

Southwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

March 8, 2021 Meeting Summary

Mary Lena Gibbs Community Center, 6974 Wilson Blvd. 32210

Zoom Meeting ID: 953 4177 6452 Passcode: 276301

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members In-Person: Dr. Willie Crosby, Chair; Christina Purdy, Vice Chair; Tom Martin, Watermill Masters HOA; Bruce Tyson, Trinity Ministries; Len Burroughs, Murray Hill Preservation Association

CPAC Members Via Zoom: Linda & Darrell Barrow, Budget Automotive Repair, Inc.; Bill Fonferek, Westland Communities HOA

Visitors: Susan McCullough, COEA; Carol McGraph

Staff and Elected Officials: Michelle Worley, Executive Secretary to State Rep. Angie Nixon; Nikki Evans, Executive Assistant to CM Ronald Salem at Large 2; Lynne Baldwin, JPL; Sgt. Karen Dukes, JSO; Chief Donald Blanton, JFRD; Ernest Murphy, MCCD; Chris Billings, MCCD; Renee Goode, JEA; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office; Andy Hetzel, Planning and Development; Jeremy Wright, Public Works; Robert Maldonado, Jacksonville Legal Aide; Dawn Gilman, Changing Homelessness; Shay Hill, JEA

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Crosby called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified a quorum.
- 2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** The February 2021 summary was approved by the CPAC.
- 3. Elected Officials' Reports:**
 - Michelle Worley, Executive Secretary to State Representative Angie Nixon, announced that they have moved into a new office at 3890 Dunn Ave. Representative Nixon's contact phone number is 904-924-1500.
 - Nikki Evans, Executive Assistant to Council Member Ron Salem, reported that the Mental Health Offender Program (MHOP) passed. The program is designed to reduce the number of mentally ill people who end up in jail. The MHOP Program will divert qualifying cases into a treatment program instead of the traditional court system. The MHOP plans to collaborate with the City of Jacksonville, Lutheran Services of Florida, the Public Offender's Office, JSO, Sulzbacher Center, and Gateway Community Services for programming. Ms. Evans also announced that Council Member Salem has proposed that the City name the baseball grounds at J.P. Smalls Park in Durkeeville after iconic baseball legend Hank Aaron. Nikki Evans may be reached at (904) 255 – 5146 or nevens@coj.net
- 4. Presentation:** Dawn Gilman, CEO Changing Homelessness, reported that the homeless camp on the empty lot at Union Street and Jefferson Street is a health issue, and will be closed because of the number of people living there. Various organizations such as Sulzbacher Center, JASMYN, City Rescue Mission, and Clara White Mission are working in collaboration with Changing Homelessness to provide temporary bridge shelter for 30 days for those who are interested until permanent shelter can be found. Dawn Gilman may be reached at 904-354-1100 or dgilman@eshcnet.org
- 5. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) –** Sgt. Karen Duke reported that the percentage of traffic fatalities have increased due to people not wearing their seat belts. JSO is encouraging people to wear their seat belts and to be defensive drivers. Sgt. Karen Duke may be reached at (904) 573-3165
- 6. Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD) –** Chief, Donald Blanton had no report, but was available for questions. Chief Donald Blanton may be reached at (904) 630-0841 or dblanton@coj.net
- 7. Chair's Report:** Chair Crosby announced that the St. Johns River Celebration 26th Annual Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2021, and that he will be the site captain for McGirts Creek Park, located at 8435 118th St. from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Chair Crosby asked that Southwest CPAC members join him and his family for the cleanup. Chair Crosby announced that he received a letter from Capital and Budget Operations Administrator Teresa Eichner. The letter request that the Southwest CPAC reach out to their neighborhoods to identify one priority capital improvement project (CIP). The recommendations will be considered for inclusion into the proposed FY 2022-2026 CIP. The deadline to return the Southwest

CPAC's CIP recommendation list is May 21, 2021. Chair Crosby asked CPAC members to submit their recommendations to Neighborhood Coordinator Michelle Godwin at michellegw@coj.net before the meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021. The final list will be created during the May 10, 2021 full CPAC meeting. Chair Crosby thanked Vice Chair Purdy for creating a letter inviting organizations to the Southwest CPAC meetings. Ms. Godwin will send the invitation to registered neighborhood organizations in the Neighborhood Organization Directory before April's meeting.

8. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:

- **LUZ Subcommittee** – Chair Crosby reported that the subcommittee reviewed one application, Ordinance 2021-0138 for Rezoning to Conventional Zoning. The subcommittee motioned to send a letter in opposition to the application because there is not enough information regarding the project. The full CPAC approved the motion.
Andy Hetzel may be contacted at (904) 255-7821 AHetzel@coj.net
- **Cecil Field Report** – No report.
- **T.R.U.E. Commission** – Bruce Tyson reported on the March 4, 2021 Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditure Commission (T.R.U.E) meeting:
 - The T.R.U.E. Commission has requested a copy of JSO's budget for FY 2015 through FY 2020 for analysis. Commissioner Merritt will prepare a crime statistics template, which can be used to compare crime statistics from different cities.
 - The T.R.U.E. Commission has requested audit information for the Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business Program (JSEB).
- **Transportation** – Tom Martin reported on the March 3, 2021 North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting:
 - North Florida TPO CAC approved the CAC membership request for a member to represent Duval County At-Large.
 - North Florida TPO CAC approved the North Florida TPO's request to amend the FY 2020/21 through FY 2021/22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add some unused funds from the FY 2018/19 through FY 2019/20 Unified Planning Work Program.
 - North Florida TPO CAC approved the FDOT request to amend FY 2020/21 through FY 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and to modify the length of some projects in Duval and St. Johns County. FDOT added a rail safety project in Nassau County, added Federal fund for the operation and purchase of busses in Duval, St. Johns, Clay, and Nassau counties. Added Federal planning funds for the North Florida TPO.
 - North Florida TPO CAC approved JTA's request to amend FY 2020/21 through FY 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add Federal funds for bus and bus facilities, and Federal funds for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Southwest Corridor.
 - North Florida TPO CAC approved the joint certification of the Metropolitan Transport Planning Process. This certification is required by various Federal regulations.
 - North Florida TPO CAC approved the 2021 list of priority projects.
 - North Florida TPO CAC was advised that funding of the North Florida TPO is, in part, from an annual assessment. Each of the four counties pay 25 cents per capita. Each of the five authorities also pay an assessment.
 - North Florida TPO CAC received a presentation on the draft of the requested studies for the FY 2021/22 Unified Planning Work Program. Approval of the list will take place during April's meeting.
 - North Florida TPO CAC received a presentation by Robert Peek of Jaxport on the pandemic's economic impact as it relates to Jaxport. The volume of products from China has fallen, while the volume of products shipped from the Indian Ocean ports via the Suez Canal has increased. The trucking industry has a problem with insufficient number of truck drivers.
 - North Florida TPO CAC received a presentation by Cherry Shaw Pollock on Florida's Sunshine Law.
 - North Florida TPO CAC received an update presentation on Smart North Florida by Jeff Sheffield.The next North Florida TPO CAC meeting will be held Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 2 p.m.

9. Staff Reports:

- **Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA)** – Renee Goode, Government Relations, reported that JEA has a new Chief Executive Officer, Jay Stowe who has made some positive changes in a short amount of time. Ms. Goode also reported that JEA is partnering with the City of Jacksonville to begin the septic tank phase out project. Additional funding was found to complete the project in three neighborhoods, Biltmore C, Beverly Hills, and Christobel. Ms. Goode also announced another Rent and Utility Assistance Bill should be released soon. Ms. Goode reported that there has been an increase in phone scams using

JEA's phone number (904) 665-6000. She advised that JEA will never threaten or demand instant payment by phone, or at a retail location. Ms. Goode suggested that if in doubt call (904)665-6000 or sign in to your JEA account to verify your balance and due date.

Renee Goode may be reached at goodrr@jea.com

- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)** – Lynne Baldwin, Executive Assistant Library Services I, reported that AARP Tax Aide will be available to provide free tax preparation at the West Branch Library to low and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 50 and older until April 15, 2021. You must call (904) 513-8627 to schedule an appointment. Ms. Baldwin reminded CPAC members that the library offers many virtual programs that may be found on the Jacksonville Public Library's website www.jaxpubliclibrary.org

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

- **Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD)** – Ernest Murphy, Senior Code Compliance Officer, reported that a systematic inspection in the Hyde Park neighborhood was completed this month, resulting in a total of 280 properties being cited. Municipal Code Compliance Division Zone 4 will conduct its next systematic inspection in the Hillcrest neighborhood. Mr. Murphy reminded CPAC members that the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program (JAR) is still available for those who need abatement services due to disability or economic disadvantage. To find out if you qualify for the JAR program, visit <https://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program>.

Ernest Murphy may be contacted at (904)255-7096 or Emurphy@coj.net

- **Public Works** – Jeremy Wright, Compliance Manager, reported that the widening of Chaffee Road from two lanes to four lanes is in the 90 percent plan phase. The request for bids will go out soon for the repairs to Fire Station 56. The Lake Shore drainage improvement project has been awarded. Tillie Fowler Regional Park is in the award and contracting phase, and is scheduled to receive a kayak launch, paved parking lot and paved trail.

Jeremy Wright may be reached at (904) 255-4353 or wrightj@coj.net

- **Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)** - Cheryl Riddick, Director Customer Engagement, reported that JTA has now partnered with zTrip to provide discounted safe, clean, and reliable transportation to available COVID-19 vaccination locations. JTA is still allowing healthcare workers and citizens aged 65 and older to ride on JTA's fixed bus routes for free by simply showing their COVID-19 vaccine appointment information, work identification or Florida Identification.

Cheryl Riddick may be contacted at (904) 632-5522 or Criddick@jtafla.com

10. **Neighborhood Coordinator's Report** – Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Service Coordinator, announced that the Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Remote Collection Event is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ed Austin Regional Park, located at 3450 Monument Road. Ms. Godwin also announced that Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) will hold its second annual Whiskers and Wave Adoption Event on Sunday, March 21, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Latham Plaza, located at 11 Ocean Front N., Jacksonville Beach.

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

11. **Unfinished Business** - None

12. **New Business** – None

13. **Public Comments/Concerns/Announcements**

- Robert Maldonado, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid Attorney, Fair Housing Unit, announced that Jacksonville Area Legal Aid is assisting anyone who needs legal assistance regarding non-payment of rent, poor living conditions due to landlord neglect, illegal evictions, and mobile home park disputes. To schedule an appointment call (904) 356-8371 ext. 391 or visit the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid website, <https://www.jaxlegalaid.org>.
- Susan McCullough stated that she has spoken to Council Member Randy DeFoor and her Executive Assistant Brooks Dame regarding the selection of a citizen to represent Council District 14 on the Southwest CPAC. Ms. McCullough announced that the Mayor has signed a proclamation regarding the City of Jacksonville becoming an age friendly community. Council of Elder Affairs (COEA) is in the planning phase for the new Livable Communities program and is working on creating a survey to assess the demographics to make Jacksonville an age friendly city. If you are interested in becoming part of COEA, please contact Carrence Bass, Executive Director of the COEA program at (904) 255-5413 or cbass@coj.net for more information.

14. **Adjourn:** Chair Dr. Willie Crosby adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Next CPAC Meeting: April 12, 2021 6:30 p.m. In person at Mary Lena Gibbs Community Center, 6974 Wilson Blvd. and via Zoom, Meeting ID: 953 4177 6452 Passcode: 276301. A formal email notice will be emailed to members.

Next Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Subcommittee Meeting: April 12, 2021 5:30 p.m. In person at Mary Lena Gibbs Community Center, 6974 Wilson Blvd. and via Zoom, Meeting ID: 953 4177 6452 Passcode: 276301. A formal email notice will be emailed to members.

Summary prepared by Michelle Godwin, Neighborhood Coordinator, 255-8236 or michellegw@coj.net. A copy of the audio recording of this Southwest 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](#).

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V (904) 630-4940, TTY-(904) 630-4933, or email your request to ADAaccommodationrequest@coj.net

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