainment complex, parking garage and Riverwalk improvements. Greg Radlinski motioned that the Urban Core CPAC write a letter of support of this bill. Dimitri Demopoulos seconded the motion. The motion was approved seven for and one against.
- o **2019-95** - The bill authorizes execution of a naming rights agreement between the City and VyStar Credit Union to attach the VyStar name to the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. Greg Radlinski motioned that the Urban Core CPAC write a letter recommending denial of this bill. Kim Pryor seconded the motion. CPAC members discussed the original name as a memorial to Jacksonville veterans and adding a corporate name corrupts the original intent. The motion to recommend denial was approved seven for and one against.
- **Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction** – Darcel Harris stated that the committee has met twice. Nine subcommittees were established by the Task Force; Business Partnerships, Community Engagement, Education & Youth Development, Family Engagement, Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Mentoring, Neighborhoods, Re-Entry & Juvenile Justice and Workforce Training. If you would like more information or have questions about the subcommittees, please contact Crystal Shemwell with Legislative Services as 630-1212x5296 or CShemwell@coj.net.

7. Staff Reports

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office:** Lt. James Ricks, Patrol and Enforcement Zone 1 (James.Ricks@jaxsheriff.org), reported that the Urban Rest Stop on East Adams Street opened January 14, 2019. Those needing assistance can take showers, clean their clothes, get meals, and have access to a number of services including shelter placement, health care, mailboxes, employment assistance, case managers, and referral to other services five days a week, during the day. Lt. Ricks passed out postcards to keep handy for reference.
- **Municipal Code Compliance:** Timothy Myers, Code Compliance Supervisor (TMyers@coj.net; 255-7037), reported that since the February 2019 CPAC meeting, there have been 12,760 inspections in Zone 1 and 91,500 inspections city-wide. The Zone 1 Code Compliance Team is currently working in the Mid-Westside neighborhood. That inspection will continue for several more days and will likely result in over 1,000 violations. CPAC member Juanita Senior asked about the mobile home that was delivered, to 811 W. 18th St. The set up remains incomplete. On March 5, 2019 (the day after the meeting), two citations were ordered; 2019-86020 for overgrowth, trash and debris and as a nuisance mobile home for not meeting permit requirements. The owner was also cited for no electrical, sewer or water hook ups, not being properly skirted, not having steps and citation number 2019-86029 for property being open and unsecure, with broken or missing windows allowing access to interior.

- **Jacksonville Public Library:** Sara Roberts, Library Services (SaraR@coj.net), introduced her colleague Marshall Berry, who manages the Urban Core libraries. Sara Roberts reported that the February book fair at the Main Library was a great success with about 4,000 participants. Programs in April include, B is for Baby on April 6, for care givers and new moms. A folk art exhibit called Claimed, using trash to create art, is open in the gallery space. Hours and days have been added to libraries around Jacksonville. Now all libraries are open at least six days a week. New hours of operation for each location can be found at jaxpubliclibrary.org.
- **JTA:** Cheryl Riddick, Community Engagement Manager (CRiddick@jtafla.com: 632-5522), reported that the JTA manages the St. Johns River Ferry and the Jacksonville Water Taxi. There will be a service change on April 1, 2019 most are slight time changes to improve commute times. JTA now serves Clay County. Find more information at www.jtafla.com.
- **Parks, Recreation and Community Services:** Keith Meyerl, Chief of Community Planning, Centers and Playgrounds (KMeyerl@coj.net 255-7936), shared details of the maintenance work on the Southbank Riverwalk, including a mural painted on the restroom building (see photo below). There is also a surface mural of the entire basketball court at Riverside Park (see photo below). A beautification team has been working along the north bank of the Riverwalk improving and cleaning the landscaping. A new playground is in planning stages for Klutho Park and should be open by this summer.
- **Military and Veteran Affairs:** Caroline Adkins, Outreach Specialist (Carolinea@coj.net; 630-3625), reported that free tax filing for veterans is available in the Veterans Office in City Hall on Mondays and Thursdays; no appointment is required. Jacksonville's Sixth Annual Women Veterans Recognition Week is March 13-20, 2019. Several events will be held to honor women veterans. More information can be found here on the Military and Veterans Affairs Section of the City's website coj.net.
- **Neighborhoods Department:** Amy Holliman (aholliman@coj.net; 255-8260), announced that the St. John River Celebration is Saturday, March 16, 2019. There are several clean up events planned in park sites throughout the city that will culminate at the Riverside Art Market where participants will receive a T-shirt and a hotdog or veggie wrap lunch.

8. Unfinished Business: Kim Pryor would like for the CPAC to focus on the Historic Preservation section of the Urban Core Vision Plan.

9. New Business

- The crosswalk at Main and 7th streets is not safe. Pedestrians cannot be seen due to the lack of proper lighting and the landscaping in the median. The crosswalk at 3rd and Main streets is also unsafe, but the lighting from the convenience store on the east side of Main Street provides some light.
- Kim Pryor motioned for the Urban Core CPAC to submit a letter of support for the Historic Planning Commission decision to deny permission to paint the brick of a historic structure at 1232 Laura St. Greg Radlinski seconded. The motion passed with one opposed.

10. Adjourn: Greg Radlinski motioned to adjourn. Kim Pryor seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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.

**Next CPAC Meeting: Monday, April 1, 2019, 5:30 p.m.
in the Ed Ball Building's First Floor Training Room, 214 N. Hogan St. 32202**

