

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee February 5, 2024, Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting: Jacksonville Main Public Library, 303 North Laura Street, Conference Room Level, Multipurpose Room and on ZOOM.

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Bryant Shumaker, CPAC Chair, SPAR Council; Juanita Senior, CPAC Vice Chair, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association; Becca Dinger, 2nd Mile Ministries; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood; Michael Haskins, SPAR Council; Cory Haynes, JASMYN; Johnny Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch.

Excused: None.

ZOOM: Karen Costen; Tiffany Morales, Military Affairs and Veterans Department; Suzanne Pickett; Ariane Randolph; Beautifull22s; iPhone.

Elected Officials and Staff: Darryl Willie, Duval County School Board; Council member Jimmy Peluso; Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent Duval County Public Schools; Chris Billings, MCCC; Chief Kevin Jones, JFRD; Captain James Groff, JFRD; Keli Likins, JPL; Jennell Milton, JEA; Caroline Fulton, Planning and Development; Michael Pinckney, Public Works.

Guests: Charles Garrison, Jacksonville Planning Commission; Marjorie Wilson; Joni Turner; Honey Holendorf, OutEast; Ernest J. Smith, III, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Hank Rogers; Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project; Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Project; Roslyn Parker; Marilyn McGee, First United Methodist Church; Kelly Frazier, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville.

Prior to the start of the Urban Core CPAC meeting, **Charles Garrison, Chair of the City of Jacksonville Planning Commission**, introduced himself. He indicated that he plans to attend all the CPAC meetings. Mr. Garrison asked that when the CPAC registers opposition to a specific project, the effort be made to work with staff and the assigned planner, to offer "competent substantial evidence" for the opposition. He concluded his comments by commending the CPAC for the good work being done and reiterated that he just wants to make sure that the Planning Commission has the best information possible when making decisions. He provided his email address: cgjaxplanning@gmail.com.

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Edwina Henry verified a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary: CPAC Members approved the January 17, 2024, Meeting Summary.

3. Presenter: Kathleen Collins, Capital Improvement Plan Administrator, City of Jacksonville
Ms. Collins gave a brief overview of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process. Pursuant to Section 122.604 of the City of Jacksonville's Municipal Code," input from each of the six (6) Citizen Planning Advisory Committees (CPACs) shall be requested and considered when developing the proposed Capital improvement Plan."

Basic components of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):

- The CIP is a five-year plan: FY2025-2029
- Projects must be feasible in nature
- Projects must have funding
- The CIP is approved as part of the mayor's proposed budget
- City Council approval is required each year
 - To ensure funding is still available
 - Maintain priorities
 - Make adjustments as needed

CIP Requirements:

- Project must have a total cost of greater than \$100,000 and a useful life of more than ten years
- Project must be a one-time outlay – non-recurring costs
- Project must enhance or add to the value of the city's physical assets
- Project must be a major equipment purchase, associated with a capital improvement plan

Ms. Collins also discussed the types of projects that would be excluded, such as operating costs. She also shared an electronic copy of the CIP Scoring Matrix to act as a guide for CPACs when developing their project lists. It was noted that the CPACs were involved in the CIP process much earlier this year. This will allow her office to respond quickly to CPACs about projects that may already be in the CIP or if a project needs to be revised and resubmitted.

City Council will receive a monthly report, starting in June for all CIP projects. Ms. Collins indicated that she could also make this information available to the CPAC. Final approvals are completed in September. To address one of the concerns raised by the CPAC, Ms. Collins stated that she will respond to each CPAC regarding their submissions, letting them know if they have been accepted or rolled into a larger project. CPAC members lamented that in the past they have not received any feedback on projects that were submitted.

Chair Shumaker thanked Ms. Collins for her very informative presentation and indicated that obtaining feedback on submitted projects will be most helpful. He also said that he looks forward to working together on the CIP.

4. Elected Officials Report: The Honorable Darryl Willie, Schoolboard Member, Duval County Public Schools, gave the following report:

- February is Black History Month, and the Duval County Public School District is one of 11 school districts that has exemplary status when it comes to supporting African American history and curriculum. He noted that the school district believes in exposing students to all cultures and the rich history in Jacksonville.
- School Showcases were held over the past two weekends for elementary, middle, and high schools. The schools were opened to the community, and not just parents exploring school options for their children. The School Showcases resulted in an increase in the number of community members signing up to volunteer and support individual schools.
- Mayor Deegan launched her River City Readers initiative which supports literacy, and the school board is fully supportive of this effort. Mr. Willie also gave kudos to the teachers for incorporating technology into the classroom.
- Graduation rates are at a record high at 87.2 percent, over the past 10 years, which is up over 10 points. He took a moment to commend Dr. Kriznar, Interim Superintendent, along with the teachers and staff, for putting in the hard work each day.

- Dr. Kriznar is planning to retire, so the school board needs a long-term plan in place for filling the Superintendent's position. Having recently met with their consultant, the board will be announcing the new hiring timeline soon and wants the community to know that their input is needed.
- Duval County Public School District has seen a decline in student enrollment. Fewer students mean fewer dollars, and this is causing the district to re-examine the master facilities plan to ensure that funds are being used in the most efficient manner. The board will be providing the community with a status update on the master facilities plan.
- The school board is considering three (3) relocation options with respect to selling the school board building: (1) JTA has a building in LaVilla, near the new JTA facility; (2) Florida Blue has a building in Riverside that it could lease to the district; and (3) the school board could remain in its current location. Mr. Willie reminded everyone that the school board building was put out to bid before COVID, when it seemed very lucrative to move. However, post-COVID, the economics aren't very favorable. The school board must carefully weigh their options to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent in the most efficient way. The board will try to decide by the end of February 2024, which option to take.

5. Chair's Report: Chair Shumaker began his report with an update on December's outreach efforts to organizations within the Urban Core, District 1, to help build the CPAC membership and to be able to provide more feedback into the communities. Several of the new organizations have applied for CPAC Membership and were invited to introduce themselves:

- **Marilyn McGee, representing First United Methodist Church, 225 East Duval Street, 32202.** Ms. McGee stated that the church wants to be a part of the community and indicated that their main concern is the blight around the church and how it affects the membership and activities. The church has donated one of its 100-year-old buildings to help relieve the problem of foster care children who "age out" and have no place to go. Working with other community partners, they hope to be able to send some of these young people to college and/or trade school. Their program is called the "Pillars Foundation." She invited the CPAC to come visit and take the tour.
- **Kelly Frazier, President of Northside Coalition of Jacksonville.** Ms. Frazier stated that the coalition is a dynamic organization creating positive and lasting change. Since 2016, they have worked in concert with elected officials, law enforcement, business professionals, faith community and people from all walks of life. A very diverse group with the common focus of improving social, racial, and economic injustices. Attending the CPAC meetings will help her learn more about what's going on in the city and to help her learn ways to make a better impact. Ms. Frazier is the daughter of the late community activist, Ben Frazier.
- **Ariane Randolph, resident of the historic Eastside.** Ms. Randolph advocates for the historic Eastside through several organizations and community groups. As a resident, she is interested in making her community better, which will ultimately make the city its best. She is looking forward to working with the other communities in the Urban Core, District 1.

Chair Shumaker recognized Council member Jimmy Peluso and invited him to address the CPAC.

- **The Honorable Council member Jimmy Peluso, Council District 7,** greeted everyone and thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak. He announced that the new Planning and Development Director started today and there is also a new Neighborhoods Department Director. Both new hires will be going through the confirmation process with City Council.
- Jacksonville's Historic Eastside has been named to the state's Main Street Program. This designation brings with it federal and state dollars for local revitalization and historic

preservation efforts. For additional information, go to: [Communities - Division of Historical Resources - Florida Department of State](#)

Chair Shumaker introduced two new members to the Urban Core CPAC:

- Cory Haynes – JASMYN Organization
- Mike Haskins – SPAR Council (Alternate)

He also mentioned several pending memberships, which should be processed after the March CPAC Meeting:

- Ernest Smith, who is moving his UC CPAC involvement to a new organization, and Kelly Frazier – Northside Coalition of Jacksonville
- Marilyn McGee – First United Methodist Church
- Marlo Zarka – Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville (to be processed in February)

Chair Shumaker stated that the CPAC chairs were invited to the Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA) to meet with the Chief Executive Officer, Nathaniel Ford. The Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA) is working on long-term and short-term innovations to improve transit for the Jacksonville area. Chair Shumaker said that based on the presentation, he is looking forward to Jacksonville becoming a much better place, as it pertains to transit, especially the integration between the different types of transit, better sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.

6. Staff Reports:

JEA - Jennell Milton, Government Relations Coordinator, provided an update on two events that JEA will be hosting:

- The Riverview East's proposed Septic Tank Phase Out Project kick-off meeting is Thursday, February 15, 2024, at FSCJ North Campus in the auditorium, starting at 6:30 pm. While focused on Council members Pittman (Council District 10) and Gaffney, Jr.'s (Council district 8) districts, the meeting is an informational public meeting and will provide the opportunity to learn more about the proposed project, and to answer any questions or concerns property owners may have. For more information, and a general overview of the proposed project, can be found at www.jea.com/RiverviewEast
- On February 23 and February 24, 2024, JEA Linemen will participate in the annual Florida Linemen Competition, where dozens of electrical line worker teams from throughout Florida will put their safety and power reliability skills to the test. The Florida Municipal Electric Association, (FMEA) is hosting the competition at Metropolitan Park, 1410 Gator Bowl Drive. The event is free and open to the public. In addition to the competition, there will be career information, food trucks, bounce houses for the children, etc. For more information, please go to: www.FLPublicPower.com

Jennell Milton – (904) 665-5102 or miltjl@jea.com

JPL – Keli Likins, Executive Assistant II, Library Services, announced that the library is having a book review writing contest for kids and teens. The contest prize is \$100. This is part of Mayor Deegan's River City Readers Program. Winners will be announced on March 6, 2024. For more information, just visit the website www.jaxpubliclibrary.org

Keli Likins – (904) 255-6090 or klikins@coj.net

JSO – Not Present.

JFRD – Captain James Groff announced that he will be replacing Captain Charles Johnson for UC CPAC coverage. Captain Groff works in the Fire Plans Review Department of JFRD and has been with the city for 23 years. He deferred questions about the Rise Doro Apartment fire to Fire Marshal, Chief Kevin Jones.

Fire Marshal Jones shared the following information about the Rise Doro:

- The State Fire Marshal has visited the site and their investigation is underway.
- The extensive fire damage makes it extremely difficult to determine the cause.
- Surrounding businesses are closed as a safety measure due to the possibility of building collapse, etc.

Captain James Groff – (904) 255-8320 or JGroff@coj.net

Public Works – Michael Pinckney, Solid Waste Superintendent, indicated that this is the "slow season" for public works and that he didn't have much to report. After responding to several questions about specific addresses, Mr. Pinckney indicated he would refer the concerns for follow-up, but reminded everyone to create care tickets utilizing 630-CITY or www.MyJax.custhelp.com for more efficient tracking.

Michael Pinckney – (904) 255-7500 or MPinckne@coj.net

MCCD – Chris Billings, Code Compliance Supervisor, gave the following report:

- 865 inspections were completed since January 17, 2024.
- On January 30, 2024, MCCD conducted a corridor inspection on Moncrief Road, and 29 individual locations were cited. There are two additional targeted systematic inspections scheduled:
 - The Berkeley Neighborhood will begin February 13, 2024
 - The 29th & Chase Neighborhood will begin March 5, 2024
- The goals of these projects are to ensure uniform enforcement and promote property values equally through the neighborhoods.
- MCCD has realigned its neighborhood boundaries with the actual Urban Core CPAC boundaries, so now neighborhoods in Southbank and Brentwood will come to Urban Core CPAC to have their problems addressed instead of going to separate CPACs.
- Because MCCD is unable to always patrol all the areas for violations, they appreciate and encourage residents to report issues by calling 630-CITY or by visiting www.Jacksonville.gov and accessing the MyJax reporting application at www.myJax.com.

Chris Billings – (904) 497-9543 or CBillings@coj.net

Military Affairs and Veterans Department - Tiffany Morales, Veterans Outreach Manager, provided the following updates:

- Chip Harper was introduced as the newest Veterans Outreach Coordinator
- The two-day Veterans Stand Down was held January 26 and 27, 2024, with over 500 attendees and 100 vendors.
- The PGA Military job fair will take place March 9, 2024, at TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach 32082, which is Military Appreciation Day for the PGA.
- For additional information and a list of upcoming events, please call the Military Affairs and Veterans Department at (904) 255-5550.

Tiffany Morales – (904) 225-5550 or TMorales@coj.net

Neighborhood Services Office – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, reported on the following:

- Thomas Waters is the new Acting Director for the Neighborhoods Department – he is awaiting City Council confirmation.
- CPAC Members were reminded to register for their Ethics Training for City of Jacksonville's Boards and Commissions.
- The Neighborhood Services Office is now accepting applications for the 2024 CommUniverCity, free community leadership training program. The deadline to submit an application is March 8, 2024, and selected applicants will be contacted on March 15, 2024.

Edwina Henry – (904) 255-8260 or EHenry@coj.net

The Honorable Rahman Johnson, Jacksonville City Council District 14, dropped in to say hello and to show support for his fellow Council member, Jimmy Peluso. He indicated that he wants to visit each CPAC to show support and to find ways of working together and sharing our experiences.

Council member Rahman Johnson – (904) 255-5214 or Rahman@coj.net

7. Old Business: Review of Subcommittee and Liaison Assignments:

- **Governmental Affairs (LUZ) Subcommittee:** Chair, Dimitri Demopoulos. Members: Bryant Shumaker, Terry Canty.
- **Homelessness Subcommittee:** CPAC member Cory Haynes has agreed to Chair. Members: Ernest Smith will return once his Northside Coalition CPAC Membership is approved. One additional member is needed.
- **Blight and Code Enforcement Subcommittee:** Chair, Juanita Senior. Members: Reverand Davis, Delois Swain, Ernest Smith (once membership is approved), and Kim Pryor.
- **T.R.U.E. (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission:** Kim Pryor is the Urban Core CPAC Representative. The Commission meets monthly and the representative reports to the CPAC.

8. New Business: None.

9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:

- **Governmental Affairs/LUZ** – Dimitri Demopoulos: The subcommittee reviewed several applications, and no action was taken.
- **Blight and Code Enforcement** – Juanita Senior: No report.
- **Homelessness** – Corey Haynes: No report.
- **T.R.U.E. Commission** – Kim Pryor: No report.

10. Public Comments and Announcements:

- **Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project** – February 19, 2024, is the grand opening of their headquarters, located at 232 East Eighth Street, from 5 pm until 7 pm. The location has office and community space and there are also plans for a community garden.
- **Ernest Smith, Visitor** – For the record, Mr. Smith wants it to be known that for the last two Urban Core CPAC Meetings, there has not been a JSO Representative present. For emphasis, Mr. Smith stated that Executive Order 2014-03 obligates JSO to be in attendance to answer questions about crime and statistics in our community.
- **Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS** – Ms. Pryor would like to request that the back doors be available for attendees to enter as well as exit. Currently, entry is only from the Laura Street doors, which means after the CPAC meeting is over, attendees have to walk around to the front of the building, in the dark to get to their cars.

- In response, Ms. Henry stated that there was a guard on the door this evening and moving forward if anyone is not able to gain entry from the rear doors, call her on her cell and she will open the door for them.
- The renovations to the First Floor Training Room in the Ed Ball Building are nearing completion, which means that the UC CPAC will be returning to the Ed Ball Building for its meetings. Details to follow.
- **Joni Turner, Groundwork Jacksonville** - Groundwork Jacksonville is hosting a Watershed Open House on February 13, 2024, at 6 pm, at Historic Springfield Community Learning Center (on the second floor of the Wells Fargo Building) on Sixth and Main Streets, to discuss flooding issues and possible solutions.
- **Council member Jimmy Peluso** – The Jacksonville City Council has created a special committee on Homelessness and has been charged with creating a Homeless Trust Fund. Jacksonville is looking to emulate the Miami Dade model, as they seem to be doing a really good job; however, the funding source remains the real issue – where to find the money to put into the Trust. The legislation has been written to create the Trust and will continue to move through the legislative process.
 - Peluso stated that he has been in communication with the Springfield community and the Historical Preservation community and has been working on legislation to change the name from Confederate Street (of which no property actually has the name of Confederate Street as it's listed name) to Ben Frazier Street.
 - He also noted that Confederate Park's name is also being changed to Ben Frazier Park.

11. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm