

North Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 14, 2024, Meeting Summary

Oceanway Community Center, 12215 Sago Ave. W

Zoom Meeting ID: 856 9534 8911

Passcode: 626748

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Jamie Lacy, Chair; Charles Barr, Vice Chair; Dr. Donald Green, Captiva Bluff HOA; Deborah Green, Captiva Bluff HOA; Michael and Shelley Wozniak, Lydia Estates; Ingrid Montgomery, Victoria Preserve HOA; Bob Austin, Blue Grass Northwood; Jennifer Casey, Parque Diane HOA; Tommy Ruffin, Council Appointee District 8; Vicki Drake, Duval County Council of PTS/PTA Assoc.; Aletha Mikell, Victoria Preserve 2; Sasha Pearson, Victoria Preserve 2; Kelvin Postell, Greater Works Church, Inc.; Sharon Bivins, Blue Grass Northwood; Sharon Johnson, Jacobs Way HOA; Mike Getchell Eagle Bend HOA.

Zoom: Glenn Fowler, Northside Business Leaders; Sylvester Wilkins, Alta Lakes CDD; Vera Jones-Wilkins, Alta Lakes, CDD; Josephine Fiveash-Porter, Northlake HOA; Herlena Washington, Greater Works Church, Inc.; Earnestine Johnson, Jacobs Way HOA.

Visitors: Barry Farmer; Stephanie Oglesby; Donald Drake; Mark Bivins, Blue Grass Northwood; Paul Forte; Catherine Delre, The Cape

Zoom: Donna Philbrick, SMN, Inc.; Lynn Vandenhoy, SMN, Inc.; Pat Medley; Lenell Cunning; Brittnee Williams, Biscayne Estates; Mary; Sarah Price; Sharon Sumlar Jones.

Staff and Elected Officials: Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr., District 7; Kathleen Collins, Capital Improvement Plan Administrator; Capt. Byron Jackson, JFRD; Lt. Jonathan Ervin, JSO; Thomas Waters, Neighborhoods Department; Lynne Baldwin, JPL; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office; Stephen Nutt, Planning and Development Department; Charles Benson, MCCD; Derek Dixon, FDOT; Victoria Schultz, DCPS.

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Jamie Lacy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified a quorum.
2. **Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** The January 10, 2024 summary was approved by the CPAC.
3. **Elected Officials Report:**

Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr., District 7, provided the following updates:

- The development of new affordable housing apartments on Biscayne passed. About 100 members of the Biscayne community attended City Council meetings last week and last night to express their opposition to the development. However, the developers received the number of votes needed to proceed.
- On Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 5 p.m. in City Hall, the City Council's Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee will vote on Ordinance 2023-0856, the construction of a proposed Chick-fil-A restaurant on Bradley Cove Road. Council Member Gaffney asked those either opposed or supportive of the project to attend the meeting and voice their opinion. The application will then go before the full City Council the following week.
- The Council of Elder Affairs has seats available on their board. You must be 65 and older and reside in District 8. Anyone interested can contact Council Member Gaffney Jr. or his Executive Assistant, Roshonda Shines, at RShine@coj.net.
- Council Member Gaffney said he will update Mrs. Godwin-Ware regarding the work progress to reopen Owens Road.

Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr. may be reached by calling his office at (904) 255-5207, by cell at (904) 294-4664, or by emailing at RGaffneyJr@coj.net.

- 4. Neighborhoods Department:** Thomas Waters, Acting Director of Neighborhoods, introduced himself to the North CPAC as the new Acting Director of the Neighborhoods Department. He provided a brief history of his experiences within and outside of the City of Jacksonville. Mr. Waters told the CPAC about some programs he would like to bring back, such as the neighborhood conferences. He said he would like to improve the neighborhood directory to better disseminate information to various communities and pull in information. ITD is updating the platform so the neighborhood webpage will be more interactive. Mr. Waters hopes to generate more contacts in the community, bring individuals in for workshops through charrettes, do some community building, and address at least two issues the community would like to work on in partnership with the city. The Neighborhoods Department would provide the training and the resources necessary to address these issues. He is also bringing in one or two interns to the Neighborhood Services Office to assist with updating the Neighborhood Directory.

Thomas Waters may be reached at (904) 255-5400.

- 5. Chair Report:** Chair Lacy reported that the CPAC Chairs were invited to participate in a round table event hosted by JTA. Members were given a tour of the facility and had the opportunity to speak with the Chief Executive Officer, Nathaniel Ford. Mr. Ford noted that JTA's focus has been on regional transit. There are no plans to create new routes on the north side. Chair Lacy asked JTA to attend a North CPAC meeting when new routes are planned. Ridership has been down 20% since pre-pandemic. Chair Lacy reminded members to send their questions or concerns regarding FDOT roadwork to Mrs. Godwin-Ware at Michellegw@coj.net. Chair Lacy also announced that CommUniverCity starts April 2, 2024, and strongly suggested that those who have not attended apply to attend.

- 6. Presentation:** Kathleen Collins, Capital Improvement Plan Administrator, briefly presented the five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ms. Collins outlined the requirements for a CIP project, the process through which the request and selection of projects must go through, important dates for meetings, and due dates for various board reports.

Kathleen Collins may be reached at (904) 255-5358 or KathleenC@coj.net.

- 7. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) –** Lt. Johnathan Ervin reported that:

- The busiest hours for Zone 6 are between 2 p.m. and 11 p.m.
- In the last seven days, District 6 has had zero robberies, 13 aggravated assaults, and 47 batteries. Each of these offenses is down from the same period the previous year.
- This year in District 6, there have been under 1,200 calls for service. JSO is hiring emergency operators to help quickly handle the calls and decrease the wait time. A bonus of \$5,000 is being offered to those who complete the call center training.
- The JSO website now has an online Crime Reporting System that allows citizens to submit a police report quickly and efficiently for certain crimes or occurrences. Please visit the JSO website at <https://www.jaxsheriff.org/Resources/crime-reporting.aspx> for details.
- A restructuring of the zones has taken place, which has caused a massive redistribution of officers. The goal is to have 20 officers in District 6 because of its size.

Lt. Ervin may be reached at (904)696-4335.

- 8. Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD) –** Capt. Byron Jackson reported that:

- The risk of adults 65 or older escaping a fire is greater than those younger. Everyone should be prepared and have at least two escape plans. Items blocking your way out of a room or home should be removed. Seniors should discuss their fire escape plan with their families and neighbors. If you live in an apartment, contact the building manager or fire department to discuss your plan, especially if you need extra help escaping.
- When living in a high-rise apartment or condominium, ensure you know where all the exit stairs are in the building. If you cannot leave your apartment, stuff wet towels or sheets around the door and vents to keep smoke out. Call 911 to tell them where you are, and stay on the phone with the dispatcher to help them locate you. Open the window slightly and hang a brightly colored cloth outside of the window, making sure to close the window so air does not pull smoke into your room.
- Plan two escapes, as you could have less than two minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. For more information about escape planning, visit www.usfa.fema.gov or www.nfpa.org.

- JFRD's Emergency Preparedness Division staff will happily speak to your business, homeowner association, or school about emergency preparedness. To request a presentation, visit <https://www.jaxready.com/Preparedness/Public-Education> and complete the request.

Capt. Byron Jackson may be contacted at (904) 255-0000.

9. Staff Reports.

- **Duval County Public Schools (DCPS)** – Victoria Schultz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource Services, reported:
 - DCPS has recently celebrated Literacy Week and is currently recognizing and celebrating Black History Month.
 - The School Choice program has started. Families can take tours of schools they are interested in for their children. Tours are now available on two Saturdays every week for the remainder of this month, and information sessions are available for parents to ask questions before the application window ends on Thursday, February 29, 2024. School Choice reference guides are available for those attending today's meeting. The guide has information about voluntary PreK, how to register, and the different school choice options and boundaries.

Victoria Schultz may be reached at SchultzV@duvalschools.org.

- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** – Derek Dixon, Transportation System Manager District 2 Urban Planning Office, reported:
 - The I-295 interchanges will be completed in Spring 2024.
 - The detours and traffic shifts on I-95 and I-295 are expected to be completed at the end of the month.
 - CPAC members can check the FDOT advisory for nighttime closures. You can find this information on the FDOT website at <https://nflroads.com>.

Derek Dixon may be reached at (904) 360-5653 or derek.dixon@dot.state.fl.us.

- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)** – Lynne Baldwin, Manager of Branch Services for the North and West region, reported:
 - Mayor Donna Deegan's River City Readers program was successful on Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Main Library. More than 1,300 people attended the event. JPL issued 50 new library cards.
 - The Jax Stacks Reading Challenge is a year-round reading challenge for adults that encourages you to read 12 books from 16 categories, allowing you to try a new genre, series, or audiobook. Thirty-nine children and 18 adults have read 9,533 minutes at the Highlands Library since January 27, 2024.
 - The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) free tax preparation is taking place at the Bradham and Brooks Library on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. through April 12, 2024. Register online or by phone at (904) 257-6493. For more information, please visit the Jacksonville Public Library website at www.jpl.com.
 - The Highland Library's Little Reader Story Time is every Tuesday morning from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Children's Open area.
 - Early voting begins on Friday, March 8, 2024, and will run through Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at various branches throughout the county.

Lynne Baldwin may be reached at (904) 338-4383 or LBaldwin@coj.net.

- **Municipal Code Compliance Department (MCCD)** – Charles Benson, Code Compliance Supervisor, reported that residents can perform minor automotive repairs in a residential area, such as oil changes and changing brakes or tires. However, it is a violation to bring in large equipment, such as engine hoists and cherry pickers, to perform major repairs. Residents should call 630-CITY when this happens so it can be addressed.
- **Mr. Benson provided the following updates.**
 - The fence surrounding Terry's Tires may be unsightly but is not in violation. There are no height or permitting issues.
 - This month, MCC Officers will investigate the homeless camp off Ranch Road.
 - The condition of the Harts Road and Dunn Avenue interchange has improved. MCC Officers will continue to monitor the area.
 - A citation was issued for the rooming house on Princessa Lane in the San Mateo neighborhood.
 - The snipe signs along Yellow Bluff Road, Pecan Park Road, and Main Street will be removed.

Mr. Benson announced that this would be his last North CPAC meeting. He will be moving to another district. He will notify Mrs. Godwin-Ware when the North CPAC is assigned a replacement.

Charles Benson may be reached at CBenson@coj.net.

10. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports.

- **Governmental Affairs (GA) and Planning & Development** – Vice Chair Barr and Stephen Nutt, City Planner I.

The Governmental Affairs Subcommittee reviewed nine applications. Recommendations for the four applications were made:

New Business

- **2024-0055 – Conventional Rezoning: 510 Starratt Rd.:** The applicant seeks to rezone approximately 1.11 acres from RLD-120 to CCG-1 to allow for a coffee shop. The GA Subcommittee recommends opposing the application based on the lack of input the community will have on the project. The GA recommends a PUD. CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.
- **2024-0057 – Conventional Rezoning: 2604 New Berlin Rd.:** The applicant seeks to rezone approximately 1.00 Acres from RLD-100A to CO to allow office use. The GA Subcommittee recommends opposing the application based on the lack of input the community will have on the project. The GA recommends a PUD as there are concerns that the development may change to something else. CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.
- **2024-0061 – Conventional Rezoning: 14212 Yellow Bluff Rd.:** The applicant seeks to rezone approximately 14.81 acres of land from RR-Acres to RLD-40 to allow for developing a residential neighborhood with 40-foot-wide lots. The GA Subcommittee recommends opposing the application based on the lack of input the community will have on the project, lots not being congruent with the surrounding community, which is RLD 60. The GA recommends a PUD and that any remaining land be developed into a recreation area for the community. CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.
- **2024-0093 – Conventional Rezoning: 0 Owens Rd.:** The applicant seeks to rezone approximately 1.38 acres from RLD-120 to IL. The applicant did not provide any indication of what they will be developing. The GA Subcommittee recommends opposing the application based on the lack of input the community will have on the project. The GA recommends a PUD as there are concerns because no details or description is given about the project. CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.
Stephen Nutt may be contacted at (904)255-7849 or SNutt@coj.net.
- **Capital Improvement Project Recommendations** - The Chair reviewed the submitted 2024 CIP recommendations submitted by the community with the full CPAC. After some discussion, CPAC members voted to submit the following recommendations in the order listed.
 - Installation of sidewalks throughout the North Lake Community to create a safe walking environment.
 - Widening Pecan Park Road between I-95 and North Main Street and improvements to the railroad crossing.
 - A Community Resource Center building at Sheffield Park. There isn't one near the community.
 - Widening Biscayne Boulevard to ease the congestion during school drop-off and pick-up and allow emergency vehicles to enter the neighborhood quickly.
- **DCPS Citizens Oversight Committee** – Dr. Donald Green reported that there are three school districts in Planning District 6. They include DCPS Board Members Kelly Coker, District One, April Carney, District Two, and Darryl Willie, District Four. The Master Facility Plan consists of 127 projects in Planning District 6 at an estimated total of \$830 million. Currently, 56 projects are in progress, including 34 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, and seven high schools. A Marine Science Education Center, Mattie Rutherford Alternative School, Darnell Cookman Middle-High School, and John E. Ford K-8. Three elementary schools are in the planning phase: Sea Breeze will be replaced, Long Branch will receive renovations, and Fort Caroline will receive maintenance. The budget and scheduled projects can be reviewed on the DCPS website: www.duvalschools.org/half-penny.

11. Neighborhood Coordinator's Report – Michelle Godwin-Ware reminded everyone that applications are still being accepted for NSO's neighborhood leadership training program, CommUniverCity. The training will take place on April 2, 4, 11, 16, 18, and 23, and on Saturday, April 27, a bus tour and graduation ceremony will occur. Applications were available, and electronic copies will be emailed out again.

Michelle Godwin-Ware may be reached at (904) 255-8236 or Michellegw@coj.net.

12. Unfinished Business - None

13. New Business – None

14. Public Comments/Concerns/Announcements:

Military Affairs and Veterans Department (MAVD) – Tiffany Morales, Veterans Outreach Coordinator, announced that:

- The Players Championship 2024 Military Job Fair will occur on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.
- CareerSource will now be in the Military Affairs and Veterans Department Office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. has partnered with the City of Jacksonville's Military Affairs and Veterans Department to host a series of Ask-A-Lawyer events for Veterans. The first event will occur on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, in City Hall, 117 W. Duval St., Suite 175. To schedule an appointment or for more information, please call the MAVD at (904) 255-5550.
- The Veterans Stand Down event was successful. There were 100 vendors, and more than 500 Veterans were served.

Tiffany Morales may be contacted at (904) 255-5524 or tmorales@coj.net.

15. Motion to Adjourn: Chair Lacy adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Next CPAC Meeting: **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**, 5:30 p.m. Hybrid - **Oceanway Senior Center**, 12215 Sago Ave. W., 32218, and via Zoom. Meeting ID: 869 9318 1164 Passcode: 595972.

Next Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Meeting: **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**, 4:30 p.m. **Oceanway Senior Center**, 12215 Sago Ave. W. 32218 and via Zoom. Meeting ID: 869 9318 1164 Passcode: 595972.

Summary prepared by Michelle Godwin, Neighborhood Coordinator, Neighborhood Services Office, (904) 255-8236 or MichelleGW@coj.net

A copy of the audio recording of this North 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: [COJ Public Records Request](#).