

## **Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee March 4, 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; Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Cory Haynes, JASMYN.

**Excused:** None.

**ZOOM:** Delores Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Cathy Reed, Parks at the Cathedral; Rev. Keith Davis, All Things Common Ministries, Inc., Michael Haskins, SPAR Council; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Chip Harper, Military Affairs and Veterans Department; Joni Turner.

**Elected Officials and Staff:** The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County Public School Board member; Dr. Dana Kriznar, Duval County Public Schools Superintendent; Lisa Ransom, Neighborhood Services Manager; Caroline Fulton, Planning and Development Department; Chris Billings, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Captain James Groff, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; Keli Likins, Jacksonville Public Library.

**Guests:** Joan Meir, The Peninsula Condominiums; Pam Sorenson, The Peninsula Condominiums; Marjorie Wilson; Ava Patterson; Ernest J. Smith, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Honey Holzendorf, OutEast; Roslyn Parker; Bruce Forest, Hogan Creek; Hank Rogers; Ariane Randolph, Eastside Community; Alice Nelson; Kelly Frazier, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Marilyn McGee, First United Methodist Church; Haley Spring, Blue Zones Project-Jacksonville.

### **Meeting Summary**

**1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Edwina Henry verified a quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** CPAC Members approved the February 5, 2024, Meeting Summary.

**3. Presenter:** None.

**4. Elected Officials Reports:** The Honorable Warren Jones, Schoolboard Member, Duval County Public Schools, gave the following report:

- Schoolboard Member Warren acknowledged the presence of Dr. Dana Kriznar and stated that she is a long time Duval County Public Schools Employee, with plenty of experience, very professional and very involved. He wanted to publicly thank her for her work in the district.
- The school district is commencing the search for a new superintendent and hopes to have one in place by July 1, 2024, which is the beginning of their fiscal year.

- The Duval County Public School District will hold several community sessions to find out what the community is looking for in the next superintendent. He also stated that this was the same process that was followed when the previous superintendent, Dr. Green, was hired. The process was very transparent and very successful.
- Andrew Jackson High School, one of the better magnet programs, is to be celebrated for finishing second in the State Basketball Championship last weekend.
- The school district's Master Facilities Plan, which was approved by the School Board in 2018 and supported by the half penny tax, to consolidate and rebuild a number of aging schools, is being revisited due to rising construction costs and the exodus of students from the public school system.
- The sale of the Duval County Public Schools Administration Building is still pending.

**5. Chair's Report:** Chair Shumaker began his report with a discussion of the new ZOOM Decorum policy issued by the Neighborhood Services Office and shared with all six of the CPACs. In reading from the ZOOM Decorum, Shumaker highlighted the following:

- Please attend the meeting on time; test your technology; know your camera, microphone, internet connection before joining the ZOOM Meeting;
- Make sure you are familiar with turning on and off your microphone and camera; please mute your device and turn your camera off upon joining the meeting;
- If you would like to speak please use your ZOOM's raise hand feature; questions and comments will be taken from the attendees that are in person first, then the questions from the ZOOM participants will be taken; please wait until your name is called to unmute your device and speak;
- If you choose to turn on your camera when you are recognized, please be cognizant of your background. Please keep your camera in public rooms only... Please refrain from eating, drinking, alcoholic beverages, and other distracting behaviors like carrying your device from room to room with your camera on;
- Please try to be in a quiet space without distraction... Please dress appropriately;
- Be in compliance with the Florida Government in the Sunshine State laws – do not use the chat feature to hold conversations before or during the meetings...

Chair Shumaker congratulated Ms. Marlo Zarka, the newest member of the Urban Core CPAC, and handed her her CPAC new Member's packet. He then asked Ms. Zarka and Mr. Cory Haynes to join the other UC CPAC Members at the table.

## **6. Staff Reports:**

**JTA** - Cheryl Riddick, Director Customer Experience, discussed a proposed fare policy modification and plainly stated it was not a change in fares. The two-part policy change is as follows:

- Currently seniors that ride JTA Vehicles are asked to use a Star Card, a Senior Star Card, which involves a trip to the JTA to have their photo ID taken and have the card created.
- The proposal is to allow seniors to board JTA buses using a Florida driver's license or a Florida State issued ID along with a Star Card if they have one.
- When the Star Card expires, passengers may use their Florida driver's license or Florida State issued ID.
- JTA is trying to make it more accessible and easier for seniors to ride.
- The second portion of the fare policy modification is to ensure THE best price when customers purchase their fares using the My JTA App.

- There are opportunities to attend public meetings Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – from 9 am to 11 am; Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – from 11 am to 1 pm; and Thursday, March 7, 2024 – from 5 pm to 7 pm. There's another meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2024 – from 5 pm to 7 pm.
- All meetings are held at the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center (JRTC) at LaVilla, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville 32204
- Customers and community members can access information and submit comments at <https://publicinput.com/proposedfarepolicymodification>.
- The required Public Hearing will be held Thursday, March 21, 2024 – 11:15 am; 12:15 pm; 5:15 pm and 6:15 pm at the JRTC – 100 LaVilla Center Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Board Room, Jacksonville 32204.
- Copies of the public notice will be emailed to the Neighborhood Coordinator for dissemination.

**Cheryl Riddick** – Jacksonville Transportation Authority – (904) 632-5522 or [criddick@jtafla.com](mailto:criddick@jtafla.com)

**JPL** – Keli Likins, Executive Assistant II, Library Services, wished everyone a "happy Celebrate Reading Week" (March 4 – 8, 2024) and provided a brief update on several scheduled events.

- The Dallas Graham Branch on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 4 pm, will have Clark's Critters, a live reptile show for children ages 5 to 12. Attendance is limited and registration is recommended.
- The Main Branch on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, for children aged 0 to 5, and their families, there will be Story Time and an appearance by Daniel Tiger, along with children's health screenings, giveaways, etc.
- Also, later on Saturday, March 9, 2024, there will be a family reading day in James Weldon Johnson Park, across from the Main Public Library for children ages 5 to 12 and their families. Mayor Deegan will speak about "River City Readers," and there will be book and backpack giveaways, as well as free lunch. Winners of the Book Review Writing Contest will be announced.
- For more information, please visit the website at [www.jaxpubliclibrary.org](http://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org)

**Keli Likins** – (904) 255-6090 or [klikins@coj.net](mailto:klikins@coj.net)

**JSO** – Not Present.

UC CPAC Chair Shumaker stated, for the record, that he would like to reiterate that JSO has been requested to attend the Urban Core CPAC Meetings and that he will, once again, raise the concern at the CPAC Chairs' Quarterly Meeting with the Mayor's Staff.

**JFRD** – Captain James Groff stated that the demolition at the Doro Rise Apartments is on-going, the fire has been contained and that there are no accidents or surprises to report. Specific questions about the cause or any findings should be addressed to the State Fire Marshal's Office, as they handle all of the investigations.

**Captain James Groff** – (904) 255-8320 or [JGroff@coj.net](mailto:JGroff@coj.net)

**Parks, Recreation and Community Services** - Not Present.

**Military Affairs and Veterans (MAV) Department** – Chip Harper, Veterans Outreach Coordinator, stated,

- that this past weekend March 2 and 3, 2024, Veterans Affairs was able to attend the Home and Patio show; staff a booth and was able to reach a thousand people and let them know about the MAV Program and what we offer to our veterans;
- The Players Championship (TPC) Military Job Fair will be Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Peak, TPC Sawgrass.
- On March 22, 2024, Jacksonville's Legal Aid will come and assist veterans with legal services from 9 am to 12 pm;
- The department will also offer free tax preparation services to any veteran or active duty members;
- The Memorial Day Observance is Monday, May 27, 2024, starting at 8 am at the Veterans Memorial Wall.
- Save the Date for Military Spouses Night Out will be June 20, 2024, from 5 pm to 8 pm. The department is looking forward to having a great time with all the spouses and showing them appreciation.
- With the support of Mayor Deegan, the Military Affairs and Veterans Department is hard at work on finding a potential location for the future Veterans Community Center, that will be developed to serve the needs of community, veterans, and military families.

**Chip Harper** – (904) 255-5537 or [ClarenceH@coj.net](mailto:ClarenceH@coj.net)

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

- Since February 5, 2025, MCCD has completed 1,061 inspections within the Urban Core.
- MCCD introduced a new systematic project in the Brooklyn neighborhood, which began on February 20, 2024. Fifty-one locations were cited. The goal was focused on vacant lots and otherwise unmaintained properties.
- Although these properties only took up three blocks within the neighborhood, numerous issues, which had gone unreported or unaddressed by the owners and landlords, were found and the results help to improve the aesthetic and property values in the neighborhood.
- The Urban Core Code Compliance Inspectors will be starting a new systematic on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, covering eight blocks in the 29<sup>th</sup> and Chase Neighborhood.
- Supervisor Billings noted that the smaller scale projects and targeted systematic inspections have returned great results in the division.
- Billings reiterated that the end goal is to ensure uniformity and voluntary compliance with citizens to ensure that owners and landlords are notified of potential hazards and maintenance issues on their properties.
- Citizens are strongly encouraged to report any issues that come to their attention by contacting the call center at 630-CITY or by going to [www.MyJax.custhelp.com](http://www.MyJax.custhelp.com)
- As a reminder, Florida Statute requires that anyone reporting non-life threatening issues provide their name, address, and any additional information, including their contact number or email address to enable the to department to maintain contact for follow-up or notification of case progression.

**Chris Billings** - (904) 497-9543 or [CBillings@coj.net](mailto:CBillings@coj.net)

**Neighborhood Services Office** – Lisa Ransom, Neighborhood Services Manager, greeted everyone and expressed appreciation for their CPAC participation. Ms. Ransom made the following announcements:

- The Neighborhoods Department has two College Interns on loan from FSCJ (Florida State College of Jacksonville), Thaisha Correas and Jarvis Fears, through the Year Up Program. Ms. Correas will work directly with the Neighborhood Services Office and Mr. Fears will work primarily with the Environmental Quality Division (EQD), but both will have an opportunity to attend all six CPAC Meetings. They will be with us through July and the goal is to introduce them to city government and how things work, giving them a professional experience.
- CommUniverCity starts April 2, 2024. This free training program is for neighborhood leaders. There are a total of six classes, including a neighborhood bus tour, on a chartered bus. We will also have presenters from all the major city departments and we will conclude the program with a graduation ceremony. Ms. Ransom asked previous CommUniverCity participants in the room to please raise their hands. There were several in attendance. For those interested in attending or for additional information, please contact [LRansom@coj.net](mailto:LRansom@coj.net) or see your Neighborhood Coordinator, Edwina Henry, for an application.
- Ms. Ransom sends an email announcing the CPAC Meetings each month to the directors of city departments and agencies, including JSO. She stated that she is aware that this is the third consecutive month that JSO has not sent a representative to the UC CPAC meeting and that she will check into the reason why. She thanked the CPAC for their patience and said she looks forward to full participation next month (April 2024).

**Lisa Ransom** – (904) 255-8250 or [LRansom@coj.net](mailto:LRansom@coj.net)

**7. Old Business:** Review of Urban Core CPAC projects submitted for the Capital Improvement Project, open discussion, then vote. Chair Shumaker acknowledged two items that were submitted:

- Submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries – this project is in the Brentwood Neighborhood, along Pearl Street, between 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Streets.
  - The proposed project is to develop a complete street, after resurfacing by adding bike lanes and on-street parking, line striping, traffic calming by narrowing to one lane in each direction; adding curb extensions and crosswalks at intersections, improving, and adding street lighting, especially on the east side of the street; adding greenery and natural sunshade along the street and sidewalks. The goal is to create a safer environment for residents and students from nearby Andrew Jackson School and to inspire economic investment and businesses along Pearl Street.

Chair Shumaker moved to submit the project. It was properly moved and seconded – after discussion – the motion carried.

- Submitted by SPAR and SAMBA – this project is in the Springfield Neighborhood.
  - The proposed project is to make improvements to the Kennedy Community Center, located at 1133 Ionia Street, as follows: update the playground equipment and install pickleball courts.

Chair Shumaker moved to submit the project. It was properly moved and seconded – after discussion – the motion carried.

Chair Shumaker thanked everyone for their involvement in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) recommendation process and suggested that committee members reach out to their neighborhood organizations and start thinking about projects that could be forwarded through the process for next year, because the CIP is a good opportunity to get the city to improve our neighborhoods.

Also under "Old Business," Kim Pryor stated that last month she brought to the CPAC's attention that UC CPAC attendees were not allowed to enter the Library through the Conference Level doors facing Main Street. Ms. Henry indicated that she would speak to someone to allow access through the Conference Level doors. However, Ms. Pryor observed several people standing at the Main Street doors seeking entry but were denied. Ms. Pryor has escalated the issue by leaving a message for the head of library security to address the matter. Ms. Pryor and Ms. Henry met with one of the library supervisors on staff and raised the issue. They are hoping to have the matter resolved by the April 2024 meeting.

**8. New Business:** CPAC Chairs' Quarterly Meeting – the next meeting is May 10, 2024, and Chair Shumaker would like all committee members to think about topics they may want presented. Ms. Henry distributed a form for CPAC Members to jot down their topics for the Chair's consideration. Chair Shumaker would like to receive Member's input by the next CPAC Meeting, April 1, 2024. The Quarterly Meeting is an opportunity for each of the six CPAC Chairs to address matters of concern in their communities. Please forward any items to the Neighborhood Coordinator and Ms. Henry will forward them to the Chair.

#### **9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:**

- **Governmental Affairs/LUZ** – Dimitri Demopoulos: The subcommittee had three items to consider, two of which required no action, but the third item was a reemergence of an issue from last year and the subcommittee is recommending sending a letter to City Council expressing opposition and another letter to be sent to the Land Use and Zoning Chair and the Downtown Development Review Board.
  - The LUZ Subcommittee is recommending, in a letter to City Council, that the Urban Core CPAC oppose the application for rezoning to PUD, as set forth in 2024-0152. The motion was made and seconded. After discussion, the motion carried.
  - The LUZ Subcommittee is also recommending that the Urban Core CPAC oppose Ordinance 2024-0152 Rezoning at 1007 Hendricks Avenue, 0 and 1954 Prudential Drive, and 0 Home Street (between Prudential Drive and Hendricks Avenue) CCB to PUD, to permit commercial uses as described in the Downtown Southbank Mixed Use PUD by G.I.S. Holdings and Karen Hirshberg. The motion was made and seconded. After discussion, the motion carried.
- **Blight Subcommittee** – Juanita Senior: The February subcommittee meeting was a disappointment, no one attended. The meeting was held on the same day as the Friendship Fountain rededication, but Ms. Senior added that she hopes to see everyone at this month's Blight Subcommittee Meeting.
- **Homelessness Subcommittee** – Cory Haynes: No report.
- **T.R.U.E. (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission** – Kim Pryor: The Commission has lots of presentations. The Council auditors discuss various reports, for example JEA has millions of dollars in their budget surplus, yet they are talking about rate increases. Ms. Pryor also stated that making sense of all the data that is shared has been somewhat of a learning curve and that she is trying to understand the actual purpose of the T.R.U.E. Commission. They receive notifications of the new bills that are filed, but this

information is also available to anyone on-line. The Commission meets the first Thursday of every month in the Don Davis Room at City Hall, 117 W. Duval Street, and meetings are open to the public if anyone would like to attend.

**10. Public Comments and Announcements:**

- **Pam Sorenson**, resident of the Peninsula Condominiums on the Southbank, wants to thank the Urban Core CPAC for voting to stop the proposed storage facility she noted that this was the third reincarnation of the proposed development and that the CPAC letter of opposition was such a big help to the community last year and will mean so much again this year in their efforts to stop the development.
- **Ernest Smith** asked if the UC CPAC Governmental Affairs Subcommittee was designed only to review zoning ordinances or if it could address any ordinance that affects the Urban Core or the city? Neighborhood Services Manager, Lisa Ransom responded by saying that the purview of the CPAC is detailed in the Executive Order, and while the CPAC may look at all kinds of ordinances, its strongest authority comes from the Executive Order. Mr. Smith followed up by asking if there is a specific mechanism for a member of the public or the CPAC to suggest an ordinance be reviewed during the committee? Ms. Ransom responded that any CPAC member could make a motion to review an ordinance, or through "new business" or some other mechanism. Ms. Ransom wishes to reiterate that the Executive Order charges the CPAC with specific tasks, which must follow specific procedures. For example, letters of opposition or support of a land use zoning bill goes back to the Planning and Development Department and then there's a mechanism to forward that to City Council. However, if its not a matter addressed by the Executive Order, the CPAC could still prepare a letter of support or opposition, it just would not have the same weight (authority) behind it. Also, there is no department or mechanism that is going to bring ordinances to the CPAC for deliberation, and any discussion must be done in an open meeting.
- **Ariane Randolph**, resident of the historic Eastside, wants to know if the Urban Core CPAC took a position on the Armada development at any time? Chair Shumaker indicated that the Urban Core CPAC did not take a position on the Armada development but deferred to the Planning and Development Department. Now that the application has gone through City Council, Ms. Randolph was directed to follow-up with legislative services, as they will process the legislation. Chair Shumaker noted that the Urban Core CPAC does not have a representative from the Eastside and he encouraged Ms. Randolph to look at the process of applying for CPAC Membership.

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