

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 13, 2023, Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Attendance:

CPAC Members: Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Pamela Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Michael Corcoran, Kensington HOA; Scott Cowitt, Hawkins Cove Owners Association, Inc.; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Nicole Hamm, Southern Grove Condominium; Delmas “Dedee” Harper, POISE, Inc.; Tim Keeley, Chair, Kensington Association; Shelia Litwhiler, Beachwood Civic Association; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; Leanna Pearce, Duval Democratic Environmental Caucus; Jerry Petoskey, Old Mill Cove Community Organization; Nina Pougliouklidis, Ibis Point Owners Association; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA; Justine Wadyko, Waterleaf HOA; Debra Wagner, Hawkins Cove Owners Association, Inc.; Anne Waldron, St. Johns Riverview Homes Condo Association

Excused: Bob Barletta, Charter Point Community Association; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington

Visitors: Robert Beckham, Pelican Bay HOA; Don; Mary Castor; C.A. Warren; 904-631-6401; Dan Durbec

Staff: Erin Abney, Planning and Development Department; Assistant Chief Alicea, JSO; Bradley Clayton, Municipal Code Compliance; Steve Long, Public Works Department; Daniel Piastuck, Parks, Recreation and Senior Services; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Lieutenant Jarmar Smith, JFRD; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office; Raelyn Wiirre, JPL

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Keeley called the February 2023 GAB CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary – The January 2023 meeting summary was approved by the GAB CPAC members.

Presentation(s): **Andrea Spencer, Elder Source, Vice President of Communications**, informed the CPAC about the programs offered through Elder Source.

Elder Source is a nonprofit organization designated by the State of Florida. Elder Source works with local, state and national partners to advocate on behalf of older adults and their needs.

Locally, Elder Source works with agencies to help provide congregate dining and home delivered meals, senior center programs, legal assistance, senior center programs, adult daycare, in-home services, consumer protection issues, minor home repairs, support for caregivers, health and wellness programs.

Additionally, SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and is operated in this area through Elder Source. SHINE offers older adults, adults with disabilities and their caregivers free counseling on Medicare and insurance issues. SHINE can be contacted at 1-800-96-ELDER.

Elder Source has an administrative office located at 10688 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL. 32257. The phone number for Elder Source is 1-888-242-4464. A complete list of Elder Source services and service partners can be found on their website: www.ElderSource.org

For additional questions you can contact Andrea Spencer at Andrea.Spencer@myeldersource.org

Elected Officials Report: None

Staff Reports:

JSO- Assistant Chief Alicea – provided the crime statistics for the past 30 days. The data revealed in Zone 2, property crime was up 10.13 % and violent crime was up 10.71% throughout the district.

Assistant Chief Alicea answered a few questions regarding homeless camps. If you have a concern regarding a possible homeless camp, please call JSO at 630-0500 and request an officer visit the suspected homeless camp.

A CPAC member shared an update on a recurring traffic/pedestrian safety concern with Assistant Chief Alicea on San Pablo Road near the elementary schools.

Substation 2 – 904-630-8166 or JSOZone2@jaxsheriff.org

JFRD – Lieutenant Jarmar Smith encouraged the CPAC members to create an evacuation plan for their home. Everyone that lives in the home or frequently stays in the home (grandchildren, caregivers) should be familiar with the evacuation plan so in the event of a fire, everyone can evacuate quickly and safely. Those with two story homes were reminded that their evacuation plan should include how to evacuate from the second floor as well.

Two CPAC members inquired about JFRD and COJ Municipal Code Compliance Division protocols that are followed after a residential fire. There were questions and a discussion about the roles and/or responsibilities of the homeowner after a residential fire. There was a lengthy discussion regarding follow up inspections, owner access passes, contractor access passes, how/when JFRD and MCCD determine if the structure is safe, and how it is determined if a demolition is needed.

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) – Raelyn Wiirre provided the following updates:

- JPL just started a Book Review Writing Contest. JPL is accepting entries from K-12 students until March 10, 2023. Book reviews should not exceed 300 words. Email entries to ilovebooks@coj.net with the book reviewer's name, parent's name, grade level and contact information. Or, fill out an entry form at your local library.
- Many of the libraries are Duval County Early Voting Sites. Early voting will be held March 6 through March 19, 2023. Ms. Wiirre provided a handout with all the early voting sites listed.
- The Jacksonville Public Library will partner with American Association of Retired People (AARP) to provide free tax preparation. Pre-registration is required. Beginning Tuesday, January 17, 2023, you can schedule an appointment at: www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations or call (904) 701-3462.

Raelyn Wiirre – rwiirre@coj.net

JTA- Cheryl Riddick confirmed JTA passengers who are age 65 and older are eligible to receive a Senior ID STAR Card. This card is required for seniors to ride JTA buses for free and must be presented upon boarding. To obtain a Senior ID STAR Card an individual will need to bring a government-issued photo ID showing your date of birth to one of the following locations:

- Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center at LaVilla (JRTC), 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- JTA Operations Campus, 100 N. Myrtle Avenue, Building 2, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Armsdale Park-n-Ride, 191 Armsdale Road, Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- Avenues Walk Park-n-Ride Center, 10508 Avenues Walk Boulevard, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- JTA offices are not open on Federal holidays.

A CPAC member shared an ongoing issue with the bus stop located at Kernan Boulevard and Beach Boulevard. Bus riders are leaving their empty shopping carts at the bus stops. Due to the amount of shopping carts left at the bus stop, the carts are starting to create a traffic safety issue on Beach Boulevard. Neighbors have called the stores that own the shopping carts and the City of Jacksonville multiple times trying to correct this problem to no avail. A request was made to JTA requesting assistance with the issue.

Cheryl Riddick – 904-630-3100

Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD) – Bradley Clayton reported on behalf of Zone 2 Supervisor Devron Cody shared the following updates:

- The Zone 2 MCCD completed the systematic inspection in the Woodland Acres community. This systematic inspection generated 544 new cases.
- 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>

- Florida Senate Bill 60 prohibits code inspectors from initiating investigations of potential violations of codes and ordinances by way of anonymous complaints. The tickets will be closed if they are submitted anonymously.

Devron Cody – Dcody@coj.net

Parks, Recreation and Community Services – Daniel Piastuck provided the following updates:

- Funding is in place for the Blue Cypress Golf Course to add three additional holes to the course.
- Additional funds have been approved for the completion of the Blue Cypress swimming pool.
- The ADA compliant boardwalk at Blue Cypress Park is scheduled to receive boardwalk improvements this year.
- Both softball fields at Ed Austin Regional Park will have field lights installed and a smaller playground by the softball fields will be reconstructed.
- Beach/Peach Park is scheduled to have a pump track installed. A pump track is a circuit of rollers, banked turns and features that are designed to be ridden by BMX bike or mountain bike riders.
- Parks, Recreation and Community Services is currently hiring lifeguards. Mr. Piastuck shared a handout that contained all the details about the job. For more information about the lifeguard employment opportunities, call 904-255-6777 or email bealifeguard@coj.net

The CPAC members inquired if the Parks Recreation and Community Services department could improve the lighting in the parking lot outside of the PAL Building at Ed Austin Regional Park. It was noted that it is a safety hazard and dark in the parking lot when the CPAC meetings end.

Public Works – Steve Long shared the following updates:

- In front of Jacksonville University (JU) the newly constructed roundabout at the intersection of Merrill Road and University Boulevard N will have an art piece installed soon.
- Complete Street Program projects are underway on Merrill Road and University Boulevard N. Once the projects have been completed, both roads will be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.
- Public Works is currently in a design phase to connect Lone Star Road and Trednick Parkway. The design phase is expected to be completed this year.
- There is a new fire station under construction on Arlington Road (near the Glynlea community). Construction on the fire station is nearing completion and the fire station should be operational in the next few months.
- Director Long stated that he would follow up with JFRD Fire Chief Powers regarding the procedures JFRD and MCCD use to communicate the status of homes that have sustained significant damage from a fire.

Planning and Development Department – Erin Abney – no report

Erin Abney – Eabney@coj.net

Subcommittee Reports (3-minute time limit):

LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – Michael Corcoran - the LUZ subcommittee reviewed two new LUZ applications and took no action on either of the applications.

Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge recommended that gardeners hold off on planting new plants for a couple of weeks. Mr. Belge shared the Florida Times Union prints local planting guides. The planting guides offer recommendations on what and when to plant most types of plants, shrubs, and vegetables.

Environment – Lad Hawkins – not present

Membership – vacant

Ad Hoc Committees:

North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Scott Cowitt stated that the NFTPO met last week and reviewed FDOT funded projects. It was noted that in addition to roadways, FDOT also funds, creates, and maintains numerous bicycle and pedestrian trails throughout the state.

In the GAB District, the FDOT projects include:

- Timucuan Trail (from Fort George Island to Hanna Park) will receive some improvements.
- On Beach Boulevard (starting at Parental Home Road and ending at I-295), a project will be completed to increase pedestrian/bicycle safety and improve several intersections.

Park Safety Council – Mary Jane Brewer – no report

TRUE Commission- vacant

Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski informed the group that in October, CPAC’s will celebrate their 30th Anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, there was a request for any CPAC memorabilia, especially items, pictures, or appointment letters from the 1990’s.

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

Chairs Report – Chair Keeley shared that he attended the quarterly meeting with the Mayor’s staff last Friday. Some of the topics that were discussed tonight will be brought up at the next meeting with the Mayor’s staff.

Old Business - none

New Business – none

Public Comment – Dan Durbec, Environmental Programs Specialist, informed the CPAC about the upcoming St. Johns River Cleanup on March 18, 2023 and shared the various cleanup sites located throughout the GAB District. If you would like to participate in the clean up or serve as a site captain, please contact Dan Durbec at ddurbec@coj.net or 904-255-8276.

Motion to Adjourn – there was a motion and a second; the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the District 2 CPAC will be on Monday, March 13, 2023 - the meeting will be held in-person at Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, 32225 at 6:30 pm and the meeting will be available virtually on Zoom.