

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

March 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.; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Nicole Hamm, Southern Grove Condominium; Lenore Hanapel, Covington Creek HOA; Delmas “Dedee” Harper, POISE, Inc.; Harley Herndon, Cypress Cove Good Neighbors; Michael Journey, City Council District 4; Tim Keeley, Chair, Kensington Association; Shelia Litwhiler, Beachwood Civic Association; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; 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.

Excused: Bob Barletta, Charter Point Community Association; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington

Visitors: Robert Beckham, Pelican Bay HOA; Jett Shields; Tyler Shields; Dewitt Robinson; Judy Heffron; Deborah Jones; Charlotte Daniels

Staff: Chester Aikens, City Council District 1 Executive Council Assistant; Erin Abney, Planning and Development Department; James Carroll, Public Works Department; Nikki Evans, City Council At-Large Group 2, Executive Council Assistant; Chiquita Moore, Neighborhoods Department; Ernest Murphy, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Sara Radovic, JPL; Lieutenant Jarmar Smith, JFRD; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Keeley called the March 2023 GAB CPAC meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Presentation(s): David Johnston, Office of Inspector General, Director of Audit, provided the CPAC with an overview of the duties of the Inspector General.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was established in 2014 with the purpose to:

- Provide increased accountability, integrity, and oversight of the consolidated government.
- Assist in promoting economy and efficiency within agency operations,
- Deter and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

The jurisdiction of the OIG is anywhere City money touches; City Government, Constitutional Officers, City Contractors, Grant Recipients, and the Independent Agencies (JEA, JHA, JPA, JTA, JAA, and DCPS).

Another responsibility of the OIG is Whistleblower Protection. Their protection includes:

- Prevents agencies from taking retaliatory action against any employee or contractor who reports fraud, waste, or abuse.
- The Inspector General is the “whistleblower official” for the consolidated government of Jacksonville.
- To qualify:
 - Complaint must be a city employee or contractor.
 - The violation reported creates a substantial and specific danger to the public’s health, safety, or welfare.
 - The violation reported is gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, a gross waste of public funds, or gross neglect.

Tips can be made anonymously or:

- In person: 231 East Forsyth Street, Suite 470 Jacksonville, FL 32202 (in the Yates Building)
- Call: (904) 255-5800
- Email: Inspectorgeneral@coj.net
- Online: www.coj.net/oig

Elected Officials Report:

Chet Aikens, City Council District 1, Executive Council Assistant provided the following updates:

- Council Member Morgan has introduced legislation 2023-86 to rescind the proposed use of land at Victory Park to build a Head Start Early Learning Center. This will be discussed at the March 14, 2023, City Council meeting.
- The next Council District 2 Town Hall meeting will be held on March 27, 2023, at the Regency Square Branch Library, 9900 Regency Square Boulevard, 32225 at 6:00 pm.
- Election Day is March 21, 2023; everyone was encouraged to vote.

Joyce Morgan, City Council District 1 – 255-5201 or joycemorgan@coj.net

Nikki Evans, City Council At-Large – Group 2, Executive Council Assistant announced on March 15, 2023, Council Vice President Salem’s pilot composting program (for Riverside/Avondale restaurants) will begin. The six-month pilot program was designed to test the efficacy and benefits of commercial composting.

Ron Salem, City Council Vice President – 255-5216 or Rsalem@coj.net

Michael Journey, City Council District 4, CPAC Representative stated Bill 2022-0574 that was introduced by City Council Member Carrico passed at the February 14, 2023 City Council meeting. The bill prohibits people from standing in the median for an extended amount of time and soliciting money. It also makes it illegal for a person to physically interact with someone on the roadways. JSO is currently in a 30-day educational period.

Kevin Carrico, City Council District 4 – 255-5204 or KCarrico@coj.net

Staff Reports:

JFRD – Lieutenant Jarmar Smith shared JFRD and COJ Municipal Code Compliance Division are now working on protocols and communications that will be followed after a residential fire. This is a result of the concerns that were discussed at the February GAB CPAC meeting. Lieutenant Smith also mentioned that Fire Station 65 (near the Glynlea community) opened today.

Neighborhoods Department – Chiquita Moore announced that there have been some leadership changes in the Neighborhoods Department. Due to the loss of our Director, Brian Mosier, Operation Director Chiquita Moore was appointed the Director of the Neighborhoods Department. Director Moore extended an invitation to contact her or her office if there is any additional information or assistance needed.

Director Moore reminded the CPAC that the Parks Department is hiring lifeguards. Please visit [https://www.coj.net/departments/parks-and-recreation/headlines/lifeguards-needed!-starting-at-\\$14](https://www.coj.net/departments/parks-and-recreation/headlines/lifeguards-needed!-starting-at-$14) for complete details.

The St. Johns River Cleanup will be held on March 18, 2023. There are numerous 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.

Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) is an excellent location to adopt a new furry family member. Adoptions are offered at a reasonable cost. For more information ACPS can be reached via email at JaxPets@COJ.net or call (904) 630-CITY (2489) for assistance or visit <https://www.coj.net/departments/environmental-and-compliance/animal-care---protective-services.aspx#close>

Everyone was encouraged to continue calling 630-CITY to report concerns or to enter their concerns through MyJax online at: <https://myjax.custhelp.com/>

In the near future, an invitation to participate in the upcoming Capital Improvement Project (CIP) recommendations will be extended to the CPAC's. Details will be forthcoming.

Chiquita Moore - Chiquitam@coj.net

FDOT – Derek Dixon provided the following updates:

- The Arlington Expressway (from the Mathews Bridge to Southside Boulevard) will be resurfaced starting in the spring 2023 with the expected completion date of summer 2024.
- Atlantic Boulevard at Third Street is actively working on an operational and pedestrian improvement project; estimated completion spring 2023.
- Beach Boulevard (S.R. 212) from Southside Boulevard to Eve Drive is undergoing an improvement project; this will have a lot of median work; estimated completion is summer 2023.
- Beach Boulevard (S.R. 212) from San Mateo Drive to Schumacher Avenue will receive intersection improvements with improved signage and roadway stripping.
- Beach Boulevard (S.R. 212) from W 12th Street to A1A will be resurfaced with the addition of ADA compliant intersections, bike lanes and driveway modifications.

- I-295 (from Beach Boulevard to Saint Johns Bluff Road) will be resurfaced starting in spring of 2023.
- There will be a lot of underwater bridge work completed on the Main Street Bridge and the Buckman Bridge to protect the bridge from vessels traveling under or near the bridge.
- The steel repair work on the Mathews Bridge is nearing completion. Completion is expected in late spring 2023.
- A rehabilitation project will be completed on the Cesery Bridge. The project should be completed in early 2024.
- The Wonderwood Expressway (S.R. 116) will be resurfaced from Jane Street to Sandcastle Lane. This project is expected to be completed by summer 2024.

Derek Dixon – derek.dixon@dot.state.fl.us

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) – Sara Radovic provided the following updates:

- March is Women’s History month. All the libraries have a variety of material on this topic.
- 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.
- MOCA will offer free admission Friday on March 24, 2023, by presenting your library card upon arrival.
- There will be another Big Bag Book Sale at the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library bookstore, located at the University Park Branch Library at 3435 University Blvd. N. The sale will be held March 23- 25, 2023.

Sara Radovic – Sradovic@coj.net

Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD) – Ernest Murphy shared the following updates:

- Mr. Murphy introduced himself as the new Administrator for the Municipal Code Compliance Division.
- Supervisor Devron Cody has received a promotion and is no longer the supervisor of this district; the new supervisor will be named soon.
- There were two properties that Mr. Murphy wanted to follow up on from the February meeting.
 - 2871 Harbor Woods – this house was condemned and secured.
 - 2104 University Boulevard North – this is a parking issue and the concern was turned over to the Parking Division.
- 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.

Ernest Murphy – Emurphy@coj.net

Public Works – James Carroll shared the following updates:

- There will be two COJ resurfacing projects in the GAB District: 1. Wedgefield Boulevard (Brockhurst Drive to Arble Drive) and 2. Arlington Road North (Arlington Expressway to Groveland Drive)
- Mr. Carroll encouraged everyone to call 630-CITY or use the MyJax system to report any concerns that they may have.
- Mr. Carroll answered some neighborhood specific questions.

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 six new LUZ applications and motions of opposition were made on two of the applications.

- Ordinance 2023-0123- Denial to change the current zoning from RR-Acre to PUD at 270 Kernan Boulevard North. After receiving numerous comments from the neighbors adjacent to this property about light trespass/pollution from the proposed parking area, the committee felt that by putting the parking lot to the east of the buildings and nearer to Kernan Boulevards would reduce the issue significantly. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ordinance MM-23-03 –Partial Denial to increase a previously approved height of 35 feet to 45 feet at 8300 Merrill Road. This structure was previously approved: PUD Ord. 2022-0713 IA W the Arlington Overlay in 2022. Public input indicates this application is an attempt to work the system by accepting a compromise last year in order to get their original 2022 request approved now. The angled parking plan of this request is reasonable and if allowed would be approved. If this partial denial is not allowed, then the CPAC recommends full denial and resubmission for the parking situation. The motion passed unanimously.

Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge – no report.

Environment – Lad Hawkins – not present.

Membership – vacant

Ad Hoc Committees:

North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Scott Cowitt - no report

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 no report

Old Business - none

New Business – none

Public Comment – none

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, April 10, 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.