

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 8, 2021 Meeting Summary

Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225

Meeting Attendance:

Members: Will Messer, Chair; Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Mike Anania, Arlington Business Society; Bob Barletta, Charter Point Community Association; Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Andre Boutte', Hickory Creek HOA; Pam Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Delmas Harper, POISE, Inc.; Lenny Hanapel, Covington Creek HOA;; Shelia Lithwhiler, Beachwood Civic Association Community; Pete Miller, Indian Springs Community Association; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; Jerry Petoskey, Old Mill Cove Community Organization; John Roberts, The Valley at Hidden Hills; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA; Justine Wadyko, Waterleaf HOA

Excused: Tim Keeley, Vice Chair; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington; Joseph Manitone, The Woods

Visitors: Nicole Hamm, Southern Grove; Cliff Hardy, University Park Civic Association; Peter Mione; Mike Corcoran, Kensington; Roberta Thomas; Ed Shvila, The Woods; L.A.

Staff: Chet Aikens, Executive Council Assistant, District 1; Michelle Begley, DCPS; Assistant Chief Burton, JSO; Bradley Clayton, Municipal Code Compliance; Chester Clement, JFRD; Joyce Morgan, City Council District 1; Jackie Spiritas, JPL; Steve Long, Public Works; Connie Quinto, Planning and Development Department; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Kara Tucker, Parks, Recreation and Social Services; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office.

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Messer called the February 2021 GAB CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary – The January 2021 meeting summary was approved.

Presentation(s): Richard Ward, Director of General Services and Emergency Preparedness, Florida Department of Health in Duval County provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccination status. To date, Duval County has received 16,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine. Doses of the Pfizer vaccine are expected to arrive soon. Duval County does have one hospital, UF Health Jacksonville with ultra-cold storage ability; UF Health will be able to accept and store the Pfizer vaccine.

The COVID-19 Time-Phased Vaccination Strategy is currently in Phase 1 and the vaccine is currently being provided to first responders, healthcare workers, adults over 65 years of age, those that reside in congregate settings (long term care facilities) and people with high-risk health conditions. As vaccination availability increases, we will move into Phase 2. Phase 2 includes workers in critical positions and individuals with underlying conditions. In Phase 3, all workers in general settings, children and young adults will be vaccinated. Phase 4 will provide vaccinations to everyone who did not have access during previous phases.

It was stated that during Phase 2 and beyond, vaccinations should be available at open PODS (Point of Dispensary) which would include local pharmacies, retail stores, grocery stores and possibly at fair grounds/stadiums that can offer a drive through POD.

There are two federal pharmacy programs in place. The first is called Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Program. In this program, Walgreens and CVS will partner with the CDC to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccinations at nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other group homes. The second program is called the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership. This program will open offer vaccinations at retail stores. In Duval County, Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, Publix Supermarkets, Costco Wholesale Corp., and Winn Dixie Stores will participate.

Community based COVID-19 testing will continue as usual. Testing is still available at the Regency Square Mall, Duval County Health Department, urgent care centers and local community centers. Please visit <https://www.jaxready.com/covidtesting> to confirm testing site hours of operation.

Elected Officials Report:

Joyce Morgan, City Council Member, District 1, provided the following updates:

- The next City Council Meeting will be held tomorrow night, Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 5:00 pm. Everyone was encouraged to join in on Zoom.
- The February District 1 Zoom Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for this Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Council Member Morgan will have representation from JSO, to address the Safer Together Series of Workshops and upcoming walk in the Riverton area. Public Works Department will address garbage related issues.
- Friends of Blue Cypress Park will meet again; they are currently working on the next meeting date. The Friends of Blue Cypress are looking for individuals that have a passion for tennis, football, the swim team, and golf to get involved with them.
- The Park Safety Council is looking for those that have an interest in their parks to serve on this council.

Council Member Morgan – 904-630-1389 or joycemorgan@coj.net

Staff Reports:

JSO – Assistant Chief Burton shared that both violent crime and property crime is down in Zone 2. Due to the pandemic, JSO has turned to virtual meetings for most of their community engagements. The next Sheriff's Watch meeting will be held on February 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. JSO is also holding a Zoom meeting with the St. Johns Courts Apartment community (7925 Merrill Road); this will be their second apartment based virtual community meeting. Assistant Chief Burton stated that she and her JSO team are available to work with the various community groups virtually or in person. There was a concern expressed about the drivers ignoring the traffic laws and a request for additional patrols. To request additional traffic patrols in a specific area, please call 904-630-0500 and provide day or days of the week, location, and times that the patrols are needed.

Zone 2 Substation - Phone: 904.630.8166 or 904.726.5100. Fax: 904.630.8170. JSOZone2@jaxsheriff.org

JFRD – Chester Clements informed the CPAC that since March 2020, JFRD rescue units have transported 1847 COVID-19 positive patients to area hospitals. A new fire station will be located near the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Arlington Road; construction just started.

Dr. Salem thanked JFRD for their hard work and participation of distributing the COVID-19 vaccine.

Duval County Public Schools – Michelle Begley stated DCPS are busy working on the Strategic Plan for the funds from the half cent tax increase. There are five things they are working on now:

- The citizens oversight committee is being appointed and organized. Plans are underway for initial meeting this month.
- A project management firm will be selected to oversee the early projects as the school district ramps up its own personnel to manage the construction internally. The district’s facilities team has requested proposals. After the proposals are evaluated, the district will make a recommendation for the School Board’s approval in early 2021.
- A prototype design for Rutledge Pearson Elementary is underway. Rutledge Pearson is scheduled for a new school on the same site as the current facility, located in Northwest Jacksonville. The new school will receive students from three separate schools being consolidated into a larger, brand new facility with an estimated cost of \$28 million. The school is named for Rutledge Pearson, an educator and civil rights activist.
- Prototype designs are also underway for safety and security improvements. The design plans will include safety and security measures specifically designed for elementary, middle, and high schools. Within three years, safety and security upgrades will be made to every school building.
- The first revenues will arrive in February or March. The district’s finance and bond counsel team are currently exploring the best timing for a bond issue, which will allow the district to borrow against the guaranteed revenue of the half-penny over 15 years. A bond issue will provide funds to allow the district to start building and improving schools at a faster pace.
- The district will also launch a new website in early 2021 to track all the projects and finances associated with the voter approved half-penny.

JPL – Jackie Spiritas informed the CPAC that JPL has extended no fines for late returns until April 30, 2021. Ms. Spiritas did emphasize that while there are no fines, everyone is responsible to return the items that they have checked-out from the library. All the libraries are open and are increasing their virtual services and virtual programs that they offer.

The Jacksonville Public Library is proud to partner with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Tax Aide during the tax season each year to provide free tax preparation. Taxes will be prepared by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call (904) 513-8627 beginning February 9 or visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide and submit your ZIP code for the nearest location to schedule an appointment.

AARP Tax-Aide sites are serviced by IRS-certified volunteers that provide free tax counseling and preparation services to millions of low-and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 50 and older. There is no income or age limit for assistance at AARP Tax-Aide sites. However, AARP sites cannot assist rental property owners or small business owners. For complete details, please visit:

<https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/>

Jackie Spiritas – spiritas@coj.net

JTA- Cheryl Riddick informed the CPAC that JTA is now offering Ride to Health. In partnership with the City of Jacksonville, the Florida Department of Health for Duval County and other health service organizations, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority provides safe, clean, and reliable transportation to available COVID-19 vaccination distribution locations.

JTA's ReadIRide service is also providing on-call transportation to vaccination locations. To provide additional support to the community during COVID-19 vaccine distribution, JTA has expanded the coverage of their ReadIRide zones. Call (904) 679-4555 to confirm your eligibility and to make a reservation Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. To learn more about the ReadIRide Program, please visit: <https://www.jtafla.com/riding-jta/ride-to-health/>

Cheryl Riddick – criddick@jtafla.com

Municipal Code Compliance – Bradley Clayton informed the CPAC about the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program (JAR). The purpose of the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program is to facilitate a means of compliance to those who would otherwise be unable to achieve it due to disability or economic disadvantages. The Program's objective is to provide the abatement services required at no cost to those citizens who qualify, thereby achieving compliance and beautification of the City while not unduly burdening its most vulnerable citizens.

In the past 30 days a systematic inspection was completed in the Woodland Acres community and 298 properties were cited for violations. The next systematic inspection started today (February 8, 2021) in the Southside Estates Community.

Bradley Clayton - bclayton@coj.net

Parks, Recreation and Senior Services – Kara Tucker, Chief of Disabled Services provided the following updates:

- Bruce Park (6549 Arlington Road) Upgrades to be complete by 2/19
 - Restroom remodel
 - New playground
 - New trees
- Warrington Park (325 N. Bowlan Street)
 - New playground
 - New tables and connecting walkways
- Huffman Blvd Park (2775 Huffman Boulevard)
 - Inclusive Playground complete
 - Sensory Garden/Restroom remodel (new tables are on their way)
- Southside Senior/Community Center is under construction (located at Beach & Peach Park, adjacent to Beach Boulevard)
- 7 Creeks Recreational Area open
 - Connects National Park Service, State and Local Parks
 - <https://www.visitjacksonville.com/things-to-do/outdoors/parks/7-creeks/>

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Class of 2021 – deadline for the scholarship is April 23, 2021. To learn more about the scholarship, please visit <https://www.coj.net/departments/parks-and-recreation/disabled-services/programs-and-services/mark-roesser-scholarship-program>

Summer jobs are available through Parks, Recreation and Senior Services and they are currently looking for lifeguards. Some of the requirements needed to be hired as a lifeguard include must be able to swim 300 yards, able to tread water for 2 minutes without using your hands, able to retrieve a 10-pound brick from the bottom of the diving well. To learn more about the requirements to work as a lifeguard, please call 904.744.5557 or 904.255.4271 or Email: bealifeguard@coj.net

Kara Tucker – karat@coj.net

Planning and Development Department – Connie Quinto did not have a report but was available for questions.

Connie Quinto – ConnieQ@coj.net

Public Works – Steve Long, Chief of Right of Way and Storm Water Maintenance informed the CPAC due to the heavy rains that occurred last week and over the weekend, he and his team have been busy putting out barricades on flooded roads. Everyone was encouraged to pay attention to the barricades and signs warning of flooded roads. Several vehicles throughout the city ignored the warnings and drove around the barricades and flooded their cars.

A CPAC member inquired what should they do if a manhole cover is cracked and in need of repair? Mr. Long confirmed that manhole covers do have a life expectancy and do need to be replaced occasionally. Everyone was encouraged to use 630-CITY or MyJax (app or online) to report concerns or requests for service.

Steve Long – Slong@coj.net

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports (3-minute time limit):

LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs - Mike Anania - left before his report. Connie Quinto informed the CPAC that the subcommittee reviewed one application which was an Administrative Deviation to allow a fence in the front yard. The LUZ Subcommittee voted to take no action.

Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge – reminded the CPAC to be get more than one estimate for tree removal or large projects in their yard. Often there can be a significant difference in price. If you would like to have a tree planted on city right of way, please call 630-CITY and they can submit your request.

Environment – Lad Hawkins – not present

Membership – vacant

Transportation – Chair Messer - no report

Ad Hoc Committees:

North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Chair Messer – informed the CPAC that unfortunately he needs to resign as the NFTPO liaison; his work schedule has changed. A brief overview of the NFTPO region and types of projects were mentioned. Chair Messer encouraged anyone that is interested to serve as the liaison to the NFTPO to reach out to Rosemary for additional details.

One of the topics they discussed is the Divergent Diamond interchange that is under construction at J. Turner Butler Boulevard (SR 202) and San Pablo Road.

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – John Roberts stated the commission sent a letter to all the City Council Members and to the Mayor urging them to conduct a more detailed study before they commit to the proposed Lot J project.

Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski thanked the CPAC members for attending and informed the CPAC that NSO has a new team member. Jessica Denson has joined the NSO team and will be working with the Urban Core and Northwest Districts.

Rosemary Wesolowski – 255-8261 or rosemary@coj.net

Chairs Report – Chair Messer recognized the visitors in attendance, thanked them and encouraged them to attend another meeting. Chair Messer inquired if anyone would like a presentation on a specific concern or topic. Several suggestions have been submitted and they are: Update to the 2030 Comp Plan; Hurricane Preparedness and Resiliency; Art in Public Places; JSO to talk about crime and trash and littering along University Boulevard how to correct this problem. If you have a specific concern or topic of interest that you would like a presentation on, please email your suggestions to Rosemary at rosemary@coj.net.

Several additional topics were mentioned at the meeting; they were: presentation from Fish and Wildlife to discuss urban coyotes and eagles; and a presentation on feral cats and how an association can deal with them.

Old Business - none

New Business – none

Public Comment – none

Motion to Adjourn -The next meeting of the District 2 CPAC will be on **Monday, March 8, 2021** at

Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, 32225 at 6:30 pm.