

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 14, 2022 Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Attendance:

CPAC Members: Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Bob Barletta, Charter Point Community Association; Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Mary Jane Brewer, Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association; Pamela Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Michael Corcoran, Kensington HOA; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Lenore Hanapel, Covington Creek HOA; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington; Harley Herndon, Cypress Cove Good Neighbors; Will Messer, Chair, Queens Harbor POA; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; Jerry Petoskey, Old Mill Cove Community Organization; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA; Justine Wadyko, Waterleaf HOA

Excused: Tim Keeley, Vice Chair, Kensington Association

Visitors: Linda Nogle; Scott Cowitt, Hawkins Cove; Anne Waldron, COEA CD-1 Rep; Julie Hale, Kathy Walker; Debi Wagne; Hunter E

Staff: Erin Abney, Planning and Development Department; Bradley Clayton, Municipal Code Compliance; Steve Long, Public Works; Sharwonda Peek, Duval County Public Schools; Jackie Spiritas, JPL; Kara Tucker, Parks, Recreation and Social Services; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Messer called the February 2022 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 2022 GAB CPAC meeting summary was approved.

Presentation(s): Tracy McGeathey, Community Relations Specialist, JTA introduced herself and informed the CPAC that she will be the main point of contact for the JTA Roadway Mobility Works program. In the GAB CPAC District, the first Roadway Mobility Works project will be the San Pablo Road Project and the tentative start date is March 7, 2022.

Ms. McGeathey announced Nathaniel Ford, CEO, JTA would like to make sure that all the services, resources, and opportunities that JTA has to offer is known throughout the service area. To ensure lines of communication are open, JTA has created Community Pulse: CPAC Edition. Community Pulse will offer a series of meetings that will allow community members to meet directly with Mr. Ford to share the transportation/roadway needs of their communities. Additional information on Community Pulse will be forth coming.

JTA held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Jacksonville University (JU) to kick off the official opening of the Turbo Roundabout at the intersection of Merrill Road and University Boulevard N. on February 4, 2022.

The JTA My Ride 2 School Program began on January 4, 2022, and end on May 27, 2022. This program provides transportation for middle and high school students in Duval County (including private and independent schools) when school is in session. Students must show their school ID/badge to ride for free. If students do not have a school ID or badge, they must obtain a purple card from JTA at the

Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center at LaVilla. The average daily student ridership for January 4 through January 31, 2022 was 77 students per day in the GAB CPAC district and 126 student riders citywide.

JTA has extended the Local College Student Ride Free Program through May 2022. Full or ½ -time students at accredited colleges (Jacksonville University, Edward Waters University, University of North Florida, and Florida State College Jacksonville) can ride free with eligibility. Please check www.jtafla.com for more information.

Ms. McGeathey announced that JTA is hiring and encouraged anyone that is interested in possible employment with JTA to visit www.jtafla.com for complete details.

Lenore Hanapel, Covington Creek inquired about the start point of the JTA San Pablo Roadway project as her community is along the San Pablo Road. The Covington Creek HOA would like to move/prepare their irrigation system prior to the onset of work. Ms. McGeathey exchanged contact information with Ms. Hanapel. To reach Ms. Tracy McGeathey, you can reach her at her office phone number (904) 632-5297; cell number (904) 676-3823 and email address: tmcgeathey@jtafla.com.

Elected Officials Report:

Joyce Morgan, City Council Member, District 1 – on behalf of Council Member Morgan, Chair Messer shared the following report:

- Council Member Joyce Morgan and Council Member Matt Carlucci will hold a town hall meeting to discuss our current solid waste and recycling programs. The meeting will be held on February 15, 2022, 7:00 pm at Arlington Baptist Church, 6009 Arlington Road, Jacksonville Florida 32211.
- The Special Committee on Solid Waste will meet in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 117 West Duval Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202 on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 10:00 am – 11:30 am. Future meeting dates and meeting topics are:
 - March 3rd – Recycling
 - March 17th – Transfer Station
 - April 7th - Solid Waste Fee
 - April 21st – Current Status of Solid Waste Companies
 - May 5th - Current Status of Solid Waste Companies
 - May 19th – New Technologies
 - June 9th – Recommendations
 - June 23rd – Recommendations
- The final Rules Committee Meeting on Redistricting will be held at William M. Raines High School, 3663 Raines Avenue, 32209 on Thursday, February 17, 2022, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- World of Nations Celebration - 30th Anniversary will be held on February 26 and 27, 2022 at Metropolitan Park, 1410 Gator Bowl Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32202.
- City Council District 1 February Town Hall Meeting will be held at New Life International Seventh Day Adventist Church, 6429 Atlantic Blvd. Jacksonville, Florida 32211 on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 6:00 PM

- COVID-19 Testing Sites for the State of Florida Sites are at:
 - Emmett Reed Center, 1093 W. 6th Street Jacksonville, Florida 32209, Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM - PCR Testing only 24-48 hours - Walk up testing only.
 - Cuba Hunter Community Center, 4380 Bedford Road Jacksonville, Florida 32207, Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM.
- COVID-10 Testing Sites - City of Jacksonville Sites are:
 - Clanzel T. Brown w/AgapehealthJax at 4575 Moncrief Rd. Jacksonville, Florida 32209 Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 6 PM and Saturday, 9AM – 4PM, appointments not required.
 - Lane Wiley Senior Center w/AgapehealthJax at 6719 Wiley Rd. Jacksonville, Florida 32210 Monday - Friday, 9 AM – 6 PM and Saturday, 9 AM - 4 PM, appointments not required.
 - Beaches Location - 540 Atlantic Blvd. (Former Kmart Shopping Center), Neptune Beach, Florida 32266, Operated by Telescope Health Monday – Friday, 7 AM – 3 PM. Drive through testing for rapid on. PCR testing to come. Appointments not needed.

Joyce Morgan, 904-255-5201 or joycemorgan@coj.net

Staff Reports:

Duval County Public Schools – Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent School Choice, provided the following updates:

- Magnet School and Special Transfer applications are accepted from January 1st through February 28th. Families were encouraged to visit dcps.duvalschools.org/enroll for information and/or to visit the virtual school booths to gain insight on all the offerings in Duval County Public Schools (DCPS).
- Locally, there are a number of families taking advantage of the Family Empowerment Scholarship. The Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) provides eligible students a scholarship to attend a private school selected by the parent. Visit www.Fldoe.org/FES for more info.
- DCPS spends a considerable amount of time working with at our military installations to make sure military families are aware of all the choice options DCPS has to offer for their students.
- This will be the last school year (2021-2022) that DCPS students can participate in the Duval Homeroom Virtual Learning platform. There will be a new virtual learning opportunity in the 2022-2023 school year. The new platform is called Duval Virtual Instructional Academy and students will be required to apply to be a part of this program. Please contact DCPS Office of School Choice at: <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/schoolchoice> for additional information.
- The Office of School Choice is preparing to review their magnet programs and DCPS would like feedback from the community on the types of programing they would like to see in our magnet schools.
- In 2022-2023, Duval County Public Schools will be opening two public charter schools called Idea School. In the GAB CPAC District the school will be called IDEA River Bluff School located at 2354 University Blvd N, Jacksonville Florida 32211. For the 2022-2023 school year classes will be offered for students K-2 grade and for 6th grade students. To learn more about Idea School and/or to apply, visit <https://ideapublicschools.org/our-schools/idea-river-bluff/>

Sharwonda Peek - peeks@duvalschools.org

JPL – Jackie Spiritas announced:

- February is Black History month. JPL has many books, movies, and other educational materials for all ages to help celebrate Black history and culture.
- The Jacksonville Public Library is proud to partner with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) TaxAide again this year during the tax season to provide free tax preparation. Taxes will be prepared by appointment only. To schedule an appointment visit: aarpfoundation.org/taxaide
- 2022 Special Unitary General Election early voting will be held February 12, 2022 – February 20, 2022. Please visit the <https://www.duvalelections.com/General-Information/Learn-About-Elections/About-Early-Voting> for additional information about early voting. As a reminder, Election Day voting will be held on February 22, 2022, will be held 7:00 am - 7:00 pm and you may only vote at your precinct.
- Jacksonville Public Libraries will be closed on Monday, February 21, 2022, in observation of President’s Day.
- In honor of Jacksonville's 200th birthday, Jacksonville Public Library invites students in grades 4-12 to submit an original poem for the Jax Student Poetry Contest 2022. Entries should not exceed one page in length. Entries will be accepted online through April 30, 2022, and the top winners from three age categories will win a cash prize.

Jackie Spiritas – spiritas@coj.net

Municipal Code Compliance – Bradley Clayton provided the following updates:

- Code Compliance completed a systematic inspection in the Arlingwood community and 95 violations were cited.
- Since October 1, 2021, 5000 + inspections have been completed; 1505 inspections were completed in the past 30 days.

The Jacksonville Assistance and Relief or JAR program was discussed. 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.

If you cannot comply the violations on your property due to a disability or economic hardship, please feel free to visit:

<https://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program>

Bradley Clayton – BClayton@coj.net or 904-255-7038

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

- JaxParks is hiring lifeguards and the starting pay is \$12 per hour. Applicants must be able to swim a minimum of 300 yards, tread water with using their hands for two minutes and retrieve a 10-pound brick from the bottom of the diving well. Training for the lifeguard positions will be offered on multiple dates and locations. For more information, please call 904-255-6777 or 904-255-4271 or email bealifeguard@coj.net
- There will be a Zoom virtual meeting titled *ADA and Covid: What Employers Need To Know Now*. Barry Whaley from the Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University, will be the guest speaker. The purpose of the meeting is to learn about your employment and hiring practices as related to the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and how the latest Covid rules and guidelines impact staffing needs. This virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 1:30 -3:00 pm. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 904-255-5466. Once registered, login details will be provided.

Kara Tucker – KaraT@coj.net

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

Erin Abney – Eabney@coj.net

Public Works – Steve Long informed the CPAC member that:

- His is team is actively working to replace/repair pipes, sidewalks, ditches, and drainage throughout the area. Most of this work is in preparation for hurricane season.
- Everyone was encouraged to attend the Solid Waste Town Hall Meeting at Arlington Baptist Church, Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM at 6009 Arlington Road, Jacksonville Florida 32211.
- The Public Works Department has a number of open positions. Please visit the COJ website for employment opportunities.
- Earlier in the year a bid package went out to clean 50 or 60 outfall ditches including the Sandalwood Canal. Currently those bids are in the contract phase.

Chief Long addressed the following issues:

- It was brought to Chief Longs attention that the annual waste hauler collection calendars arrived in the mail today in several different neighborhoods. The calendars included recycling pickups. There was an inquiry if this indicated curbside recycling collection would resume? Chief Long will investigate.
- There was a question how a community can implement traffic calming in their neighborhood? Chief Long stated there is a process to be followed and he would research that information.
- The continued concern over two leaning trees in Hickory Creek was brought up. Chief Long will provide the contact information for the Chief of the Mowing and Landscaping Division.

Steve Long – Slong@coj.net

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

LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – Chair Will Messer served as Chair for the LUZ Subcommittee - the LUZ subcommittee reviewed three applications and no motions or actions were taken.

Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge – shared an ongoing problem in his neighborhood (River Woods – St. Johns Landing) and four surrounding communities. Teenagers from various communities are gathering and driving ATV's or golf carts through the neighborhood parks, common grounds and illegally on the streets. Most of the vehicles are not street legal and the operators do not appear old enough to have a driver's license. The teens tend to gather in three or four wooded areas within the various communities and it has been reported that they are smoking cannabis. Neighbors have called the police numerous times, but the teens have dispersed by the time police arrive.

Environment – Lad Hawkins – not present

Membership – vacant

Ad Hoc Committees:

North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Nicole Hamm – not present

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – John Roberts – not present

DCPS Sales Surtax Oversight Committee - Delmas “Dedee” Harper – not present

Park Safety Committee – Mary Jane Brewer stated there was a Parks Safety Committee meeting on January 24, 2022. The committee members had a presentation by the Parks Safety Auditor on how park inspections are completed and the criteria of the inspections. The Park Safety Committee members will get a monthly report from the Parks Safety Auditor. After the monthly report, the Park Safety Committee members will follow up and visit the problematic parks the auditor cited in their respective districts. At the upcoming February meeting, the first report will be presented to the committee and that information will be shared with the CPAC at the March CPAC meeting. It was emphasized that the Parks Safety Committee is still getting organized as a committee and determining what their roles will be.

Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski shared information about the upcoming St. Johns River Celebration and 27th Annual Cleanup on Saturday, March 19, 2022, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

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

Chairs Report – Chair Messer informed the CPAC that he attended the quarterly meeting with the Mayor's Staff and brought forth several GAB CPAC concerns that were expressed at previous CPAC meetings. The concerns discussed were:

- What is the current status of the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that the GAB CPAC has recommended? It was suggested that the CPAC should request a presentation from Bill Joyce, Operations Director, Public Works at a future meeting to provide an update on the various recommendations the CPAC previously submitted.

- How to handle the overgrowth of kudzu in preserve land that abuts neighborhoods to prevent possible property damage from weakened trees? It was recommended that the communities contact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the St. John's River Water Management District for their guidance.
- Panhandling seems to be occurring at many intersections and shopping center parking lots. Panhandling can be addressed by JSO. Please call 630-0500 to report panhandling.
- Curbside recycling collection will resume soon. An announcement is forthcoming.

Old Business - none

New Business – Chair Messer recognized visitors from the Hawkins Cove community and Council of Elder Affairs.

Public Comment – none

Motion to Adjourn – there was a motion and a second.

The next meeting of the District 2 CPAC will be on Monday, March 14, 2022 - In person the meeting will be held at Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, 32225 at 6:30 pm and the meeting will be available virtually on Zoom.